

The Law of Mohammed in Italy: a 36 years old Moroccan man was arrested (because he beated his wife) and justified himself saying: "I bought her with a regular contract and by the Law of my country I am right". But our Constitution, which forbids it, is valid for everybody, including the islamics.

His woman: a slave that was bought on the market. He was free to do whatever he wanted, he had power of life and death over her. It seems an old story, as those of the gladiators. But this is happening again, in the Third Millennium. Protagonist is a moroccan couple living in Italy at Montecchio, in the Emilia Region. The man, an immigrant, lived in Italy for many years, and at the beginning of 2009 - after their marriage in Casablanca - his 22 years old wife came to Italy to join him. Now the man is in jail, accused of family abuse, violence, injuries and sexual violence.

An islamic man arrested because he was beating his wife: "I can do it, she is mine".

by **Ida Magli**

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A Moroccan man beating his wife is not making headlines anymore in Italy, almost. Unfortunately, we had to comment about cases that were much worst than this, even about the killing of a wife or of a daughter for reasons that are absolutely incomprehensible and unacceptable for the italian law and way of life.

But this time it will not be useless to talk about the matter once more, for two main reasons. The first is that this is not just a single and isolated explosion of violence, due to a particular reason: this is a series of continuous and very grave mistreatments that a moroccan man - living in Italy from a long time - inflicted to his wife who came to Italy to live with him, after marrying him in Casablanca with a regular contract.

This man was brutal and violent by himself, regardless of his culture and of his wife's behavior.

So we are asking: what is the job of this man? For which reason and virtue was he permitted to live regularly in Italy? Why was he allowed to be joined by his wife? Our sanitary offices are full of psychologists and social workers: is anybody of them following and helping during the process of psychological adaptation of the immigrants?

The second aspect of the question concerns us and most of all our politicians, who always refused to think over the abyss that exists between the European society and the Islamic one. Our civilization is based on the only secular concept that existed in antiquity, which was created by Rome; from this concept stemmed the evangelic dictation that put men and woman on the same level, condemning every discrimination and violence. (Obviously there always have been violent fathers and husbands, but these were single cases becoming increasingly rare.)

Which common ground can exist with the Muslim culture? Mohammed based the Koran on the first five Books of the Bible, the older ones, which were meant for a population of nomadic shepherds, whose sense of justice was founded on the Law of the Retaliation, which means physical punishment.

Islamic law is based on such a "right". "*Woman is one step below man*" says the Sura of the Cow. And being inferior, she is under the commands of the man, husband or father, and has to serve him. This is the faith of the Muslims: whether they live in Morocco or in Italy it makes no difference. How can we make Muslims understand that there is a secular law which has nothing to do with the Koran? I believe that it is impossible.

Our politicians must understand that, contrary to what European laws prescribe, religions must be judged and criticized when they affirm and preach concepts and values which - more than with our laws - are in conflict with what we deem most valuable: equality among people and first of all between men and women. In some American states they tried to solve the problems of the numerous Muslim population allowing the establishment of Koranic tribunals. It is a shameful decision for a

democracy that boasts to be the best of the world. In fact a woman who is an *american citizen of muslim religion* is "one step below man".

Europe - and first of all Italy, the homeland of the greatest jurists that ever lived in history - must commit itself into finding a way to eradicate this statement, working together with the islamic authorities. Besides possible crimes, the principles of the italian Constitution must be affirmed, so that this Constitution will not be "false" for the muslims living in our Country.

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