**The Reversal**

The beat of a butterfly's wing will, in time affect the whole of mankind. Alqueria is about to suffer from its very own 'Butterfly Affect' set in motion by one Loco Paco idiot of the Parish.

Manuela had had a hard night, just why it was so hard perhaps should be left well and truly veiled for the purpose of this discussion. She was completely 'empanada'. Her breakfast preparations never changed and therefore could be attended to without the need for conscious thought. As her neurons had clumped together for safety severely retarding her metal processes, conscious thought was not possible at the moment.

Bearing the above in mind, we turn to Loco Paco who had been despatched from the Alquerian seat of power to summon Manuela to the monthly meeting of the Alquerian Cabinet. The Cabinet Office, that great think-tank at the heart of the Village Republic, guardian of the democratic principles for which it stands located in a back room just above 'Dusty' Pepe's baker's shop in the Calle Horno. Now Loco Paco was a simple lad, both in deeds and thought and after knocking on Manuela's front door was taken aback at her appearance. Even the slow witted Paco could see that her head wasn't working properly. Having dutifully passed on the request for her presence she answered with, after translating into English what sounded like “Oooomeeeead, who are you? Bloody hell, who am I? Ooooohhhhh”. Paco decided she needed sleep so off he toddled back to the Cabinet Office bent on doing Manuela a good turn, something most of the Village lads have already done.

Now we move our attention to the Cabinet Office where Paco had just informed Poyato and Rodriquez that Manuela had moved to Portugal where, listening to Fado had so depressed her that she had disguised herself as an itinerant cucaracha gelder and moved to Alaska. Manuela in fact was simply hungover. This was a wonderful oratory from Paco who could fantasize with gusto it was reality which caused him problems.

Now two items were on the agenda, one: Whether or not to place a no parking sign outside the town hall and two: The Republic should be dissolved and Rodriquez declared perpetual dictator. Rodriquez tabled this proposal every month and every month it was outvoted.

But to today, thanks to Paco's white lie Manuela was absent. After approving the no parking sign, which was irreverent as the dysfunctional folk of the Pueblo will take no notice of it whatsoever, Rodriquez's motion was voted upon with Poyato against and Rodriquez for. Both men looked at Paco who is dimmer than a environmentally friendly light bulb. Paco was wondering why the two men kept staring, it unnerved him and prompted an unscheduled bladder contraction. He raised his hand to leave the room and Rodriquez was jubilant two votes to one.

The Republic was duly abolished.

Will Manuela take it laying down, an unfortunate choice of phrase perhaps but we will see.