Día del Soplagaitas

When Alqueria shook off the yoke of Spanish colonialism, actually they were asked to leave Spain's sphere of influence then certain things were neglected. Civil laws which have proved impossible to reintroduce and all the pomp, ridiculous ceremony and meaningless protocol which certain countries seem to wallow in. In terms of things ridiculous Alqueria didn't want to be outdone. With presidential elections looming it seemed the perfect time to set about these adornments of statehood.

Several ideas were mooted, including inane over-medalled uniforms for the yet to be Alquerian Defence Force and incomprehensible etiquette to surround the Head of State. None however seemed to fit the collective anarchic soul of the Alquerian people. After much deliberation and countless ideas a public holiday was decided upon, The Día del Soplagaitas. Some of these ideas are worthy of note. Poyato wanted to award the Order of Remitroot to worthy citizens while Rodriquez wanted to award himself a knighthood, pension and certain rights regarding the young ladies of the Pueblo. Manuela's idea in particular had merit but was unfortunately physically impossible to all but the most well built of men.

The Día del Soplagaitas was to take place on the first day of Presidential campaigning and was designed to unite the inhabitants of the village.

We are however talking about Alqueria.

Foreign dignitaries were invited but none came. The international press were invited but only 'Tiles and Tiling Monthly' turned up. The very best of Alqueria would be on show and prospective candidates could give their policies an airing. However nothing in life is certain and in Alqueria this applies even more.

The Day degenerated into a battle between the barrios. A serious and important debate concerning Alqueria's antiquated drainage system was settled with an arm wrestling

competition while a discussion embracing women's rights led to the ladies' sewing circle looting 'La Lana Tienda de Betania'

The health service in the form of Dr. Enzo Matanzamas for the eastern barrio and Dr. Cortaduras the western had major differences. The question of private versus state healthcare led to a Remitroot drinking contest which left both medical men comatose in the gutter.

The election was forgotten as the streets became battle grounds for the rebellious and idealistic. The village police officer, José Cabrasilbido hid in his wardrobe as anything portable was thrown and anything combustible ignited.

These events didn't bode well for the forthcoming elections no matter how predictable they were. The Día del Soplagaitas far from uniting Alqueria had driven the divide deeper. Who would have the courage to run for president will become apparent when the candidates' deposits are lodged.

Who will be the frontrunners?

Who will hold the balance of power?

We shall see.