

That Motherland impossible to Uproot

by **Ida Magli**

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Shahzad Faisal, a thirty year old Pakistani, naturalized American, apparently was the author of a failed terrorist attack in New York - that is an attack against his newly acquired Motherland. The terrorist attack was planned to spread terror, killing many of his fellow American citizens. Few words, apparently very simple ones, describe in reality a situation that the leaders of the Western world are unable to accept: "*naturalized American*": this is the point.

Politicians and Governors of the West are convinced that it is necessary to cancel as much as possible all differences between Peoples and Nations, in order to obtain a uniform world where Equality is sovereign. Therefore, taking the place of History and Nature, they believe to be the Ones who have the right to say which are - or should be - the feelings, the passions, the affections of the citizens. This is why they believed that in order to create an American (or in the same way an Italian, a German or a French...) it is enough to write 'American' on his ID.

This is the most dangerous and tragic mistake, since there is nothing more 'natural' (and this means that nothing or almost nothing can change it) than the love for the Land, the Nation, the language, culture and history from where we come from, things that we shared with our fathers and brothers.

Let us be very frank about this: to save ourselves from Hitler we are letting Hitler kill us. *It really is so*. We say that Nature does not count, that Nation, History, People and Languages are not important. We are favoring as much as possible the blending of groups and individuals belonging to the most different States and ethnicities. We are pushing this idea beyond every reasonableness, and against all sound evidence, because we are afraid that we could go back to the theories and the tragic events of Hitler. But this is the wrong path: when Humanity gives

up the critical method and the logic system guiding Reason, when it relies on false certainties, it opens the way towards terrible sufferings and unavoidable conflicts.

What is the purpose of denying the genetic and bio-cultural heritage? This is a foolish and wrong assumption, because it does not leave any space to the feelings on which are founded the bonds between the members of a Group, and consequently between the Societies. We are human beings, we are not abstract entities that powerful men can mold at their will. The similarity of our physical characters helps us to understand each other, and even without talking we can understand through the mimics, the glance and the smiles that are peculiar of each single People; we can love each other and we wish to live together only if we *understand* each other.

The point is that we *understand* because we '*know*' - even without knowing it - which is the Past and the History that we have in common. In fact there is a 'cultural memory' that is genetically transmitted; borrowing the wonderful definition of Edelman, we can call it a "remembered present". We have innumerable proofs of this: the most irrefutable one, in a way the most terrible and dramatic one, is America.

From its beginnings, the American Nation was formed by immigrants coming from the most different Nations; there was an unlimited territory with enormous wealth, and the Nation founded itself on one symbol: Freedom. But America was not able to cancel the differences between races, characters, sensitivity, customs, religions, classes; and now it is facing all the conflicts caused by these differences. The "naturalized American Pakistani", with all his faults, is the proof of this.

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