Stasis

With Remitroot flowing to the four corners of the world once more, Alqueria was again in equilibrium. A state of affairs which allowed the Pueblo to feel at ease with itself, comfortable with its past, satisfied with the present, and certain of its future.

This high powered inertia produced a stupor of contentment among the folk of the Village. They reverted to the natural order of everyday life. The familiar ways returned and with them brought an acceptable reality.

Manuela, the Hill People's champion and femme fatale began once more to organise the chaos which is Barrio rivalry. This is however a part-time occupation. Her main aim in life is her tireless pursuit of the male population of Alqueria, the surrounding villages and the Iberian Continent in general. Loco Paco was once more seen on the streets with his pet Saharan Dung Beetle, Benjy trotting by his side. While walking he would converse intently with his five foot tall imaginary rodent friend Bert. Blythe Gruntmore, the resident Englishman again roamed the Village trying to find someone to understand his unfathomable Geordie accented Spanish. Normality returned.

The 'Alquerian Pastime', as it has been dubbed by journalists and politicians began to occupy the thoughts of the more partisan among the community. Barrio rivalry was once more on the agenda. With the Remitroot harvest safely gathered in, the Hill People are free from all work and occupy themselves with making life a misery for the inhabitants of the Newcomer's Barrio.

The two Barrios revelled in their hatred for each other, the natural state of affairs. The westerly Barrio of the Hill People was abuzz with activity as plots were hatched in the Bar La Casa Devante. These were initially reasonable, achievable and disruptive plots aimed at annoying the occupants of the opposing Newcomer's eastern Barrio. As more and more Remitroot whisky became consumed so these plots became more and more fantastic and potentially more and more deadly. Finally as the conspirators collapse

into untidy heaps, like so many sacks of crumpled laundry the plots are lost forever in alcohol induced amnesia.

Previous plots ranged from introducing snails into the gardens of the Newcomers during the Dia del Patios competition to firebombing the 'Peña de los Jefes'. Damage ranged from a few chewed plants to the apocalyptic wasteland which was once the Peña.

With no Remitroot income the prospect of having to do a proper days work caused panic, sweat and perspiration among the populace of Alqueria. The restored stability and the renewed Remitroot cash-flow was gratefully received. The first foray into enemy territory which is the Newcomer's Barrio lay waiting, ready to be launched.

A new era of civil unrest was about to be unleashed.