Barmynoches

The spiritual well-being of Alqueria is in the hands of the Sacerdote del Semblante Lánguido which is rather unfortunate as the good Priest is an atheist and an ardent follower of Sartre. He was once conscientious, full of vitality and pious but after hearing a Manuela confession he is now religiously bankrupt, lethargic and a drunkard. Preaching Existentialism from the pulpit brought him to the attention of a rather fierce bishop who in turn notified the Vatican. To complicate matters further Lánguido rather liked the life of a priest and even more so now as he has dispensed with the formality of chastity. In order to maintain his lifestyle the good Father decided to form his own religion, that of 'Cuthbertism'. He felt it necessary to include the rudiments of Christianity, especially the festivals which are much liked by the people of Alqueria as they mean a day off work and an excuse to consume vast amounts of Remitroot alcohol. By skilfully altering the Christian protocols and customs he was able to produce a religion which well matched the Alquerian temperament and indeed anyone who was slightly hedonistic in nature.

Christmas Eve was replaced with Barmynoches, which is when the prophet Cuthbert left the Golondrina Verde and staggered to the Bar La Casa Devante and received enlightenment. This 'enlightenment' came as a brilliant flash travelling laterally through the upper reaches of his cerebral passageways. However many have experienced this phenomenon especially after drinking alarming quantities of Remitroot Grapa, indeed it is a documented side effect.

But Lánguido was no longer happy!

Cuthbertism became a victim of its own success. Followers from far and wide invaded Alqueria, causing a logistical nightmare and what is worse involving our worthy Priest in extra work which is against all the teachings of Cuthbertism. In order to solve this paradox Lánguido decreed that all followers not born and permanently resident in Alqueria should pay an enlightenment penance which included a very

uncomfortable robe made from dried and woven goat droppings and a litre of Remitroot Grapa. This ploy wasn't however successful and simply filled Alqueria with devout foul smelling drunkards who scratched themselves a lot.

Lánguido was at a loss as what to do do and seriously considered giving up religion and work for a living. Then it stuck him.

Reintroduce the vows of chastity for the followers but not the priest or the indigenous devotees. The foreigners departed Alqueria with much haste in search of a new religion and a new guru.