The Petition

Rodriquez considered his grooming of Pedro el Estevado complete with Pedro's terrible body odour central to the plot. After convincing Pedro of his powers of persuasion, it was in fact Pedro's B.O. that made people agree and hurry away, Rodriquez sent him among the good folk of the Pueblo, petition in hand.

The petition had six paragraphs. The first five putting forward the argument for the repair of the church clock. The sixth simply stated that the Alquerian Constitution should be torn up and Rodriquez made perpetual dictator of the village republic. The mechanism for this ploy was simplicity itself. The worthy people of Alqueria would only be able to stand at most four paragraphs of Pedro's body odour and would sign simply to avoid the onset of nausea. The fifth paragraph was a buffer for the more resilient but the sixth would be a paragraph too far and never be read. The signatures were however valid for the whole petition.

It worked like an evil smelling charm and all signed, Loco Paco scrawled the name Gary Cooper, having recently watched 'For Whom The Bell Tolls' and was away with the fairies again.

It isn't that Rodriquez wanted strong action to revive Alqueria's fortunes after the débâcle of the Remitbrick and Remitbright projects. He wanted total control of the Republic of Alqueria. He wanted to line his own pockets, to be totally corrupt he needed total power. He believes himself to be clever, astute and very very wise, he is in fact a total idiot. This is also a common failing among politicians as well as small town plutocrats.

Pedro, full of self importance presented the petition to a jubilant Rodriquez. Every adult in the Village signed. All, according to the petition wanted Rodriquez as supremo and coincidentally the church clock to work. All that was needed now was

present the document to the Alquerian Government. The Establishment must yield to the apparent suffrage of the people.

Those present in the Town Hall when Rodriquez presented his petition reacted by hurling anything handy at the would-be dictator. Manuela, the champion of democracy and local femme fatale pointed out that crucial to Rodriquez's demand was the tearing up of the Constitution. This document was written on the back of a cigarette packet during the celebrations following the Declaration of Independence.

During the Remitroot fuelled binge that followed Loco Paco had used the precious document as a taper to light the Paschal Candle, his befuddled mind believing the celebrations were for the Semana Santa.

Rodriquez foiled again, this time by Loco Paco stormed out of the Hall muttering dark threats and promising vengeance.