

Integration is a Mirage

by **Ida Magli**

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We are very sorry for what happened to Mrs. Daniela Santanchè (she was demonstrating against the use of burqa in Italy, and she was beaten by muslims). Before commenting on the problem of the muslim women's clothing in Italy - with a consideration that is more cultural than political - I would like to point out to one simple but very meaningful fact: every single day we have to deal with our very difficult cohabitation with the islamic world.

This means that it is not a question of a single or exceptional event, but that there is a pathologic reality deeply rooted inside our everyday's life. For several years we tried to warn the politicians against the fact that the islamic world is incompatible with the western world, and that - at the end - the clash will be unavoidable. This clash will surely be very painful and unjust for both parts, since the matter will be the defense of what we believe in, and of what is most valuable for us: our Religion, wether it is the Koran or wether it is Freedom or Equality. But the politicians do not listen: this is their greatest fault. And - of course - they are in good faith.

For example, when Gianfranco Fini insists in his proposal of giving the citizenship and the right to vote to the immigrants in a shorter time, he is making this suggestion because he is convinced that, once they are completely equal to the italians at the highest possible level, the immigrants will have no reason to feel strangers and they will easily integrate. Unfortunately this conviction stems out of a total ignorance of what the muslim culture is like. Muslim culture is founded and modeled on a Sacred Book which dates back to several centuries before Christ, since Mohammed based the Koran over the restoration of the observance of the first five books of the Old Testament.

For instance, the Deuteronomius, one of the oldest books of the Bible approved by Mohammed, prescribes that an unfaithful woman can be killed by her father or by her husband. This is just to give a reference

to what happened in Italy few weeks ago, when a young muslim girl was killed by her father because she went to live together with her italian non-muslim fiancé. The Church should propose a review of the Old Testament, thus urging the scholars of the Koran to take into consideration this possibility, especially as far as their legislation - which is incompatible with the modern world - is concerned.

It must be very clear that this is just an wish, but right now we have to solve today's problems. Women's clothing is a sensible matter in all societies, even when it is not prescribed by a sacred book. (Not a long time ago, italian women were not allowed to enter into the Parliament wearing trousers). The reason for this hypersensitivity can be easily explained: with their clothes, women "advertise" their greater or lesser sexual availability, and they also show if they are closer or far away from the "hereafter". The two things are closely linked because the male's fantasy has imagined them in such a way. It is enough to look at the colors, as far as the Oriental world is concerned (first the jewish then muslim ones). White belongs to males, since they have nothing to do with the impure world of Death, or with the *hereafter* of Death. While women are the bearers of Death (because of Procreation) and this is why they are completely wrapped up in black.

Unfortunately we cannot do anything to speed up the solution of this problem; but I believe that the battle over the Burka can be fought only by the muslim women, once they will be aware of the meaning of the world in which they live, as it happened to the western women.

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Traduzione di Marina Mascetti