The Submersible. The journey home.

After the amorous intervention of the giant squid, some believe his name was Sid, all believe he is a legend, the cargo of Remitroot was safely unloaded and sold. Standing on a lonely stretch of beach our erstwhile submariners had a problem. No one had thought about the return trip. Getting two septic tanks up a slimy and polluted waterway without been seen is one of those questions that at some time or other have vexed most people. Manuela suggested abandoning the craft and working their way overland back to Alqueria. This was not a popular idea as no one else had Manuela's assets, besides the submersible was expensive and apart from the lustful attentions of the squid the plan had actually worked.

A high level discussion followed. If there is one thing an Alquerian excels at, it is ingenuity and if that ingenuity can line one's own pockets then it knows no bounds. Investing some of the revenue from the Remitroot sale the crew put their newly conceived plan into action. By searching the scrapyards of Almería they collected an array of miscellaneous metal-work and other junk which they welded, glued and tied to the septic tanks of the submersible.

Their attempts to personify the submersible met with limited success. Something resembling a human being did however emerge. Manuela's contribution had to be scrapped it was grossly out of scale and in thoroughly bad taste. The septic tanks made the thing look pregnant but it did look reasonably human. Coming from Alqueria the term 'reasonably human´ has a wide scope of course. There was no attempt to make sense of the creation. When they were happy the whole masterpiece was liberally covered in bronze paint.

All that was now necessary was to send a message to the worthies of Alqueria. It simply stated that because of the volatility of the Euro against the Alquerian Raro and the situation in the Ukraine they had been paid in kind. A sculpture by the world

renown Spanish artist Damiano Hirstado entitled Veracity. The crew could then pocket the proceeds from the Remitroot sale.

The journey upstream along the Río Verde was untroubled, the Spanish authorities simply wanted the hideous piece of metalwork out of their territory as soon as feasibly possible. The arrival of the 'sculpture' in Alqueria however was met with universal applause. It was taken from the water and erected in the village square, it's a pity they didn't have a harbour-wall to put it on.

Only Loco Paco reckoned the statue to be grotesque but then Paco's sanity is in question after all.