The Translation

The discovery of the grave of Abdul-el-Rufbum VI and his treasure brought dozens of experts to Alqueria. Archaeologists, historians and linguists mingled with the simple folk of the Village. Alqueria welcomed these visitors in true Alquerian fashion. Accommodation and bar prices were immediately trebled and a profusion of fake artefacts offered for sale. Paco Estonto, not a bright boy tried selling a 'seventh century DVD player' to the head of Arabic Studies from Alicante University.

The genuine pieces from the excavation were exhibited in the village museum adjacent to the town plaza. Put on display at seven in the evening, they had disappeared by nine the next morning. The parchment script however was already on its way to the *Universidad de Almería* for translation. The theft's culprit was never found. Shortly after the theft, Rodriquez's house grew an extension and snooker room.

Slowly the story of Abdul-el-Rufbum and Alqueria began to be pieced together. Information gleaned from artefacts and small pieces of script confirm the legend of the rebuilding of Alqueria. Caliph Abd-ar-Rahman III ordered the village moved after one of the inhabitants upset the venerable gentleman. A sheep’s bladder, an amphora of olive oil and one of the Caliph’s wives, who we now know as 'Nora' were central to the tale. The texts show the village moving from the crest of one disaster to another.

Also mentioned is the Christian Reconquest with Isabella and Ferdinand laying siege to Granada. One tale told on a piece of gold plate describes an Italian tramp called Columbus hanging around Santa Fe trying to scrounge money from Isabella and Ferdinand. Apparently, this was for a holiday in the United States. Perhaps something was lost in the translation.

Abdul-el-Rufbum VI according to the information so far translated appeared to have ruled after the Christian Reconquest. The missing piece to this historical jigsaw puzzle lay in the parchment translation.

A bearded and bespectacled professor from the Universidad de Almería stood before the people of Alqueria in the Bar La Casa Devante. He delivered extracts from the parchment text which he had recently translated.

Alqueria was never part of the Christian Reconquest. Isabella and Ferdinand found Alqueria to be such a dreadful place and its population so loathsome that they decided to leave it in the hands of the Moors. Further more the Monarchs vowed and legislated so it would never be part of Spain. The question now remains whether this particular decree is still binding.

Is Alqueria foreign territory?

A note requesting clarification was sent to Madrid and the people of Alqueria wait anxiously for the reply.