Of Church and State

Rivalry between church and the state is a favourite preoccupation of the Spanish. In the village republic which is Alqueria no such conflict exists. The struggle for the souls of the Alquerian people is exclusively that of the church. The task of the day to day running of the Pueblo is undeniably that of the government. The term government is used in its widest possible sense.

As Spain has the Cortes so Alqueria has the 'Airado' as the title for their respective administrations. The seat of government of the village republic of Alqueria is located in the Town Hall off the Calle Horno. They did think of basing the government on the Westminster System however after a couple of aspirin and a good nights sleep they explored more sensible alternatives. An open form of government was decided upon and duly established. Any citizen of Alqueria has the right to simply burst into the chamber slam his fist on a convenient desk and demand action over whatever grievance he has. It was an anarchic form of government but it worked although very heavy on desks. Any other form of administration would have led to the same outcome anyway. It was felt it would be far easier to bow to the inevitable therefore keeping the inevitable within the constitution of the Pueblo. Law and order were left in the capable hands of José Cabrasilbido the local policeman. He unfortunately tends to get personally involved in the frequent rioting, throwing stones and cobbles with the best of them. He actually instigated a couple himself when things were a little slack in the Pueblo.

The church which is off the Calle Generalissimo is officiated over by Sacerdote del Semblante Lánguido. Once an enthusiastic young priest eager to spread the word and put his parishioners on the righteous path. He then however came to Alqueria. He is now a broken man. He still goes through the motions and the more pious of his congregation have noticed no change. He has now become an Existentialist and argues vehemently for that philosophy after partaking of a Remitroot Whisky or two. Of his parishioners Dolores Basco, the most devout church goer in Alqueria locks up

her cockerel on a Sunday. She looks the other way the rest of the time when the cockerel is doing what a cockerel must do.
Where else but Alqueria could the religious needs of a community be administered over by an atheist priest and church attendances actually rise.

Where else but Alqueria do they avoid making laws which would be broken and effectively make breaking the law legal.