

Ishmael's Thirst,

When story accelerates

Emotions are strong when watching on TV the celebration of an oriental mass in the Place of Liberation in Cairo, followed by the Muslim ritual prayer. The prayer is for the victims of the January 25 Revolution. All along the Egyptian valley, thousands of wounded and hundreds of dead: confessors and martyrs of popular democracy and solidarity.

Did Pope Benedict or the fathers of the Synod for the Middle East know that their strong request for justice, freedom of conscience and civil commitment would be heard to such an extent and subscribed by the blood and courage of those many young people? The dead of Alexandria in the church at New Year separated the Copts from the regime's logic. The Egyptian Christians have abandoned the "moderate" and "pro-western" dictatorship of Mubarak. The shifting of a weight, although not considerable *per se*, can provoke a radical misbalance!

In an interview with *La Croix*, C. Cannuyer, an expert of Coptic Egypt, shows the huge gap between the religious hierarchy and the Christian believers. While the first remain prudent and a regime's supporter, the second are seen in the Place of Liberation protesting against Mubarak. "Copts are part of the Egyptian population (circa 10%, 8 million). They are well aware of the fact that the regime is responsible for the situation of social putrefaction as a result of their supporting the interests of a restricted number of profiteers". Mubarak is accused "of having used religious relations for political aims, constantly brandishing Islamist threat to justify the dictatorship's maintenance and the long-lasting state of emergency. "

The Tunisian example was certainly decisive. That Sunday of January 16, when the Tunisian tyrant Ben Ali flew to Arabia, food tasted like Easter morning. The "Jasmine revolution" won.

The knot of blackmail that had been used over decades to constraint people with the threat to give the fundamentalist camel more of a free rein, has been untied by the civil maturity of this new young generation. Today, the communist grandfathers and the Islamist fathers bow before this democratic spring blossoming in the midst of the corruption and tortures of the ancient system in the naked hands of those new green citizens.

The despair of the humiliated young people, self-immolated in the fire to tell heaven that hell is preferable to an unjust earth, triggered an irresistible mutation.

Two courageous and wise men – Muhamad Barady, ex-IAEA, and Umr Mussa, General Secretary of the Arab League – with a long experience of international mediation, could be suitable personalities for the new Egyptian democracy.

The Zionist State trembles for good reasons. The card of Islamic extremism cannot be played anymore as usual... It is time to take a stand for a just peace or to get ready for sunset. History is now running!

In several Arab countries, the risk of civil war and divisions seems to still force civil society to patience and gradual change. To avoid another bloodbath, virtual mobilization cannot take to the streets. Nevertheless, it is a time of miracles. Even the transition towards independence in the South of Sudan looks like happening in a nearly bloodless way.

From Morocco to Iran, nothing is anymore like before. The rule has been broken. Essential pieces of a new geopolitical jigsaw are being designed in view of an alternative world government, in which countries like Brazil and Turkey can join in defining a global multi-pluralism.

Licking its wounds caused by post-democratic irresponsibility, Italy stands astonished in the middle of the turmoil like a deaf-and-dumb person at a wedding party –as an Arab saying goes!