

STQARRIJA FI ĠNIEN IL-MISTRIEH/DECLARATION IN ĠNIEN IL-MISTRIEH MALTA MEDITERRANEAN LITERATURE FESTIVAL

9-11/9/2010

Fost id-diversi raġunijiet għala niktbu hemm il-konvinzjoni li l-kitba hija azzjoni politika li għorr magħha reponsabbiltà kbira. Irridu jew ma rridux aħna parti minn din is-soċjetà u għandna l-obbligu li nħarsu lejha biex narawha sewwa, biex imbagħad nuruha lil haddiehor kif jidhrilna li hi. Hija responsabbiltà li għażilna aħna li ngorruha, l-istess bħalma l-politiċi għażlu huma li jkunu politiċi u l-isportivi għażlu huma li jagħmlu l-isport.

Filwaqt li nifhmu u ngħozzu l-idea li l-azzjoni tagħna tista' tkun mezz ta' gost u passatemp, nifhmu wkoll li bħala azzjoni politika din tista' wkoll tiskomoda. Anzi, nemmnu li din l-azzjoni għandha tiskomoda, imqar biex tibbilanċja l-ħafna proċessi aljenanti fis-soċjetà. Dak li forzi oħrajn huma interessati li jaħbu, aħna interessati li nperrcuh, b'responsabbiltà u b'konvinzjoni li l-arti tradizzjonalment serviet ta' analiżi soċjali li kkummentat dwar hwejjeg li wħud riedu jnessu.

Għaldaqstant, nitmezmzu u nitnikktu meta tinholoq klima ta' suspett, klima ostili lejn il-kittieba. Niddejqu ħafna nisimgħu bi stejjer veri ta' pubblikazzjonijiet li jingabru biex jintremew fil-laned taż-żibel, ta' kittieba interrogati minn ufficjali tal-pulizija li għadhom m'għarfux ir-rowl tal-kittieba, ta' kittieba mtellgħa l-qorti minkejja d-dritt fundamentali tagħhom u ta' kulhadd għal-libertà tal-espressjoni.

Nithassbu meta naraw isehhu quddiemna stejjer li kienu graw u li ħsibna li ma kinux se jiġu ripetuti, li mietu, li ndifnu anki f'dan l-istess ċimiterju.

U nittamaw ... Nittamaw li l-awtoritajiet, xi darba, jifhmu.

We writers are convinced that, amongst other things, writing is a political action which calls for great responsibility. We are obliged to study the society to which we belong, whether we like it or not, so that we can then reveal it to others as we see it. It is a responsibility which we have chosen to take upon ourselves, in the same way as politicians choose to be politicians and sportsmen and women choose to take up sport.

While we understand and value the idea that our discipline can be a means of enjoyment and recreation, we realise that, politically, it can also be a source of disquiet. What is more, we believe that it is an intrinsic function of writing to disturb, if only to balance out the many alienating processes of society. We are responsibly interested in making visible and public precisely that which others are interested in hiding, with the conviction that art has always and traditionally served as a social analysis of issues which some wish to keep covered up.

Because of this, we are appalled and saddened when an aura of suspicion is created, a condition which is hostile to writers. We are saddened to hear of real stories of publications which are collected to be thrown away, of writers interrogated by the police who have not yet understood the writer's role, of writers brought to court despite their, and everybody's, fundamental right to freedom of expression.

We ourselves are puzzled when we see events happening which we thought had been relegated to the past, we thought would never happen again, which have died, which have been buried in this very cemetery.

And we hope. We hope that the authorities will one day understand.