

## Ojalá que llueva café by Juan Luis Guerra

Juan Luis Guerra is a Dominican singer, songwriter, composer and producer. He has sold over 30 million records, and has won numerous awards including 18 Latin Grammy Awards, two Grammy Awards, and two Latin Billboard Music Awards. He incorporates diverse rhythms like merengue, bachata, balada, salsa, and rock and roll into his music.

*Ojala que llueva café (I Hope it Rains Coffee)* was released in 1998 and is one of his most critically acclaimed pieces. This song has numerous metaphors with hope for the peasant population that cultivates the coffee beans and lives in poverty.

### [Watch the Video](#)

#### VERSE 1

Ojalá que llueva café en el campo  
I hope it rains coffee in the countryside

Que caiga un aguacero de yuca y té  
May a shower of cassava and tea fall

Del cielo una jarina de queso blanco  
From the sky a drizzle of white cheese

Y al sur una montaña de berro y miel  
And to the south a mountain of watercress and honey

Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh

Ojalá que llueva café  
I hope it rains coffee

#### **Key Words**

*Campo – Countryside*

*Yuca – Cassava*

*Té – Tea*

*Montaña – Mountain*

*Berro – Watercress*

*Miel – Honey*

## Ojalá que llueva café by Juan Luis Guerra

### CHORUS

Ojalá que llueva café en el campo  
I hope it rains coffee in the countryside

Peinar un alto cerro de trigo y mapuey  
That an elevated hill gets covered with wheat and root vegetables

Bajar por la colina de arroz graneado  
Goes down the smooth puffed rice hill

Y continuar el arado con tu querer  
And the plow continues with your will

Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh

Ojalá el otoño en vez de hojas secas  
I hope that autumn, instead of dry leaves

Vista mi cosecha de pitisalé  
Covers my harvest with salted pork

Siembre una llanura de batata y fresa  
Sowing a plane with sweet potatoes and strawberries

Ojalá que llueva café  
I hope it rains coffee

### Explanations

Both “colina” and “cerro” are translated as hill. But there’s a subtle difference, “cerro” is a ground elevation, being lower than a mountain, and it has rough edges (more like a ridge). “Colina” is the same but with smoother edges (more like what we would call a hill).

### Key Words

*Trigo – Wheat*

*Arroz – Rice*

*Arado – Plowing*

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Mapuey refers to a tropical herb with large leaves.

“Pitusalé” is the Spanish for “Petit-Sale” which is salted pork, usually produced according to a French method of immersing cuts of pork for up to two days in brine.

### Verse 2

Para que en el conuco no se sufra tanto, ay hombre  
So that there won't be so much suffering in the land, oh man

*Ojalá que llueva café en el campo*  
*I hope it rains coffee in the countryside*

Pa' que en Villa Vásquez oigan este canto  
So in the town of Vazquez they hear this song

*Ojalá que llueva café en el campo*  
*I hope that it rains coffee in the countryside*

Ojalá que llueva, ojalá que llueva, ay hombre  
I hope that it rains, I hope it rains, oh man

*Ojalá que llueva café en el campo*  
*I hope it rains coffee in the countryside*

Ojalá que llueva café  
I hope it rains coffee

Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh

### Explanations

“Conuco” is a slang word for parcel of land. It's used in Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela.

#### Key Words

*Hojas – Leaves*

*Otoño – Autumn*

*Cosecha – Harvest*

*Patata – Sweet potatoes*

*Fresa – Strawberries*

*Conuco – Parcel of land*

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The song references several places in the Dominican Republic:

- Villa Vásquez is a town in the Monte Cristi province of the Dominican Republic.
- La Romana is the seventh-largest city in the Dominican Republic.
- Los Montones is town located in Santiago, Dominican Republic.

