The Dictatorship

With the three leaders of the Alquerian Parliament neutralised or at least preoccupied the way was open for Rodriquez to usurp power.

It may be remembered from last week that Antonio Poyato was doing the rounds of Almerían freak shows wearing false testicles. Manuela was searching for him, muttering, and promising to administer a minor but rather painful and unauthorised medical procedure. Loco Paco was barricaded in the basement of the town-hall with his pet Saharan Dung Beetle Benjy, and his five foot imaginary rodent friend called Bert.

Rodriquez swiftly took control of the Remitroot plant and its stock of Whisky which he then supplied free of charge to the population of Alqueria. The result was a forgone conclusion. Every adult in the Pueblo was in a state of constant and deep intoxication. Rodriquez seized the moment and declared himself dictator. The constitution was torn up, which didn't take a great deal of time as it was written on the back of a 'fag' packet. Rodriguez replaced it with a decree which simply consisted of two rule rules. Number one stated that Rodriquez was always right. Number two said that if Rodriquez was ever proved to be wrong then rule one should be implemented.

When the evil Rodriquez was happy with his arrangements and the Alquerian Defence Force deployed on the streets the Remitroot Whisky supply was cut off. The population began to sober up. Now Alquerians can be charming people. Well, perhaps not actually charming. They can be tolerably pleasant if the wind is in the right direction but when some eight hundred of them are recovering from a hangover simultaneously then that is a place no one wants to be.

The Alquerian Defence Force was charged with blocking all of the entry points into Alqueria, controlling the population and intelligence gathering. This proved a difficult as the force consisted of one person, Daft Pedro armed with a Zulu assegai which had

no point as it had been used to open tins of sardines in Remitroot sauce, Pedro's favourite food. Daft Pedro had joined the Defence Force by accident, he thought he was filling in a 'spot the ball' competition form.

As the population emerged from their alcohol induced stupor they reacted in true Alquerian style by demanding more free Remitroot Whisky which Rodriquez withheld. The population was now totally under his control and the extent of his evil plan became evident.

What will become of the people of Alqueria?

Will our three itinerant heroes return to save the Village?

We will have to wait until next year.

Have a good Christmas and a happy New Year from all in Alqueria.