The Airship

As all borders with Spain are sealed and the export of Remitroot products halted Alqueria was in an even sorrier state than usual. There were no political initiatives to reopen trade with the Pueblo as the Japanese Remitroot substitute, Gremittoot sustained those addicted for the time being.

Remitroot berries, leaves and stalks rotted in Poyato's warehouse. Urgent meetings of the Village elders were called, convened, degenerated into fist fights and were adjourned. Supplies were running low, tempers were running short and what's worse people were starting to sober up.

Poyato came to the rescue with a bold plan, a rather stupid one but bold nonetheless. He proposed to build an airship fuelled with the gas from rotting Remitroot berries. The gas is lighter than air, the foul smell and its tendency to explode at awkward moments seemed a small price to pay. The airship was to be filled with barrels of Remitroot Whisky, floated over the Mediterranean where a rendezvous with a tanker would be arranged. The Whisky would be pumped into the tanker which would deliver it to an agent who would arrange its sale. What could go wrong?

The fabric of the airship posed the first problem. Using silk from the underwear belonging to the ladies of Alqueria was mooted. Unfortunately they are a promiscuous lot and didn't possess underwear. Manuela even had to look the word up in her dictionary. The now dried Remitroot stalks provided the solution. Shredded and spun into a yarn they were then woven into an airtight fabric. It was a truly organic craft.

Construction, preparation and launching went surprisingly if worryingly well. Christened the 'A 101' it soared into the air. The Remitroot gas lifted the craft above the clouds, its nose then turned southward towards the open sea and the waiting tanker.

The good ship 'Carrycrapp' was soon transferring the Remitroot Whisky into its tanks. The 'A 101' hovered above, its leaky system of hoses reaching down to the Tanker's deck. The tanker's crew helped themselves liberally to the Whisky leaving them feeling rather light footed from its effect as an aphrodisiac. When the transfer was complete the Tanker sailed into the sunset with its crew giggling in the dark.

Shortly after the successful return of the Airship the World Food Organisation declared the Japanese substitute, Gremittoot safe for human consumption. No side effects, hallucinationary, erotic or otherwise had been reported. This of course made the product mundane and it soon lost its appeal. Those in international high places addicted to Remitroot pulled strings and the border restrictions applied to Alqueria were lifted. Remitroot once more flowed freely.

Alqueria regained prosperity and the Airship incident was never spoken of again.