

A Competition in Betrayal

by Ida Magli

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It is a terrible fate to have to be ashamed of our governors in front of the world and of ourselves. But this has always been the fate of Italy, always the same one in the past centuries, under the rule of Popes, Kings, Emperors, Princes and Doges. Democracy did not change this awful scenario; on the contrary since when we have parliamentarians and "representatives", this humiliation became everyday's rule because – in theory – with their actions and behavior these men are supposed to "represent" us and therefore to "be" us. Since the first times of parliamentary life, the misery of their behavior humiliated us; but we had the illusion that the peaks of the Mani Pulite scandal could not be surpassed ("Clean Hands", the corruption national scandal in the 1990's). But what we saw few days ago, when the Letta government was reconfirmed, goes beyond our wildest imagination.

The whole world watched in disbelief the horrible scene, and was not able to understand. So we must explain to the world that the politicians and parliamentarians who were seen on the stage *do not represent us and are not* Italians. The Italians, in fact, knew nothing about what was going to happen; no one asked their opinion. And it must be pointed out that the Letta government, the so called "broad agreement" government, was created going against the outcome of the elections, since no party had a majority. It must also be remembered that mrs. Emma Bonino – now Minister of the Foreign Affairs, who is supposed to "represent" Italy in the world – was not elected as a candidate, and that her party (Radical party) did not even reach the minimum percentage required to access Parliament.

This is the legal and also "formal" situation: therefore we can say that our politicians and governors of today *do not represent us*, and the same goes for all those who supported them in the Parliament. They do not represent us, they did not abide the rules of parliamentary Democracy set by our Constitution; therefore, they betrayed their oath of allegiance to Italy, together with the President of the Republic who signed their appointment. They are traitors and they should be expelled from the Italian society (the Italian Constitution contemplates the crime of betrayal: we just need someone who has the courage to invoke it).

The spirit of betrayal, however, is not a "temporary" psychological feature, randomly linked to situations. The character of being a "traitor" is deeply linked to the basic personality of the individual, and guides him in everything he thinks, does and says. In such a way that the individual is not aware of "being a traitor", since traitors do not care about anyone – be it father, son, friend, partner, citizen or subject – not even about human beings. He is not choosing between betraying or not betraying; he has one move only in front of him: choosing what is most useful for him. The traitor does not belong to any group, has no family nor citizenship. This is why the actors of the scene that better than any other one in history showed the true essence of betrayal are not italians. It is not possible to find anything similar in comedies or tragedies, not even Shakespeare or Moliere could have imagined something like this.

There was no one who could "take part" in any way into their actions, not before nor after. Italy and the Italians were not even the "object" of this action because the Monti Government already had sold them out, and handed them over to Europe and the world financial government . None of the politicians cared about what the Italians would have thought - not even about what their own electors would think – when the Italians finally understood that in the actions of the politicians (of their own party or not) there is not the faintest trace of an ideal, a value, or a goal. Therefore we saw the "purest" moves of the traitors, *with* traitors and *among* traitors. Now they tell us that Berlusconi was the most skilled on the stage, and – even if Italians are used to treachery – this by itself is a proof that as far as betrayal is concerned, this time they went beyond any limit.

Even during the wars, and in politics, until now everybody pretended that betrayal was not allowed, even if they knew all too well that it existed. Not anymore: finally, nobody is pretending. They must betray and they must betray openly, because betrayal is good, right and useful. The one who betrays more is the best, and – most of all – the best is the one who is able to be friend and partner in betraying those who betrayed him.

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