

## Keep your Nose and your House Clean

Ramiro Paez\*

Have you ever felt inside a Tolkien adventure novel when cleaning the house? It is more or less like that. Some people tend to believe this activity is a common and every-day sport (which is true, at a certain point), but the truth lies far beyond that: it can be quite an adventure for those who dare take a step and really try. In this way, every room of the house may remind you of different landscapes and situations, of dangerous challenges and enemies with whom you are to contend. But there is one thing you must bear in mind and never forget: purifying the house is not a game, it stands out as a golden rule that should never be set aside.

To begin with, Bedchamber Mountain is considered the most hazardous location in the world. Howling winds that smash your back with cold airstream from the window should be the first thing to deal with. Once those gates of delirium are closed, then you can really start your labour. One good piece of advice is to set a base camp on the bed, and even light a bonfire to keep yourself warm. Sunrise is coming from behind the mountains of clothes, that await washing and ironing, and the journey is about to begin. You prepare yourself to abseil an ascending pile of jeans, shirts, and coats, knowing that after the climbing you will trek for hours through the remaining mess, until you get to plain ground again, on the other side of the mountains, where the real peril is awaiting. You are on carpet territory now, and so is the vacuum cleaner, a beast with a long limb and a cylindrical belly. The armed conflict takes place in that territory of fake grass texture and the winner is crowned conqueror of the room. Not even a monster like a vacuum cleaner can defeat a human being thirsty to get over with the cleaning of the house.

If you succeed at mountain camp, you will certainly have to face the damp and heat of the living room jungle. It is situated in the centre of the house, just one or two degrees below the Ecuator, where all the jungles in the world are placed. Leaves, dead bucks, muddy shoes, dust, crocodiles, children, monkeys, snakes, mothers-in-law, and who-knows-what-else can be found in this dense, thick jungle called "Living Room." A unique specimen of its kind it really is, because, while half of the room can be conceived as a jungle, the other half can be sensed as a stinking swamp. The piano (furniture) struggles not to be swallowed up by some treacherous quicksand, which has already gobbled up one of your grandchildren and is now hopefully planning to assault you mother-in-law. In this pestilential fen, Vacuum Cleaner The Great has no power, so General Broom and her secretary Mr. Scrub Brush run the place. Together with the Mop Army, they keep the place as pure as possible, although the problematic arrival of children after school will surely threaten to mar the immaculate room (again.)

Having left the fen and the jungle behind, you wander around your house looking for something to clean, and suddenly you hear a majestic waterfall and its mighty stream of water. You are now walking into the Bathroom Falls.

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\* 3º premio del Concurso Literario USAL en Lengua Inglesa – Categoría ensayo (2018).

Paradise of germs. Even though the whiteness which the bathroom displays may be dazzling, it is in fact the dirtiest place in the house (if not in the world.) Columns of water come downstream through the ceramic floor from the water tap in the sink and the shower, combined with soap debris and the remains of a nail cut. Out of the blue, you find yourself kayaking against the current in order to get to the toilet: the major waterfall. Some people say the devil lives in there, since its lethal dark hollow swallows up everything in its way. Sometimes not even bleach can defeat this dirt, and that is when you realize that you have to move to a new house. But the worse part has not been told yet: the odor this room emanates from time to time may suffocate people a mile around. Although the source of that stench may be unknown, you are permitted to suspect two things: the sewer, or one of your uncles (especially in Christmas time.)

As a hero in every adventure film who comes back triumphant to its hometown after the great battle, so does the cleaner at home. But, in this case, a final struggle will be awaiting you. Kitchen city welcomes you as its saviour and hopes you will free it from germs and grease, which has eventually been reigning the kingdom for the last few days. The south, where Fridge Tower lies, has been taken by dictator Fungi in the name of God, who has explicitly refused to leave the place without fighting back. On the other hand, Grease II has conquered the north and used Oven Palace as her headquarters, spreading her evil all over the place. General Broom and Mop Army join you from Living Room Jungle and help you against Grease II in the north, while you are heroically battling in the south for the control of Fridge Tower. War breaks out in every field of Kitchen City until dirt begins to retreat to the offlands of the town. White flag from dirty side is shown and cleanliness triumphs against darkness again.

A sweeping a day keeps the dirt away. After fighting in every corner of the house, we can state that the cleaning of the house is quite an adventure. From trekking mountains of clothes and battling against a fiercely indomitable vacuum cleaner for the conquering of the carpet territory, to the most lethal waterfalls which fill the dark toilet hollow, purifying the house is not only material cleansing but also spiritual cleansing. How can you live with yourself knowing that the muddy swamp in the living room may suck up your children alive? The sofa seems to be the only mainland waiting to sink in the quicksand of dirt. And even if you survive that stinking fen, you will then have to face Kitchen City and all its turmoil, chaos, rush and pressure. Fridge Tower and Oven Palace are two of the greatest challenges against greasy surfaces, since they offer as much impurity as White House and Congress put together. Keeping your nose and your house clean is not a walk in the park!