Day of El Raro's Awakening

Andalucía has over three hundred fiestas a year which is mere child's play compared to Alqueria which has six hundred and fifty three or seven hundred and forty two on a leap year. Now those readers with a grasp of higher mathematics will realise that this equates to more than one a day as most years only have have three hundred and sixty five days. The inference is that there must be more than one fiesta on some days. This is obviously so, in fact on the 'Day of El Raro's Awakening' there are fifteen fiestas, seven of which have parades, all of which include the consumption of alarming quantities of Remitroot liquor in all its forms.

Of the seven parades two are magnificent affairs full of pomp and ceremony. The other five are little more than belligerent bands of petty criminals roaming the streets bent on mischievous, rather like any Saturday night in Alqueria. The two main parades start in opposing barrios. Leaving from the Hill People's barrio and led by Manuela we have a procession celebrating the day freedom was granted for Alquerian women to consume Remitroot wine, swear and belch 'Whistling Rufus' in public. From the other end of the Village the Newcomer's procession commemorates the day when Pepe Pervertio, a citizen of that barrio achieved international fame by being arrested by the Vice Squad for using a Remitroot dibber for immoral purposes. Rodriquez, who leads the Newcomer's parade is Manuela's sworn enemy, in fact the hate for each other is almost tangible. Antonio Poyato managed to harness the waves of hate thus illuminating a sixty watt light bulb, unfortunately the glow had a strange black tinge and seemed to herald a sense of foreboding. Poyato had planned to aggravate their hostility and so power the whole Village by hate but the Madrid Government got wind of the scheme and promptly taxed it.

The parades start simultaneously from their respective barrios and meet head on in the Calle Horno. Manuela and Rodriquez would glare at each other, neither giving way. The glaring has become part of the festivities with partisan cardboard 'glaring' masks worn by the procession's participants. Manuela always has the advantage

however. Her feminine wiles of curly hair tossing and the fire her almond eyes produce always wear Rodriquez down. As he starts to drool and shake Manuela leads her procession forward sweeping the humiliated Newcomers aside. These events are usually followed by the traditional riot and a good time is had by all.

Just what the 'Day of El Raro's Awakening' signifies or what he was awaking from is unknown. Perhaps he was surfacing from an overindulgence of Remitroot liquor.