**Chorus Repeats** *(Note: Only the second line is different in the chorus this time)*

Ojalá que llueva café en el campo  
I hope it rains coffee in the countryside

Sembrar una cosecha de trigo y mapuey  
Plants a crop of wheat and root vegetables

Bajar por la colina de arroz graneado  
Goes down the smooth puffed rice hill

Y continuar el arado con tu querer  
And the plow continues with your will

Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh

Ojalá el otoño en vez de hojas secas  
I hope that autumn, instead of dry leaves

Vista mi cosecha de pitisalé  
Covers my harvest with salted pork

Siembre una llanura de batata y fresa  
Sowing a plane with sweet potatoes and strawberries

Ojalá que llueva café  
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### VERSE 3

Para que en el conuco no se sufra tanto, oh  
So that there won't be so much suffering in the land, oh

*Ojalá que llueva café en el campo*  
*I hope it rains coffee in the countryside*

Pa' que en Los Montones oigan este canto  
So in the town of Los Montones they hear this song

*Ojalá que llueva café en el campo*  
*I hope it rains coffee in the countryside*

Ojalá que llueva, ojalá que llueva, ay hombre  
I hope it rains, I hope it rains, oh man

*Ojalá que llueva café en el campo*  
*I hope it rains coffee in the countryside*

Ojalá que llueva café  
I hope it rains coffee

Pa' que todos los niños canten en el campo  
So that all of the children sing in the countryside

*Ojalá que llueva café en el campo*  
*I hope it rains coffee in the countryside*

Pa' que en La Romana oigan este canto  
So that in the city of La Romana they hear this song

*Ojalá que llueva café en el campo*

## Ojalá que llueva café by Juan Luis Guerra

*I hope that it rains coffee in the countryside*

Ojalá que llueva, ojalá que llueva, ay hombre  
I hope it rains, I hope it rains, oh man

*Ojalá que llueva café en el campo*  
*I hope it rains coffee in the countryside*

Ojalá que llueva café  
I hope it rains coffee

### Explanations

- Los Montones is town located in Santiago, Dominican Republic.
- La Romana is the seventh-largest city in the Dominican Republic.

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### Spanish You Can Use

#### 1) So that...

“Para que” is used many times in this song, and it means “so that” or “in order that.” It’s used to explain the reason for one thing in relationship to another. In the song, for example, he says:

“Pa’ que en La Romana oigan este canto”

So that in the city of La Romana they hear this song

Note that the “para” is sometimes shortened in informal speech to “pa.” It’s also important to note that the verb following “para que” is always conjugated using the **present subjunctive**. In this example, he uses ‘oigan’ for the verb ‘oir’ (to hear). Let’s look at some more examples:

Aprenden para que mejoren.

They learn so that they improve.

Santiago estudia para que saque buenas notas

Santiago studies so that he can get good grades.

#### 2) Hopefully

“Ojalá” (from the title of the song) is used to express hopefulness and wishing. In a sentence it is almost always followed by “que,” and then the following verb is conjugated in the subjunctive. Here are some examples:

Ojalá que tengas éxito.

I hope that you have success.

Ojalá que no llueva.

I hope that it doesn’t rain.

Ojalá que sí.

I hope so.

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### Vocabulary Quiz

1) No me gusta el \_\_\_\_\_  
(I don't like rice)

- a. Arroz
- b. Trigo
- c. Patata

2) ¿Te gustan los \_\_\_\_\_?  
(Do you like children?).

- a. Niños
- b. Cosechas
- c. Hojas

3) Me encantan las \_\_\_\_\_ con crema  
(I love Strawberry with cream.)

- a. Yuca
- b. Fresas
- c. Hojas

4) No puedo parar de tomar \_\_\_\_\_ frío.  
(I can't stop drinking iced tea.)

- a. Otoño
- b. Conuco
- c. Te

5) ¿Qué tan alta es ese \_\_\_\_\_?  
(How high is that hill?.)

- a. Cerro
- b. Colina
- c. Montaña

Answers: 1-a, 2-a, 3-b, 4-c, 5-a