The Roman Legacy

Alqueria had yielded to international pressure. The UNHSHP (United Nations High Commission for Hostile Pongs) demanded that Alqueria sort out its drainage problem. It was not a new problem, it was something that had evolved along with the Village. The problem is so old that Roman effluent often makes an unwelcome appearance along with the even more unwelcome appearance of today's effluent. The result is a strain of effluent bacteria that is as dysfunctional as present day Alqueria but with the lust for power, glory and empire that so characterised the Romans. In short it was a danger to public health on an international scale. It is said that on a bad day the smell could make astronauts eyes water in the International Space Station.

The Villages coffers and villager's 'piggy banks' were emptied so the firm of 'Reeking Pedro, Pong Eliminators Extraordinaire' could be commissioned to overhaul the drainage system. The work was given the highest priority due to the approach of the 'Iberian Curry and Guinness Festival' which was soon to be held in Alqueria. Contrary to expectations and precedent the work was completed efficiently and on time. Some thought there must be catch. The work was so well carried out that people lost confidence in the system and travelled daily to the public facilities in a neighbouring Spanish village.

The flaw in the scheme was soon realised. Remitroot, the singular plant which the income of Alqueria totally relies gets it amazing properties from various agrarian phenomenon peculiar to the Pueblo. The main one being the bad drainage, this is vital for the ripening of the crop and to give it the enhanced potency for wine making and its outstandingly quality as an aphrodisiac.

The first crop of the season was a disaster. Taking Remitroot the aphrodisiac produced the sex drive of a Giant Panda while Remitroot the wine was distributed at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Sales slumped, income stopped and drunks sobered. Alqueria was bankrupt. Alquerian air quality improved and became a delight

to breath, although some said without Remitroot Whisky at it full potency breathing was hardly worth the effort. The lights burnt late in the town-hall as an emergency meeting of the Alquerian cabinet discussed the available options to return Alqueria to solvency.

Such ideas as selling Loco Paco for scientific research were mooted but dismissed as not being sufficiently lucrative, besides the people of Alqueria had become strangely attached to Paco.

What plan will be acted upon?

How will the coffers be refilled.

Stay tuned.