Remitpower

The Alquerian establishment once again tried to raise the country's profile in the eyes of the industrialised nations. On paper the village republic was vying to take the initiative in the race for a viable renewable energy source. In reality there was a hidden agenda.

A grant had been applied for and received from the Geneva based 'International Authority for Daft Grants and Money Squandering'. This was to develop Alqueria's Remitroot fuelled power station. Actually an old diesel generator still running on diesel but with a note saying, 'Alqueria's Remitroot fuelled power station' sticky-taped to a jerry-can.

The money was really wanted to supply and fit the new self-cleaning, motorised, tungsten reinforced outdoor/indoor bidet with integral torch and shoe-horn into every Alquerian home. The only country in western Europe with such a boast. This, the elders of the Pueblo thought would make Alqueria the envy of all.

Unfortunately the Geneva based authority may have been gullible and inefficient but they weren't altogether stupid. They sent a fact finding mission to see what had happened to their cash. Their unannounced arrival caused confusion and alarm. Manuela was given the task of looking after the impromptu guests. It was hoped that if anyone could distract a group of healthy middle-aged men she could. Meanwhile Poyato with touching but misplaced loyalty to his product, panicked and filled the generator's fuel tank with Remitroot Advocaat. Now, Remitroot is as unstable as a Tory politician declaring his expenses. The resultant explosion was a joy to behold. On the pyrotechnic aesthetic scale it must have been somewhere near the very top. The yellow Remitroot Advocaat added a welcome colour contrast to the blast.

The yellow fallout-cloud rose majestically from Poyato's workshop. It was then taken by the strong westerly breeze and descended as if by magic on the town's plaza. The

square was thronged with Saturday-night revellers including the representatives from the international fact finding mission. Now, it has been stated many times that Remitroot is an aggressive aphrodisiac. The effect on the semi-intoxicated populace of Alqueria was spectacular, obscene and disturbing but spectacular.

Manuela, who was charged with entertaining the delegation from Geneva took the full force of the descending cloud. Already of a 'friendly' disposition her mood was enhanced by the racy fallout. It took the delegation two months to get back to Switzerland and when they arrived couldn't remember why they had left in the first place.

It is said that it took the best European surgeons three weeks to remove the smile from their faces.