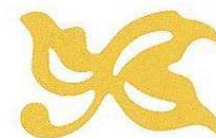
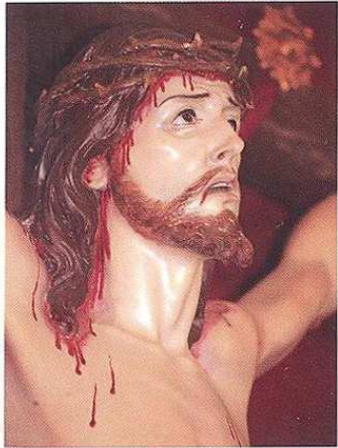




HOLY WEEK IN LORCA



“A different Passion”
Declared of International Tourist Interest



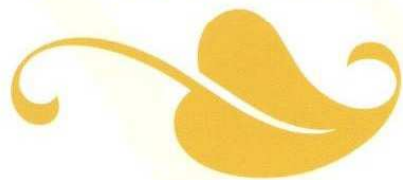
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HOLY WEEK IN LORCA: A DIFFERENT PASSION



From “Viernes de Dolores” (previous Friday to Good Friday) until Easter Sunday, Lorca commemorates Christ’s Passion, Death and Resurrection. A series of 10 processions organized by the different brotherhoods from Lorca that attracts thousand of persons every year, for ten days, those who visit the Churches – headquarters of the brotherhoods, the embroidery museums, streets and emblematic places in the city

to contemplate, astonished, these Easter Celebrations which, due to its characteristics and peculiarities, have become in one of the most spectacular in the world, reason why they have been declared of **“INTERNATIONAL TOURIST INTEREST”**

The magnificent staging of the Biblical – Passionate cortege during Easter Celebrations in Lorca, within the context of the world and the old civilizations, could be defined as a spectacular and unusual theatre in the street whose only purpose is to bring catechesis to people, to evangelize and represent Jesus Christ’s Passion and Death.

The elements that, under no doubt, have made different these Easter Celebrations are:

THE PROCESSIONS

Holy Week in Lorca consists of ten processions from “Viernes de Dolores” (previous Friday to Good Friday) until Easter Sunday. Four of them are “Biblical – Passionate Cortege”.

- **“Viernes de Dolores” Procession, presided by Paso Azul (the Blue Brotherhood).**
- **Palm Procession, presided by Paso Negro (the Black or Curia Brotherhood)**
- **Forgiveness Procession, presided by Paso Morado (the Purple Brotherhood).**
- **“Biblical – Passionate Cortege” presided by Paso Blanco (the White Brotherhood)**

All of the rest of the processions, except “Encuentro del Paso Blanco” (“White Brotherhood Procession) and Cristo de Medinaceli Procession, are old processions to the traditional way that have come out in the streets for centuries to commemorate Our Lord Jesus’s Life and Death

- **Virgin of Solitude Procession. Paso Negro (Black Brotherhood)**
- **Silence Procession. Paso Encarnado (Crimson Brotherhood)**
- **Penitential Procession. Paso Morado (Purple Brotherhood)**



ART AND EMBROIDERY



Undoubtedly, embroidery is the main artistic heritage in Lorca and in its Brotherhoods as well as an identity symbol in our city.

The richness of embroidery works shown in gowns, standards (banners), flags and clothing worn by many different characters, have been done by women from Lorca and their extremely handy hands. They usually use silk and golden and silver plated yarn to create an indescribable as well as admirable cultural richness. Embroideries made by hand are included in the so called "Industrial and Decorative Arts" and they have been object of constant admiration. Thus, the collection of embroideries belonging to the religious images, "Virgen de los Dolores" (Paso Azul) and "Virgen de la Amargura" (Paso Blanco), together with the standard of "El Reflejo" and of "La Oración en el Huerto", are the first textile works in Spain that have been declared BIC (Good of Cultural Interest), maximum recognition for a work of art.

PASSION AND STRENGTH



If there is something that characterises people from Lorca is their so special way of living, feeling and showing their Easter Celebration.

Passion is the best word defining this way of being, definition that goes from the most absolute recollection to the most overexcited way of expression. Among shouts and enthusiasm, expressions such as "¿Hay Blancos? (Is there any whites?) "¿Hay Azules? (Is there any Blues?), "¿Vamos a salir?" (Are we going to go out in procession?) and many other typical shouts and hurrahs that you will only listen in Lorca during these days.

Finally, it has to be pointed out the particular way people from Lorca share their Passion, colour, religious images and brotherhood with the visitors making them part of it in such a way that the tourist cannot feel a stranger

STAGING AND ORIGINALITY



Easter, in Lorca, constitutes one of the most important and original religious celebrations of all of those being hold in Spain and in the World.

