The Alquerian Plumber

Getting a plumber in Madrid or Bilbao is a relatively simply affair. The plumbers are reliable and courteous. In other parts of Spain it is more difficult, in Almería, forget it and wash it in the nearest stream. In Alqueria just hope for miracles.

There are many plumbers listed in the Alquerian Tradesman Directory unfortunately a phone call to one goes something like this. (Translated from the original Alquerian into English by Pedro Barmyescrito).

Frantic housewife. “Hello is that ???????? the plumber”
Plumber. “Yes”
Frantic housewife. “My cellar is flooding, my children are treading water and the electrics have fused. The water is causing the house to subside and a very large, ugly fish is swimming around my dining room table”.
Plumber. “Not to worry, it'll be fine, you'll see”.
Frantic housewife. “Will you come at once”.
Plumber. “Yes, not to worry”.
'Click', end of conversation. It is only then that 'Frantic Housewife' has realised that the plumber hasn't asked for an address. The phrase 'Not to worry' when translated from the original Alquerian into English has a second meaning which is 'Not a bloody chance'. At least not when there is wine and tapas on offer and it is always on offer.

One plumber however defies convention and always attends when a speed and alacrity which is touching. The reason is simple, he is a complete idiot. Manuel Tuboroto has flooded more homes than a tsunami. He has the ability to inspire confidence, he knows all the keywords that plumbers use, he hasn't got the faintest idea what they mean but he knows them.

His Great-grandfather was in charge of the plumbing system on the 'Titanic'. Contrary to popular belief it wasn't an iceberg that let in all that water in was a simple leak in the third-engineers loo. Manuel's Great-grandfather attended the call.

When called he usually arrives within the hour, the poor unsuspecting householder is impressed and amazed at the speed of response. Grinning Manuel will then be led to the troublesome piece of plumbing. Here the householder gets an inkling as to the ineptitude of our worthy 'fontanero' as he usually fails to recognise such things as valves, stopcocks, baths and sinks. He once 'fixed' the boiler in the town hall. The council are still filling in the hole.

His speciality is looking for gas leaks with a cigarette lighter. Manuel favours the 'Zippo' lighter for this task as the flames is bigger which makes it easier to find the leak. He always finds it necessary to talk to himself in a light hearted and jolly fashion. Even the occasional explosion can't dampen his good humour and he can often be seen leaving burning and partially destroyed buildings with a song on his lips and joy in his heart.

This above is based on a real occurrence, the names have however been changed.