

Ramon Casas

*Ramon Casas and Pere Romeu on a Tandem*

## PERE AND RAMON'S TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

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Ramon and Pere decided to go around the world by bicycle. They bought the same equipment: the same suit, the same socks, even the same shoes, and that's how it all began.

### **AROUND THE WORLD BY BICYCLE**

As they didn't want to sweat too much they were travelling light. They were only carrying a pair of underpants, a T-shirt and some spare socks in their backpacks.

Ramon was a painter and was interested most of all in landscapes and people; on the other hand, Pere, who wanted to open a new restaurant, only had eyes for the new soft drinks and the

dishes they were trying in order to prepare them when he returns to surprise his customers.

As they were pedalling, they were talking about it in their own inimitable way:

"I shall paint a woman in the London fog. That way it will look like she's dreaming," Ramon said.

"And I'll make a cocktail of papaya and chocolate that will drive my customers wild," said Pere.

"Good idea. And the woman in my picture will be drinking it. Do you realise that there may be a lot of things that can't be seen in a picture?"

And Pere added:

"Oh yes, in fact, do the people in the painting really have what they've eaten in their stomachs?"

One day, when they were visiting a small village in Africa, Ramon said to Pere:

"Have you noticed that this Watusi has a plate in his mouth?"

"Why does that surprise you? You've always got your pipe in your mouth and I, who hate tobacco, I breathe in the smoke."

"Now that you mention it," said Ramon, annoyed, "talking of mouths, let's see if you actually get round to changing your false teeth that make such a noise every night."

"And another thing: do you know what? To ride a bike you shouldn't keep your back straight."

And they spent the days like this, in their curious way.

The time came to return, as the date was getting near of a new exhibition by Ramon and the opening of Pere's new restaurant.

They were so looking forward to sleeping in their own beds and seeing their families that they decided to pedal for twenty-four hours without stopping.

Their socks were sweating and the soles of their feet were hurting.

In the end they were so exhausted that when Pere was pedalling to the left his friend was doing it to the right, and they almost fell off on more than one occasion.

Because we haven't said so, but the two of them were riding on the same bicycle, on a tandem!

They pedalled and pedalled without stopping until they finally saw the skyline of their city and then they began to blow the horn without stopping.

Their friends, when they heard it, came out to greet them and congratulate them on their feat.

"How have things gone in all those places?", they asked them.

And Pere said: "Very well. We've seen the most beautiful places in the world, black eggs, red rice, we've tried sweet-and-sour food and dragon's liqueur."

"We've seen the fog in London and the skyscrapers in New York, the huts in Mali and the ruins in Greece," Ramon added.

"And did you meet anyone?", they asked them.

"Well, yes, I remember a woman in the fog and a Watusi, but in actual fact hardly anyone, only four cats."

Then Pere, excited, sat bolt upright on the bicycle and said:

"I've got it! I'm going to call my new restaurant The Four Cats!"

"What a good idea," one of their friends said. "All of you pose there, and I'll take a photo of you that will be fantastic for the poster."