The Alquerian System

The town hall of Alqueria is now the seat of the new Alquerian Government. Not the most imposing of buildings, plain, run-down and lurking in the Calle Horno next to the bakery. The aroma of freshly baked bread ceaselessly permeates through its halls. The familiar smell makes it a friendly building, contrary to the people who now use it as a debating chamber.

The Alquerian parliamentary model involves two elected joint presidents. One from the Hill People and the other from the Newcomers. This is necessary to stop the civil unrest which would surely follow if any one barrio gained the upper hand. A handful of ministers to handle the day-to-day running of the village completed the government. There are an equal number of ministers from each barrio. All decisions are decided by a show of hands from the villagers massed in the square. A sufficient number always turn out, not from civic duty but more from barrio rivalry. It is indeed bloody minded democracy.

To say this system is ideal would imply that politicians themselves are ideal and that would be absurd. In general if a politician is conscious he is probably lying and the Alquerian incumbents are no different. It comes as a relief when they fully immerse themselves in their corrupt activities and leave the running of the village alone.

The debate in the village square usually starts with the hurling of insults escalating to stone throwing and culminating in fistfights. The vote doesn't always go the way of the majority but to those left standing when the show of hands is called for. In many of the fistfights the ministers themselves have joined in. The last question resolved in this manner was the choice of design for the Alquerian national flag. At the end of the discussion the plaza resembled the 'Valley of Death' after the Light Brigade passed through. Littered with debris and unconscious villagers, it was a forlorn sight. Of those who remained standing a majority belonged to the Hill People. It was their flag

that was adopted for Alqueria, republican colours for the field and a bottle Remitroot Liquor for the badge.
Another knotty problem which faces the new Republic and its unique form of government is the constitution. Manuela favours the 'All men are created equal' theme but her experience with men proves that this is not so. Poyato wants the 'Liberté, égalité, fraternité ' approach. Rodriquez prefers the British model where no constitution actually exists in entirety and can therefore be manipulated by whoever is in power.

Whatever the outcome, it is a necessary step before the Alquerian passport can be issued and immigration into Alqueria encouraged.