

## THE PARTY

### JOURNALISM MORAL INTEGRITY

When social media was invented it was seen as a powerful positive tool to remain connected with the world. This internet revolution was so amazing that everyone wanted to be on some platform, but it is obvious that something that powerful and amazing would have been turned into an exploited tool by those who have low moral values.

In this case we are talking about free information. Journalism had a striking change: from being a slow researched form of information, now it is fast, short and, let's say it, kind of empty. Everyone can be a journalist; you just need an internet connection. Everyone has the power of sharing, not only the ones that studied literature and writing, so that is where everything starts to fall apart.

We have seen how journalism and information had been manipulated during the presence of totalitarian governments, like in the case of Indro Montanelli, even if he vowed to express the truth, still he had to promote Fascist ideals and false glorified events of the Italian army. That kind of journalism was used as a mean of propaganda, is today any different?

In the Italian Constitution there are laws for journalists to follow, they are very precise and aim to promote freedom of speech, freedom of thought and the total commitment in saying the absolute truth no matter what. If this is not respected, a journalist can be radiated from the Italian Journalist Register. So, why are there journalists willing to play the politicians' dirty games, how is it possible that journalists are willing to risk everything just to have more clicks but by spreading fake news? Where is their moral integrity? Haven't they vowed to respect the truth? This can probably be explained as a consequence of social media, where everyone feels entitled to say something and even have an authority in saying it.

Social media today, is used by politician as a very effective form of propaganda, but unfortunately is always used by the wrong people that have the wrong ideas. In Italy for example, Matteo Salvini, leader of the Lega Party, uses his social media platform to appeal to the masses. He always posts pictures of him doing stupid stuff or cute animals, just to get more consent. And he unfortunately does. By making himself more appealing to people, he is more likely to be voted. Well kind of embarrassing for a politician to be taking likes with little cute cats, isn't it? Well this is a very low form of propaganda, but it works.

Then there is the strange case of Giorgia Meloni, one of the politicians active in the current Italian Government, that obtained consent in a very weird way. At a political rally for Fratelli d'Italia, Giorgia Meloni made a speech in which she promoted the traditional family. She shouted with all of her heart: "I am a woman, I am a mother, I am a Christian! I say no to parent 1 and parent 2!". She was openly stating her beliefs: she is openly stating she is against same sex adoption, and consequently to civil unions. Following this, the LGBTQIA+ community created a wonderful remix mocking her. It was a song that should have been a satire to the obsolete thinking of this woman. Tommaso Zorzi, an influencer, even tattooed "Parent 1, Parent 2" on his feet, as a way of using Meloni's words as a subverting way of stating he was against her thoughts. Then something weird happened: what was created as a way of discrediting her, in the end made her even more popular and obtained so much consent. She didn't do anything, here the power of non-information made her appear even as a friendly and funny person. The mass, ignorant as Alessandro Manzoni used to define it, believed that the remix video was an invention of hers and believed that her message was totally opposite, without in reality knowing that it was just a satire against her. This is a case of propaganda that went really wrong. It was created against her, but in the end she was the one to win.

This tells us once again that social media is a powerful mean of propaganda, but it is so big that the real information behind a message can be easily lost. The masses just see the surface, the title, without concerning themselves with what is actually behind. Journalist with a very low sense of morality, that prefer more money than making the world more informed, create those fake news around very important subjects in order to help politicians that are actually empty and retrograde.

Yes there is that saying: "rules were made to be broken", but really? A doctor vows to respect life, a journalist vows to respect the truth, why should this be different?