

# ***Maometto e la violenza***

di **Ida Magli**

*Il Giornale*, allegato "Non perdiamo la testa" | 18.10.2014

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Italy, Europe, the West, are surprised and shocked by the assassination put in place against people who have done no wrong, but were taken prisoners and condemned to death because they belong to the world of "infidels". Since the times of the sacrifices of pre-Islamic Arabs, the sacrificial killing is done by slaughtering (wa'd) and subsequent decapitation; this is confirmed by the Koran: "I will cast terror into the hearts of those who do not believe and *you* hit their napes" 1.

This point - the sacrificial meaning of the killing of "infidels" - was not taken into consideration by our politicians and commentators; and instead it is a fundamental fact not only to try to understand the events, but also to study a form of "answer" provided of logic. The absolute "rituality" of the scenario of the killing, which was presented to us in the video, is what made it terribly macabre, unbearable to our eyes: the special outfit of the victim, its kneeling and being in front to those for whom is sacrificed, the looming presence of the sacrificer; they are all signs and symbols which are the very essence of the rite. But since a long time we are not accustomed to the language of the Sacred and of its Power; therefore we are shocked by it, even if we do not understand it.

Commentators exclaimed unanimously: "Barbarity! Delirium of fanatics!", because – given the low-key that religions have today in historical events – they can not believe that suddenly those peoplefaith are acting in a ruthless war of the "believers", of the faithful of Allah or of any other God. It does not seem possible that religion is moving them, and in fact we are unarmed: we have not even begun to try to understand, much less to "reason". Barbarity, of course: those are gestures excluded from the modern civil coexistence among individuals, and among nations. Awareness, and the claim that no man can be a "tool", is our highest moral conquest. The idea of human sacrifice is so repugnant for us that we would like to believe that it almost never existed. We would love to forget that in ancient times

very often people were making wars for the need of capturing prisoners to be sacrificed to their God.

Journalists are experts of the daily follies of which every human being is capable; they cling to the idea of "fanaticism" as the only explanation of unacceptable violence; while Obama has given neither to himself nor to the enemies one minute of reflection before "answering" in his own way: with bombs. Serious mistake, obviously. «Study the enemy before you move, take time with lengthy negotiations», is the fundamental lesson given by Julius Caesar (the author of *De Bello Gallico*), to all commanders of armies, from Roman times to the present. But this mistake is especially serious for anyone who has to deal with the Arab mentality, which is the opposite of the American one: slow, tangled, always looking for tricks and subtleties which overshadow at least ten solutions for every problem; mentality which moreover is clearly reflected in the Koran.

Mohammed is an Arab, and his believers are looking at him, since Allah is a distant God, with whom it is impossible to have a direct contact – and not even to pray, if you do not pray together with the Prophet. Obedience to the will of the one God-Allah coincides with obedience to the Prophet, who knows his will because it has been revealed to him with the Koran. After this revelation, the term "prophet" – widely used earlier in all Jewish history and the Christian one – takes on the quality of "unique", and identifies with Muhammad. The uniqueness of God is the very uniqueness of his Prophet. Therefore Mohammed is the absolute master of the Islamic world, and has arranged perfectly his relationship with God as much as with men. The West should always keep in mind this feature, which makes Islam a religion different from any other one; and most of all makes it different from Judaism and Christianity. Better to say (even if the public is convinced of the contrary): the West must look to the *man* Muhammad and not to the religion which he built, because the worshipers obey to this man.

If we look at a few (almost) certain data of the biography of Muhammad, we clearly see that they correspond to the customs of the Arab and Bedouin nomadic tribes, scattered almost everywhere vast deserts of Syria, in the sixth and seventh centuries AD. First of all, the habit of not being rooted in a territory is typical of nomadism, which is constantly fighting against neighboring tribes to steal their land and their best possession: camels, men, women, children, which are aggregated to the group as slaves, and forced to embrace the faith of their masters. For Mohammed, nomadism and the need to raid became the most useful tool in order to impose his religion with the war against the populations that he conquered. It is not difficult. Aside from the extreme aggressiveness of his warriors, and besides the value of the loot on which they count (they will surely have the

loot, because in making the division the fifth part of all belongs to Muhammad), Muhammad chose the first five books of the Old Testament as the basis of the Koran. These are the older ones, mirroring the thoughts of nomad shepherds of the age of Moses: their justice consisting of retaliation, their primacy of the head of the family on the whole group, their polygamy and inferiority of women; a set of beliefs and behaviors that the people of Syria, Palestine, of good part of Africa already knew through Judaism and Christianity. But it is evident that Islamism can spread easily because – contrary to what happens in other "revealed" religions where there is always a margin of mystery and interpretative doubt – Allah clearly says what he wants, since he is speaking through a man: simply obey literally. The series of daily acts of purification, the magical guarantees provided by the ritual execution of prayer, the initiation to the group of the elected people through circumcision, give concrete and tangible strength to the sentiment of faith. The same happens with the social order, based on the most instinctive concept of justice, that of retaliation. Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, death by death, it is easy to understand and provides an immediate and real satisfaction, over the body. In Islam are in place, then, the universal structures of the Sacred and their social organization at the elementary level; structures which vibrate spontaneously in the human mind, because they respond to the need for security that haunts every man, calming it down.

There is another more factor, though, in the religion of Muhammad, which dominates over all others, giving it an inexhaustible vitality: the need to fight for the victory of Allah. It is the order that Muhammad gave from the beginning, which ensured and still ensures the expansion of Islam: *fight and win*. The term "fight" is one of the most frequent ones in the text of the Koran: Islam and Victorious Battle are the same thing, because it is God who fights when his faithful fight. "Remember how your Lord brought you out from your home for the mission of truth" (VIII, 5); "It was not you who killed them at Badr, but it was God who slew them; neither it was you who threw sand in their eyes, when you threw it, but God threw" (VIII, 17); "Those who abandon their country and fight in the way of God, those can hope for the mercy of God" (II, 215); "If you do not go out in the field, God will punish you with a painful torment and will replace you with another people" (IX, 39); "Go out in the field, lightly and heavily armed, and fight, with your substance, and with your persons" (IX, 41).

How much men like to challenge! How much men like to fight! How much men like to win! Muhammad has no doubts: there is no difference that matters, neither race nor language nor history, in front of the desire of males to *fight and win*. Winning means that you are the strongest, that your ideas are the right ones, that

your religion is the true one, that all that exists in the world belongs to you and that you are entitled to take it. From here, then, starts the violence which is inherent in Islam. The West has forgotten; Europe especially has forgotten, seeing many Muslim groups live peacefully within its territory. But it is a mistake. Our males are dying. Will Muslims males die together with our ones? Surely not. They will join the fighters who already are pressing on us and they will win.

**Ida Magli**

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(*Il Giornale: "Non perdiamo la testa"*)

1 - *Il Corano, sùra VI, 137*, nuova versione letterale italiana, Hoepli ed., Milano 1987, terza ediz. riveduta. All quotations of tje Koran in this text come from this book.

Traduzione a cura di Marina Mascetti