The spectacular staging of the so called "Desfiles Bíblicos" ("Biblical Parades") is unique and from its origins in 1855, when a 30 person group performed the Entrance of Christ in Jerusalem, its evolution has not stopped. Live characters, on horseback and on ancient coaches or carriages inspired on civilizations from the Old and New Testament such as: Marco Antonio and Cleopatra, the Queen of Saba, King Salomon, Esther and Asuero, Roman Infantry and many others that have contributed to make this Easter celebration go beyond what is purely conventional. Processions in Lorca could be compared to a great historic cinematographic production. A budget of hundred of thousands euros, almost one thousand participants and about 700 horses which are a really exclusive element in this kind of celebrations.



RIVALRY AND COLOUR

Rivalry between "Azules" (Blues), symbol of the sky with its sun and sparkling stars, and "Blancos" (Whites) meaning the purity and beauty of the Christian Religion can be interpreted like a real "fighting" in order to do better than the other when staging the procession in relation to luxury and colourfulness. This peculiarity has had direct repercussions on the essential nature of the parade or procession. This competitive personality becomes extended to all of the people in Lorca, being its inhabitants either whites or blues because of a strong conviction or usually due to a family heritage, even if they are not members of the brotherhoods.

This confrontation both among people and between these two main brotherhoods is, under no doubt, the essence of Easter celebration in Lorca.

THE HORSE

The horse is another of the unique and most original elements of this celebration and which has no comparison in any other cities in this context in Spain. It is vital for the representation of the main part of the historic characters of ancient

civilizations and also essential to represent the Sacred History. They can go alone (such as the Horse of Silence, with the horseman on foot) with a rider performing a wide variety of movements (trotting, galloping or piaffe and passage movements) and also pulling of the so called "carros" (coaches or carriages) which have different names depending on the number of horses pulling them: Two horses, "bigas", four horses, "cuádrigas", and so on up to ten horses, maximum allowed for the dimensions of the "carrera", the avenue where the parade goes along.

VARIETY AND SINGULARITY CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTS

If there is something to be pointed out in the programme during Holy week is the variety and singularity of its acts. "La quema de Judas" (Judas Burning) organized by Our Lord Resuscitated Brotherhood, "La Convocatoria" (an official announcement) organized by the Crimson Brotherhood, the old "Via Crucis" (Way of the Cross), organized by the Purple

Brotherhood, the Procession of the Virgin of Solitude, in the old city organized by the Black Brotherhood and many other civil and religious acts such as triduum, septenaries "La Salve", serenades, "saetas" (sacred songs in flamenco style) and exhibition of the patrimony of the brotherhoods

TRIBUTE MONUMENTS TO THE HOLY WEEK LORCA

If we walk across the city centre, we will be able to appreciate some tribute monuments that the Brotherhoods and the town hall have given to their Easter celebration.

- **TRIBUTE TO THE "LORQUIAN EMBROIDERERS"**
- **TRIBUTE TO THE "PROCESIONISTA"**
- **TRIBUTE TO THE HEBREW PEOPLE**
- **TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO CAYUELA**






TRIBUTE TO THE “LORQUIAN EMBROIDERERS”

In 1985, Lorca pays tribute to the women in Lorca who carry out the magnificent embroideries by placing a sculpture made by Maria Dolores Fernández Arcas in Concha Sandoval Square, close to the monumental Palace of Guevara. This sculpture represents a woman finishing embroidering an item or a piece of cloth.



TRIBUTE TO THE “PROCESIONISTA”

In one of the most singular places in Lorca, Ovalo Square, a monument dedicated to the people who take part in the processions was placed in 2004. It has also been made by Maria Dolores Fernández Arcas. At the lower part, a representation of some characters can be appreciated. They represent the ancient civilizations performed during Easter celebrations, elements symbolizing good and evil, and also two members of a brotherhood, father and son who represent the generations through history. The upper part of the monument represents a horse with a horsewoman holding a sun on one hand because Lorca is “La ciudad del Sol” (“The City of the Sun”).



TRIBUTE TO THE HEBREW PEOPLE

In Santo Domingo Square, there is a relief made by Maria Dolores Fernández Arcas in 2005 that commemorates this first group in the Easter of Lorca that appeared in 1855.



TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO CAYUELA

In 2007, the Blue Brotherhood paid tribute to Francisco Cayuela, one of the best artistic directors in this Brotherhood. In the middle of San Francisco slope, his bust can be appreciated. It was made by Jose Antonio Navarro Arteaga who is also the author of the sculptural group of “La Coronación de Espinas” (Crowning of Thorns).

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