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Ghalkemm inhobb hafna il-poezija, nippreferi l-lejla ma nkun poetika xejn u f'dan id-diskors tradizzjonali ta' rapprezentant ta' l-istudenti nitkellem car u tond u bla kantunieri, kif shabi l-istudenti jafu li s-soltu nitkellem.

Ma nixtieqx li nigi nterpretata bhala li qed nilghaq jekk f'ismi u f'isem shabi nrodd il-hajr misthoqq lil dawk il-persuni li ghenu biex dan il-kors isir. Nibda mill-Onorevoli Mr. Speaker, dak iz-zmien Ministru ghal Ghawdex li hadem bla heda biex jinfetah ic-Centru ta' Ghawdex ta' l-Universita' ta' Malta. Komplew fuq il-passi tieghu l-Onorevoli Anton Refalo, ghal xi zmien Segretarju Parlamentari ghal Ghawdex u l-Onorevoli Giovanna Debono, il--Ministru prezenti li dejjem taw appogg shih lil dan ic-Centru kif nista' nixhed jiena stess miz-zmien li ghamilt bhala rapprezentant ta' l-istudenti fuq il-Bord tac-Centru.

Rigward il-Kors partikulari taghna ma nistax ma nroddx hajr minn qalbi lill-Professur Lino Briguglio u lill-Professur Charles Farrugia li bil-hidma taghhom kien possibbli li ghal-ewwel darba fl-istorja tal-Fakulta' ta' l-Edukazzjoni jsir kors li jwassal ghall-istess certifikat,

fl-istess zmien, bl-istess lecturers, bl-istess mod ta' assessjar u bl-istess ezamijiet finali. Naf li ma nkunx qed nitkellem ghalija biss jekk nghid li ma kontx insegwi dan il-kors li kieku ma sarx hawn Ghawdex stess.

Nghaddi issa biex nifrah lil shabi l-istudenti li zammew it-tradizzjoni ta' dan ic-Centru u ta' l-istudenti Ghawdxin li jattendu l-kampus ta' Malta talli lil shabna ta' Malta mhux biss ghaddejnihom imma kaxkarnihom kemm fil-livell ta' assignnments li pprezentajna, kemm fl-ezamijiet finali u anke fil-klassifika finali.

Mela issa ghandna Diploma fl-Edukazzjoni (Amministrazzjoni u Tmexxija) mill-Universita' ta' Malta, l-eqdem Univerista' fil-Commonwealth barra r-Renju Unit, u wahda mill-Universitajiet l-aktar prestigjuzi fil-bacin tal-Mediterran. Xi hadd xi darba qal li c-certifikati jiswew biss biex tgezwer l-aringi mnixxfin go fihom. Jiena ma nahsibx hekk. Nahseb li c-certifikati m'humiex kollox fil-hajja, imma nahseb ukoll li dan ic-certifikat jitlob impenn minna li hadnieh biex nahdmu ghal Ghawdex u Malta ahjar.

Hafna drabi, u xi kultant anke jiena stess emmint hekk, qalulna li l-arma ta' Ghawdex ma messiex fiha tliet gholjiet izda tliet xadini. It-tliet xadini proverbjali li ma jridux la jaraw, la jisimghu u lanqas jitkellmu.

Irridu jew ma rridux, anke jekk qatt ma naslu li nkunu siehba shah ta' l-Unjoni Ewropea, Triqitna hija l-Ewropa. U dawk fost shabi li bhali matul dan il- kors kellhom ix-xorti jaghmlu esperjenza f'pajjiz Ewropew raw
b'ghajnejhom li fit-tmexxijia ta' l-iskejjel ma jistax ikun hemm lok ghal attitudni tat-tliet xadini. U ejjew hbieb ma nilghabuhiex tax-xadini: Itqajtu intom fl-iskejjel ta' l-Ingilterra ma' ghalliema li waqt il-hin ta' l-iskola jitilqu mill-iskola biex imorru jisimghu quddiesa? Tghid ikunux qeghdin jitolbu ghall-bzonnijiet tal-istudenti taghhom? Il-magguranza ta' l-ghalliema taghna huma ferm ahjar mill-ghalliema li rajt barra minn Malta. Ghaliex minhabba l-attitudni tax-xadini ghandna nhallu l-ftit jitfghu dell ikrah fuq kulhadd? Dan biex ma nsemmix il-purtinari u l-haddiema l-ohra fl-iskejjel. U mhux tliet xadini!

