Nietzsche, Einstein and «Judeo-Christian» as a slur

escrito por Ramón Flecha | 6 de abril de 2023



The word «Judeo-Christian» as an insult is often used as part of a harassment intended to make the insulted person submit to some idea or some action that he or she does not want and with which he or she does not agree. According to the Collins English dictionary, it means «of or pertaining to the religious writings, beliefs, values, or traditions held in common by Judaism and Christianity «; the use as an insult of words such as Muslim, Buddhist or Christian to a person is contrary to freedom and human rights. I am fortunate to be part of a democratic and, therefore, pluralistic research group, where those of us who have never been of any religion and those who are of up to six different religions respect each other and work together.

The use of the word «Judeo-Christian» as an insult usually has nothing to do with the concept that the RAE defines very well, but to consider the Judeo-Christian tradition as the «guilty» of what today we call human rights and science. Those who use this coercive insult try to impose on those who do not want to do or think what they want the complex that, in reality, they do want it, but do not dare because they are subjected to Judeo-Christian thought. For example, it is often used against the girl who does not want to have sex with the one who insults her. In order to

educate our children and adolescents so that they will never become victims of such harassment, it is essential that we know the sexism and racism of those who use this term as an attempt at contempt. Let them know clearly that those who use this word are not only not progressive but, on the contrary, extremely reactionary and of a great intellectual mediocrity.

It would be very interesting for the improvement of education to have an open debate on the extent to which this conception is based on Nietzsche or on a deformation made without having read it. Of course, this author did reject the Judeo-Christian that he linked to democracy, equal rights for women, the substitution of wars for peace, the protection of the weak, the sick… and he also rejected science and its idea of truth. In his The Genealogy of Morals, he presents as an ideal of freedom the Order of Assassins because they killed whoever the boss said, without any restraint by any moral prejudice and without needing to know anything about the life or family of the future victim. In his words: «'Nothing is true, everything is allowed' – in sooth, that was freedom of thought, thereby was taking leave of the very belief in truth".

In 1889, when madness prevented Nietzsche from continuing to write, Einstein, the most prominent scientist in the history of Germany and the world who maintained a clearly anti-Nazi stance, turned 10 years old. A coincidence that represents a symbol of the failure of any attempt to weaken science and the improvements in our lives that it makes possible. In the same 1889, Heidegger was born, a pity that I have no more space to continue this article.

[Photo from Pinterest. Verdi, Opera Nabucco, Chorus of the Slaves].