Politics in Alqueria: An Overview

Alqueria's political system evolved out of necessity. Documentary and archaeological evidence suggested that Alqueria was completely bypassed by the Christian Reconquest of Isabella and Ferdinand. The Spanish state used this opportunity to wash their hands of the dysfunctional village with the result that Alqueria became stateless. The Republic of Alqueria came into being and a political system suited to the unique needs of the community developed.

It has been said that all Spaniards are born anarchists and the State brings them more in less into a condition of conformity albeit grudgingly. In Alqueria this conversion never happened and these anarchistic tendencies have become more acute. To form a political system from 'scratch' and with these tendencies at the fore wasn't so much a challenge but a 'labour of love' or as some said a 'labour of lunacy'.

The first principle of the anarchists is 'life without authority', which means no laws and no control. The people of the Village Republic were left to behave according to their own moral code. Considering the inherent hatred shown by the opposing barrios this did not bode well. In fact a state of undeclared warfare exists punctuated by rioting and general civil unrest. José Cabrasilbido, the Village policeman is in a difficult position. If there are no laws he has no authority and is powerless during these periods of strife. He decided his best course of action is to join in the affrays by hurling the cobblestones of Alqueria which are the projectiles of choice. He is issued with a side-arm but as this is plastic and has ´Dirty Harry Special´ written on the barrel it doesn't pose a threat.

Rodriquez alone wants a dictatorship but he is always outvoted. He would have liked to have created all sorts of statutes where the rights of the individual are restricted and controlled. He has however to satisfy himself with cancelling laws that were never enacted in the first place. He would issue pompous statements suggesting that in the best interests of the citizens of Alqueria this or that piece of legislation would be

struck from the statute book. In fact the statute book doesn't exist and even the constitution is written on the back of a cigarette packet with one of Manuela's eyeliner pencils.

The income from Remitroot sales is shared between the population according to need with a small retention for the maintenance of the pueblo and José Cabrasilbido's wage, the only paid official in Alqueria. How the ruling coalition of Manuela, Antonio Poyato and Loco Paco spend their time is a mystery but the sounds of merriment coming from the town-hall is perhaps a clue.

Considering this brief description of the Alquerian political structure one wonders what the role of the government of Alqueria actually is but surely the same question can be asked of all governments.