# 'The Children of the Divine Paco'

If anyone in Alqueria was interested in statistics then a study of recent data would show an increase in population. Not explainable by birthrate however, only Rosalinda de la Lujuria had given birth recently. This also prompted half of the male population to go into hiding. The increase was by immigration. Perhaps immigration is too grand a word, they simply wandered across the Spanish border into the Pueblo. The Spanish border guards weren't bothered about people entering Alqueria. They only stopped the anarchic Alquerians entering Spain and making nuisances of themselves.

These 'travellers' took up residence in the orange grove opposite Loco Paco's house in the Avenida de Naranjas. These erstwhile itinerants were the 'Children of the Divine Paco'. They saw Loco Paco as their spiritual leader and Messiah. Paco, oblivious to his new found status was only aware of a lot of noisy scruffy individuals below his bedroom window.

The Village Priest, Sacerdote del Semblante Lánguido who should have objected to this challenge to his religious authority didn't mind at all. As an existentialist his only interest in the church was somewhere to live, the offertory and Communion Wine.

As Paco appeared at his window so the assembled crowd made the sign of the Celestial Dung Beetle. This was an intricate hand gesture involving all the fingers of the right hand and the second and fourth of the left. Enrique Stenchio tried to emulate the gesture and never played the heckelphone again. Loco Paco became withdrawn and spoke only to his imaginary five foot rodent. The gathered hordes took this to be the 'Holy Rodent' which completed the 'Holy Trinity of the Divine Paco'.

Just how Loco Paco became the new Messiah is a mystery. Paco can remember talking about his philosophy of life to some travellers in Órgiva some months ago. He can´t remember much of the conversation as he was well into a Remitroot filled

hip-flask. He was sure his oratory was profound however, they always are after a drink or two.

As Paco was their new Messiah so they needed its complement and Manuela was singled out for this honour. They believed her to be the conduit to Hell and a servant of the Devil. A bit harsh perhaps but it did add to the legend of Manuela. Manuela has always thought that the 'Master of Darkness' had more fun than the puritanical inhabitants of Heaven.

How will Manuela react to being the 'Mistress of Darkness'?
How will Paco react to being the Messiah, saviour of thousands?
Will it go to his head or will he be the same daft, rambling old Paco?

We shall see.