

# Two incompatible cultures. And ours is humiliated

By Ida Magli  
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(In Regello, Italy, the imam, father of a muslim girl obtained that she attends music classes in school wearing ear-plugs, because western music is corrupting)

Even if it could seem paradoxical, grotesque and even improbable, what happened in Regello shows - with an extreme synthesis - all the ingredients of the incompatibility between the western and the muslim cultures.

Why do I mention the western culture first and not the muslim one, as usually happens? Because our politicians with their dull ignorance and arrogance kept on saying that immigrants "are integrating"; that it is enough to be born on the italian territory to be an "italian citizen". And most of all they enforced a completely wrong classification of religions according to which religions are just "religions", and are all equal. In doing so, they ignored all what historians, ethnologists and anthropologists always said: each religion is a "culture". The distinction between religion and culture is something that exists just in our world. This is why obviously being a muslims means living a culture in every aspect of life and not only in the moment of prayer. Therefore our school is almost completely in collision with the meaning, the customs, the rules and the muslims precepts. If we analyze the details of what happened in Regello we will realize it at once.

The daughter of the iman - a man particularly observant of rules - that has to wear ear-plugs, *first of all is a female*. Females are forbidden to listen to the music, especially if it is the infidel's music. Had she been a male, probably this would not have happened, and in any case nobody would propose to plug his ears: this is an idea of physical taboo suitable only for a woman.

Do we realize what we are saying? To which regression we confined ourselves? An italian judge is not reasoning any more, he is going out of his mind in front of a behavior that he is not capable of evaluating. This man is giving up the duties of his juridical civilization and is annulling himself in front of something that he is not capable to understand.

Don't we feel disgusted of ourselves? Let us look at ourselves: it is not the muslims who are at stake, it is us. And if we think about the cause of this dispute, we must really feel like nonentities. Didn't we say that music was an universal language? The only language that is eliminating differences, that can guarantee understanding and peace all over the world? Yes, we screamed that with joy, sending our orchestras everywhere; we were convinced that nobody could testify better the union among the peoples than Claudio Abbado or Riccardo Muti.

But this is true just for us, for our civilization that always walked towards freedom, confining in a corner everything that was hindering that journey. We started with the worries of Saint Augustine who did not want have music played in the churches. Then we triumphantly went over the gregorian chants with the splendid music of Pergolesi and Bach. And it is precisely because of this continuous journey towards freedom that between our world and the muslim one there is an unbridgeable gap.

The Koran is based on the beliefs of a people of nomadic shepherds of about 8000 years before Christ, people of the age of Moses (the first five books of the Old Testament). They always kept the same rules, the same precepts, the same taboos about sex, food, space, time and clothing. They always kept the same ethical rules, the same criminal law that is punishing the body and is using the body. All this summed together shapes a culture.

Forget the idea that muslims could or must 'integrate'; politicians more than everybody else must understand this. To integrate, muslims should abandon their culture-religion, something that they cannot do and do not want to do. Coexistence will mean - as already it is happening - separate tribunals, separate schools, separate quarters and, for us, the worst possible life.

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