Cuthbertism

Sacerdote del Semblante Lánguido arrived in Alqueria as a young man full of hope, piety and optimism. As a young and energetic priest he was committed and idealistic. It wasn't to last. His grandiose plans for the spiritual salvation of Alqueria came to an abrupt end one Friday afternoon in January. Manuela asked the worthy priest to take her confession. He simply wasn't ready for it, few people are, in fact no one is. His hair turned white, he was unable to process the information and began a frantic search for understanding.

His search took him to the teachings of Nietzsche and Sartre, which he preached from the pulpit much to the annoyance of the church establishment. A bishop was duly despatched to Alqueria where he suggested that Existentialism was perhaps not a fit credo for his congregation. Semblante was past caring. Existentialism relieved him of any responsibility to his congregation. How could he be blamed if nothing made sense? Why should things make sense? It simply didn't make sense for things to make any sense. Semblante was 'off the hook'.

He needed to find a framework in which to weave Existentialism into a worshipable faith within his newly formed 'Church of Alqueria'. He already had the building and congregation, such as it was, all he needed was a 'creation myth'. His studied those of ancient China and Greece and after a vivid if not troubled dream he drafted his creed.

Cuthbert was the superior being singled out for worship by the Church of Alqueria. Cuthbert, according to Semblante lived in a 'semi' in the celestial suburbs. One rainy day in February he was preparing a paella after consuming rather too much wine, in fact he was totally 'wasted'. Making a complete 'hash' out of the paella he accidentally created the universe. His wife, Mrs Cuthbert was furious, “How can I feed our children on that universal, it's meaningless” she screamed and threw a plate of stale Boquerones at him. She missed and the Baroqueness were sucked into the newly formed universe thus creating life. Now Cuthbert, realising that his universe was

indeed meaningless and totally devoid of any intelligence whatsoever flushed it down the loo, this is why of course the galaxies are in the form of spirals.

The Sunday observance in the Church of Alqueria is to the 'Holy Paella' and the 'Boquerones of Genesis'. They pray for a cosmic plumbing failure so the universe as we know it, or as least as Semblante knows it can be saved.

The established churches were quite happy for the spiritual well-being of Alqueria to be taken out of their hands and so accepted the teaching of Cuthbertism into the mainstream of world religions where of course it justly deserves to be.