'The Also Ran'

Much has been said about the high and mighty in Alqueria, the dynamic Manuela, the studious Poyato and that intellectual giant Loco Paco, but what of the ordinary souls of the Pueblo.

Sacerdote del Semblante Lánguido is the Village priest. He arrived in Alqueria full of hope and a joyous wonder that filled the heart with delight. He had the best interests of the people at the very centre of his very sensitive heart. He laid awake at night worrying about his parishioners and counselled them with wisdom during the daylight hours. Then one fateful day he took Manuela's confession. His hair greyed, his faith evaporated, he turned to drink. It was the making of him. He now sleeps the sleep of the intoxicant. He couldn't give a 'damn' about those whose spiritual well-being he is entrusted with and he has embraced Existentialism. He is now for the first time in his life a happy and rounded individual. He does suffer from the occasional flashback to Manuela's outpourings which leaves him sweating, trembling and in a state of intense sexual frustration but it is a small price to pay for happiness.

Ernesto Muyinestable is one of those individuals who has devoted his life to his art. Ernesto lives for his flamenco, he twirls and stomps morning, noon and night as he practises new and ever more complicated steps. To say he is one of the best flamenco dancers currently practising would be an overstatement. He isn't good, he isn't even bad, he is terrible. The main and very obvious reason for this is that Ernesto is a uniped. He lost his right leg while playing 'Ludo' during the 'Great Tournament of 87'. Now he falls over a lot. Every time he performs he receives a storm of sympathetic applause. He believes this is reward for his prowess in the art of flamenco dancing and so inspires him to perform more complicated routines. He then receives more sympathetic applause, so on and so forth. It will probably all end in death or serious injury but like our worthy Priest, Ernesto is happy.

Don Sageo has a lot to answer for. He is Alqueria's intellectual. At least is the only individual in the Village who can read at an adult level and is capable of joined-up writing. It was the Don who discovered, through his archaeological research that Alqueria wasn't included in the Christian Reconquest and was therefore not technically part of Spain. In fact it was Sageo who is responsible for the Alqueria of today.

It goes to demonstrate that every person, no matter how humble can have a profound effect on their own and others lives. Especially in Alqueria.