Hawn naraw kemm hu veru dak li kien jghid is-Sur Joe Debono meta kien Assistent Direttur ta' l-Edukazzjoni li: "a good head makes a good school". Inhalli ghall-intelligenza taghkom biex tikkonkludu "what a bad

head makes". Jidhirli li nkun qed nonqos minn dmiri jekk f'dan il-kuntest ma nikkummentax fuq l-Amministrazzjoni ta' l-iskejjel f'Ghawdex f'dawn l-ahhar ghaxar snin.

Ikolli nghid li waqt li l-iskejjel Primarji, fil-bicca kbira taghhom, baqghu kif kienu dejjem, jigifieri l-ahjar skejjel tal-gzejjer Maltin, iz-zewg skejjel Sekondarji tal-Gvern thallew ghal rihhom jithabbtu mal-mewg. Bizzejjed nghid li dawn iz-zewg skejjel f'dawn l-ahhar ghaxar snin intlaqtu minn marda kronika; dik ta' nuqqas ta' full complement amministrattiv. Sfortunatament din il-marda ghadha ma tfejqitx. Jalla fis-sena 2000 tinstab ir-rieda politika li hemm bzonn biex mard bhal dan mhux biss jitfejjaq imma ma jithalliex jizviluppa.

Irridu nharsu 'l quddiem ghax kif tghid Marjorie Scardino, ic-Chief Executive Officer ta' Pearson plc:
"in our world the traditional drivers - the power of land labour and capital - have given way to brain power. Education is our new manufacturing plant."

Min-naha tieghu Lord David Puttnam, membru tal-Education Standards Task Force fi hdan il-Gvern Laburista Ingliz jghid li:
"There used to be a lazy but common assumption that teachers were partially responsible for the problems of young people. The more enlightened view is that teachers are the solution. The parental responsibilities of teaching the difference between right and wrong or of showing the young how to look after their health have become the responsibility of teachers" 1

Responsabbilita' kbira dik ta' l-ghalliema llum. Responsabbilita' ikbar allura dik tal-Kapijiet tal-iskejjel. Mhux b'kumbinazzjoni mela li l-Gvern mhux isib bizzejjed nies biex jimla l-postijiet vakanti ta' Kapijiet ta' skejjel ghax ftit huma dawk li japplikaw ghalihom. Nghid ghalija qed inhossni xi ftit konfuza jekk ghandix inhalli l-kenn tal-klassi u nidhol fl-arena tal-amministrazzjoni, mimlija ljuni li lesti biex iqattghuk. Imma nahseb li Alla hares ma jibqax xi ftit "imgienen" bhali.

Il-President Kennedy darba qal hekk:
"Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education."

Hafna jxebbhu lill-President Clinton mal-President Kennedy u mhux biss

fl-infatwazzjoni lejn in-nisa. Isimghu din il-kwotazzjoni minn dak li kiteb il-President fl-iSpecial Edition ta' Newsweek ta' l-ahhar ta' din is-sena:

"In the 21st Century, in an economy driven by intellect and powered by ideas, what Kennedy used to say will certainly be the case. There is no challenge more important (than education)."

U jkompli:

"It all comes down to good teachers and good principals, high standards, real accountability and adequate resources.
Neither demanding without assisting, nor providing without insisting, will work. Without consequence for failure, standards are all bark and no bite. Without resources for success, standards are all hope with no prayer."

Ghawdex se jibda dan il-millennju b'forza gdida ta' ghalliema kkwalifikati fl-Amministrazzjoni ta' l-Edukazzjoni. Jiddependi minnhom imma anke minn dawk li jfasslu l-linja politika tal-pajjiz biex naghmlu Ghawdex ahjar. Biex inkomplu naqdu l-vokazzjoni taghna li nghallmu lill-ahjar imhuh ta' Malta.

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