

Fire in a nomadic camp, a child dies.

Nomads: let us invite them to be "alive"

by **Ida Magli**

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Once again a little child died in a fire that burned an illegal nomadic camp in Rome. This is today's news; but in the past I already wrote several articles about nomadic children who died in a fire. As far as those who died in Rome are concerned - I remember it with so much grief and anger - this is the third one, and let us hope that his brother - who was severely burned - will survive. I also wrote that the Italians would not accept such deaths and that whoever defends the "nomadic culture" is responsible for them.

Just for once, can we try not to talk to deaf ears? Let us set aside the grief for the dead, and let us look in a realistic and objective way at the sufferings, at the discomfort. Today - and tomorrow when they will be adults - for these children it is impossible to take part into the contemporary life of the western world, which has its faults but is the common way of life. The normal life.

Today the problem came out again because of the expulsions of nomads decided by the French Government. Immediately the Aliens who live in the High Towers of Bruxelles criticized this decision; but their critics are devoid of any true interest for the Good of these people, in the name of an abstract "respect for cultures". So we must point out, once again, that *nomadic culture is a dead culture*. In the European Union all knowledge of Social Science and of Anthropology has been cancelled, because the only accepted knowledge is the one decided by the politicians in the name of "tolerance". But we hope that someone will be wise enough to understand how absurd is to complain against the expulsions decided by the French Government.

The trivialization of "Good" can be much more dangerous than the "Evil" itself. Not inducing the Nomads to change their way of life is not a signal of goodness or of tolerance; because in the modern organization of the european society does not exist any more not even one of the elements of a nomadic culture. Nomadism was born because of the need

of continuous movement, when men lived on the fruits of the forest, looking for a place suitable for horse breeding; these men went into inhabited places just for a small commerce of artifacts made of copper or wicker, or to be given some gifts or donations by the inhabitants, because they played songs or were predicting the future reading the hands of those who believed in such a thing. It is self evident that today these activities are not possible any more; therefore the so called Nomads were forced to *pretend to be nomadic*, just because their caravans are mounted on wheels, their gas and electricity connections are temporary, and also because now they are collecting everywhere copper and iron - when they are not stealing it.

But if a culture does not make history every day, if it is not developing within its context, if it is not producing anything, then *it is a dead culture. Cultures do die*. This is something that everybody can see. The Indian reserves in the United States are reserves of a dead culture, exactly as nomadic camps are. Indian reserves do not clash against the reality of modern society because in the immense spaces of the United States they can pretend to be isolated from the world. But this is not possible for the Nomads of the European east. So the only right thing to do now is to urge them to live in the contemporary society, in the States where they have the citizenship and know the language, giving up the nomadic customs. This is not a way to offend them, as politically correctness pretends: it is an invitation to be "alive". Which means to do what all the living cultures did: hand over their past to History, writing and narrating it, creating art, theater and novels with it. Going forward in actuality, bringing along their past but looking ahead to the future.

The Church is complaining against the expulsions of the Nomads because interprets the Gospel as a defense of the "weak". Standing beside the weak, instead, means to teach them what to do so that they will not remain weak forever. In the case of the Nomads, this would give them a new life.

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