Poyato: Man and Boy

A great deal has been written about Antonio Poyato and his Remitroot crop, the mainstay of the Alquerian economy but what about the man himself, his boyhood and the pressures that moulded him into what he is today? Antonio was born in Alqueria some forty-five summers ago to Pepe and Carmen. They were poor workers of the land and rearers of a species of Alquerian goat which produces no milk and whose flesh has the texture of Balsa Wood and the taste of bronchial mixture. When asked why they kept them, they replied that they were badly advised but had now formed a strong emotional bond with the animals. The inquirer thought it prudent not to pursue the matter.

Little is known about Poyato's early years other than his attachment to the goats which he knew by name and who responded to his commands. Just what these commands were isn't on record, perhaps rightly so. As a teenager Antonio was a quiet courteous young man who took his studies seriously. He was conscientious in all he did and was always willing to help out around his parents smallholding. All who came into contact with him thought him charming and helpful. He was generous to a fault. His generosity left him financially weak but the the joy of giving made his lack of cash more than worth while. He married a local girl who was quite pretty but unfortunately not from the front.

Then Antonio Poyato turned to drink, it was the making of him. He stopped giving and so became financially secure. He stopped helping others and so had the time and energy to pursue his own goals. His wife left him allowing him to start a series of meaningless but very satisfying liaisons with local beauties. His liking for the heady effects of alcohol prompted him to research and experiment with the root known to the Romans as Remitus Radix. This led to the rediscovery of the plant now called Remitroot and the rest is of course history. But I will reiterate the plants attributes for late comers to our story.

Remitus Radix was much savoured by the Romans as the base for a potent wine and especially for its effect as an aphrodisiac. It is said that Caligula had some of his best nights on Remitus Radix. Now other uses for the plant have been discovered. It can be used to lag pipes, to prevent corrosion in the ballast tanks of oil tankers. It can also be woven into a soft, durable and wonderfully elegant cloth, which unfortunately explodes on contact with water.

The drinking of Remitroot products is extremely addictive and has guaranteed the fortunes of Alqueria. We can only applaud the change in direction that Antonio Poyato took in his early manhood.