On the Islamic veil: Where is the spirit of tolerance?

As a scientist, I don’t have anything to do with any religion and I am staying away from churches and priests of all religions, institutions marred by corruption and organizers of the manipulation of the weakest minds, like all other institutions, including scientific ones. Nevertheless, I did meet great men of faith, who impressed me, and it happens that I read the Bible, the Imitation, Saint Augustine, Ibn Arabi, Tibetan scholars, and many more, but that is private and nobody’s business. It is not necessarily a propensity for mysticism, but, as a scientist, I do know the limitations of science and the vanity of knowledge.

Since I am young, I have to cope with the irritating Christian holidays, as if they would mean anything to me, as if I would care, and kindly accept the fact that, in a country where people work largely insufficiently, we get so many useless days where we cannot get anything done. With unlimited patience, I have to bear in our media the overwhelming presence of the Catholic Church, directly or indirectly, the travels of the Pope, the speeches of the Pope, wasting the already sparse time available for information on the news channels. Actually, while I see all this, I also don’t mind. I tolerate all this, and will continue.

However, it is the lack of tolerance that I cannot tolerate, and in particular the open organized hostility towards Islam has now become unbearable to me. I saw it developing in the recent months, but actually growing continuously since twenty years, when not more. While I support the humorists and defend their right to express whatever they feel in the manner they feel, whether or not I agree with them, I cannot stand any more the nasty, sneaky, and permanent aggression against the Muslims in my country. The criminal activities of a few extremists, often just irrelevant idiots and mental cases, cannot justify this aggression, and, actually, the other religions, and in particular the Catholic Church, are not any better and have their own extremists and their dark side.

Usually, I keep quiet about the many things I don’t like in our rotten society, and I don’t think my opinions are any better or any more interesting than the opinions of anybody else, worthy of communicating or wasting ink with them. But now, with the ban of the Islamic veil, this craziness has entered my own house, and there is no way I am going to ignore it or tolerate it any further.

In my class, I rule. I did never care and will never care what the students are wearing and what their beliefs are. They can be Christians or Muslims, or nothing, I don’t care. They can show it or they can hide it, I don’t care. My duty is to teach them, to make them succeed, to fight against themselves, and to help them finding their way. Also, my duty is to make sure that in class they are on time, polite and sober, behave properly, respect the teachers and respect each other. Yes, that is also my duty to maintain the conditions of learning, and also it is my duty to help them as much as I can when they are in trouble. Whether this pleases or displeases, I don't care.

Evil time when all what matters is the external appearance of things and the appearance of people, what they show, what they wear, what they pretend. I have seen enough fools, enough liars and enough crooks in the most perfect outfit. Evil time of the overwhelming rule of the media, evil time when the nature of mankind is constantly ignored and despised. While all what should matter is the inner nature of people, kindness, generosity, genuineness, the purity of their heart, the inner holy substance of mankind. The ban of the Islamic veil is a symbol of ignorance; it has contaminated our schools and our institutions, and this, using the pretext of equality and neutrality! In our country of liberty, equality, fraternity! The hunt for Muslims and Muslim expression is of
the same disgusting barrel as the hunt for Jews, Protestants, Communists, free minds! And all those who will dare to oppose the one-world vision of liberal economy?

I cannot believe that this utmost stupidity has now entered my land, university, which should be the last island of tolerance and humanist ideals. All right, I have now been in this university world for more than ten years, after a previous life, and here, as outside, the grass is not always green. This world is not quite the ideal one I had been dreaming of. In many instances, I felt that some of my colleagues would have benefitted from a rehabilitation program in the countryside, ploughing fields or breaking stones, as implemented by Mao Zedong, hoping that these refreshing activities would open their eyes to the suffering of the people. Well, it did not quite prove efficient anyway. On university ground, yes, there are greedy, selfish, jealous, ambitious animals with no scruples, female and male, like in all communities. These few, who are joining the mob in the Islam hunt, however, are not going to take over the holy land. A few extremists are not going to destroy the last free space of human civilization. It is time to fight back, and restore tolerance in our society, tolerance! Tolerance needs to be restored in schools, tolerance needs to be restored in the streets, tolerance needs to be restored everywhere. I start here. There is no debate to be, and it is not up to a few blurred minds outside to decide what is happening in my domain.

In my class, on the sacred ground of university, there will not be any ban of cloth of any kind, nor any other disguised form of discrimination. Girls can come with makeup, miniskirts, boys with pants or half-pants, with hair or no hair, beard or no beard, I don’t care. And Islamic veil, girls can wear, I don’t even see. I never cared and will never care. Law or not law, rule or no rule, my class will remain an untouched ground of learning only, and I will resist, now and forever. I will not comply with any ban of the Islamic veil.

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