The Man in the Remitroot Suit

Remitroot has been drunk, turned into bricks and paint, used as a rocket propellant and wrapped around pipes for lagging. Until now however no-one has worn it. No-one would have worn the stuff if it hadn't been for the creative stupidity of Arián Pérez. Sr Pérez has very little in the way of formal training in any of the sciences but this didn't stop him dabbling in the most obscure branches of research. For some reason unknown to the population as a whole and probably to himself he began experimenting with extruded fibres.

The raw material was a goo made from the leaves of the Remitroot plant, goat's droppings and saliva from a carefully selected Alquerian Newt. The process involves heating the mixture to within one degree of Remitroot's critical temperature, above which the leaves explode. A measure of Arián Pérez's work-rate was the number of explosions that occurred during the working day. Black faced and hair smouldering he would sit twitching at the bar of the La Casa Devante scribbling in a dog-eared note book. He would make alterations to complex formulae he didn't understand and seek advice from bewildered drinkers. Only Loco Paco offered any guidance which Pérez put into practice. This is a measure of the man's intellect, for Loco Paco's sanity has been the subject of debate ever since he reared a Saharan Dung Beetle from a pup.

Unlikely as it may have seemed to the good people of Alqueria Pérez succeeded in his experiments. On a worn out hand loom he wove a cloth made from his Remitroot based extruded fibres. The suit which was subsequently made from the cloth was a remarkable garment. It resisted dirt, wear and the fading effects of sunlight. It was lightweight but warm while being cool in elevated temperatures. It was a breakthrough in textile technology, well it would have been apart from three disadvantages.

Remitroot had long been known as an Aphrodisiac. The process of producing the cloth had enhanced this attribute. Anyone wearing the garment would be overcome by

a carnal urge which can be very disruptive on public transport or during religious observances. Manuela had several items of intimate apparel made from the cloth but no-one noticed any difference in her behaviour. Another drawback of the material was its ability to resist stains, it also resisted dyeing. The only colour possible was a muddy grey with a bile green hue. The biggest problem of all was its inherent instability, it dissolved when it came in contact with alcohol.

The wonder material was only suitable for colour-blind, celibate, teetotallers a rare commodity in Alqueria.