Ana: The Alquerian Herbalist

In Alqueria's Calle Siniestro lives Ana the herbalist. In her little shop she mixes herbs, spices, extracts and resins into potions for every conceivable condition known to man and several still unknown. Occasionally through neglect or tiredness she would mix substances of a volatile nature resulting in small, noisy and very smelly explosions. She would emerge after such an explosion, face blackened, hair smouldering into the sunlit street, muttering and clutching a still burning pestle. Passers-by pay little attention, a singed Ana is a common sight in Alqueria.

Ana also practises 'Magnetic Therapy'. She can't afford the equipment however so uses an old bar magnet from a motorbike magneto. She doesn't actually cure anybody, in fact the only positive results of the treatment are the poor patient's watches stopping and small metallic objects clinging to them like chainmail. It was easy to tell who had the Magnetic Therapy as they are always late for buses, appointments and meals and rust up when it Rains.

The herbalist of Alqueria was happy though and practised her remedies on herself. Her breakfast was akin to a chemistry experiment and she would often surface from the meal stained by the colours of her mixtures. Sometimes green, sometimes a bright yellow and once a deep brown which was strangely worrying. Now Ana's only source of income is from her shop and unfortunately her home-made medicines are rather ineffectual which was somewhat of a handicap to trade. But being an enterprising girl she made all her concoctions utterly addictive by adding the most potent Remitroot powder available.

Some thought Ana's concoctions were responsible for the menfolk of Alqueria only possessing two neurons, but this of course is untrue as men in general have always only possessed two neurons. Women clamoured for her cosmetic range of products believing that Ana's good looks and shapely bottom were a result of their regular use.

Of course they weren't, Ana inherited her appearance and culito but somehow failed to mention this to her customers.

The women folk of Alqueria spend a great deal of their time in her shop. It could be said that being speaking quietly is an act of great self control for any Spaniard male or female, for an Alquerian it is a ruddy miracle. Up to eight women can be seen in the herbal shop carrying on eight separate conversations. Each one of the eight involved in each conversation both understanding and contributing, the multitasking is phenomenal and the permeations numerous.

Ana continues to operate her little shop in Alqueria and can be seen at regular intervals blackened by explosions and twitching from the side effects of her treatments. So, when in Alqueria pay her shop a visit in the Calle Siniestro just off the Calle Horno.