

Mixed Marriage

Bosnian transcript in Latin:

Miješani brak, najlakše rečeno, je dakle brak između dvije osobe koje su različite religijske opredijeljenosti, dakle, može biti između recimo muslimana i... Ne znam ni ja. Pardon, pardon, između Bošnjaka i Srkinje, ili Hrvata i Bošnjakinje, itd. I to je dakle u ovim, u kontekstu ovih konstitutivnih naroda, a i inače je miješani brak između muslimana i katolika, katolika i pravoslavaca, pravoslavaca i muslimana, kakogod već. Dijete iz miješanih brakova u Bosni i Hercegovini, u većini slučajeva su ono „izrod“, pod navodnicima, jer jednostavno svako pokušava da ih svojata, djecu dakle koja se zovu ovako ili onako, a niko ne dopušta djeci koja, je li, su u takvoj situaciji, da izaberu sami svoj put i da sami se pronađu u svemu tome.

Moje lično mišljenje je, ja uvijek volim da kažem: „šteta što nisam dijete iz mješovitog braka, samo da vidim ko će me pokušat svojatati, i ko će govoriti 'ovaj je naš'.“ Mislim da djeca iz mješovitih brakova imaju puno, puno, puno bolju kulturološku pozadinu, mislim da su puno, puno bolje pripremljeniji za svijet, za upoznavanje sa različitim kulturama. Recimo, ja imam prijateljicu kojoj je otac musliman, majka joj je katolkinja, izjašnjavaju se roditelji kao „Ostali“, dakle kao Bosanci i Hercegovci, ne kao Bošnjak i Hrvatica, i znam kako je zapravo, koliko njoj znači kada može sa svojom porodicom da proslavi i bajramske praznike, i Božić, i Novu godinu koja se već smatra, recimo, nekim internacionalnim praznikom. Mislim da je to veoma lijepa stvar, ali da u Bosni i Hercegovini ta djeca, zbog sadašnje situacije, su poprilično nepoželjni gosti.

Bosnian transcript in Cyrillic:

Мијешани брак, најлакше речено, је дакле брак између двије особе које су различите религијске опредијелјености, дакле, може бити између рецимо муслимана и... Не знам ни ја. Пардон, пардон, између Бошњака и Српкиње, или Хрвата и Бошњакиње, итд. И то је дакле у овим, у контексту ових конститутивних народа, а и иначе је мијешани брак између муслимана и католика, католика и православаца, православаца и муслимана, какогод већ. Дијете из мијешаних бракова у Босни и Херцеговини, у већини случајева су оно „изрод“, под наводницима, јер једноставно свако покушава да их својата, дјецу дакле која се зову овако или онако, а нико не допушта дјечи која, је ли, су у таквој ситуацији, да изаберу сами свој пут и да сами се пронађу у свему томе.

Моје лично мишљење је, ја увијек волим да кажем: „штета што нисам дијете из мјешовитог брака, само да видим ко ће ме покушат својатати, и ко ће говорити 'овај је наш'.“ Мислим да дјеца из мјешовитих бракова имају пуно, пуно, пуно бољу културолошку позадину, мислим да су пуно, пуно боље припремљенији за свијет,

за упознавање са различитим културама. Рецимо, ја имам пријатељицу којој је отац муслиман, мајка јој је католикиња, изјашњавају се родитељи као „Остали“, дакле као Босанци и Херцеговци, не као Бошњак и Хрватица, и знам како је заправо, колико њој значи када може са својом породицом да прослави и бајрамске празнике, и Божић, и Нову годину која се већ сматра, рецимо, неким интернационалним празником. Мислим да је то веома лијепа ствар, али да у Босни и Херцеговини та дјеца, због садашње ситуације, су поприлично непожељни гости.

English translation:

A mixed marriage is, simply put, a marriage between two people of different religions, so it can be between a Muslim man and a, I don't know... I'm sorry, actually, between a Bosniak man and [Bosnian] Serb woman, or a [Bosnian] Croat man and a Bosniak woman, etc. That's if you want to talk about it in the context of the constitutive peoples¹. A mixed marriage is a marriage between a Muslim and a Catholic, a Catholic and an Orthodox Christian, an Orthodox Christian and a Muslim, etc. Children from mixed marriages are either considered to be "degenerates"², or are being unjustly claimed [by one of the three national groups] as their own based on their name³, while nobody really allows children to choose their own path and to find their identity on their own.

My personal opinion is that... I often say that it's a shame that I'm not a child from a mixed marriage just so I could see which side would choose to claim me and who'd say that I'm one of them. I think that children from mixed marriages are given a vastly greater cultural background; I think they are better prepared for life and for understanding different cultures. For example, I have a friend whose father is Muslim and whose mother is Catholic. They identify themselves as Bosnians and Herzegovinians, not as a Bosniak and a Croat, and I know how much it means to her to be able to celebrate both Eid and Christmas with her family, as well as New Year's, which is considered to be, say, an

¹ The Bosnian Constitution, also known as the Dayton Constitution, recognizes only three constitutive ethnic groups: Bosniaks (ethnic Bosnian Muslims), Bosnian Serbs (ethnic Bosnian Orthodox Christians) and Bosnian Croats (ethnic Bosnian Catholics). However, it does not allow citizens to choose to identify as Bosnians and Herzegovinians, which is a non-religious, non-ethnic national marker, instead insisting that all those who don't identify with one of the three constitutive groups to be Others, a fourth, non-constitutive group which includes Roma, Montenegrins, Jews, Slovenians, Czechs, Poles, etc. According to the Constitution, Others do not have the same rights as the three constitutive peoples; for example, Others cannot be elected into any office. This has led to a recent international court battle led and won by a Roma representative and a Jewish representative known as *Sejdić-Finci v. Bosnia and Herzegovina*. In 2009, The European Court of Human Rights ruled in favor of Mr. Sejdić and Mr. Finci, ordering a change in the Constitution to grant equal rights to Others. In October 2011, after much stalling, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH set in motion a constitutional reform, including changing the election provisions.

² The speaker here refers to an often-quoted infamous statement made by Bosnian-Herzegovinian writer and politician Džemaludin Latić, who labeled children from mixed marriages as “bastards.”

³ In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is relatively easy to assume the ethnic origin of a person based solely on their name or surname, as certain names can only be found in certain ethnic groups. However, this practice is not only dangerous as a form of stereotyping, but also often insulting to those who choose not to identify with one of the three major ethnic groups.

intercultural holiday. I think it's wonderful to be able to do so. However, those children are unwelcome guests in Bosnia and Herzegovina due to the current [political] climate.

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