

L'origine vivante.

What makes you who you are?

"Where are you from?" That is always the question that comes first. It means that the place someone comes from is an important part of their identity. That could explain why people tend to be attached to their origins. However, this can also lead to some cases of discrimination. In the end, even if people want to be proud of their origins, sometimes they must not do as they please.

Traditions is what makes a country and a country makes a man. That is why there has always been a strong sense of patriotism in every country, and strong feelings for old traditions. Indeed, traditions are different in every country and they represent the specificities of the country. Thus, people think that they are different from others but at the same time, they feel that they belong to a group and do not feel isolated. Great Britain is not an exception. People living in Great Britain want to be independent. In 2007 there seemed to be less people who felt they were British. Religion is another argument that shows how important traditions and origins can be. For example, the Muslim women who wear the veil do it because they feel that it is a part of their identity.

However, this can be seen as a mask of separation, which is not totally wrong since having a religion is similar to living in a country: they want to be part of a small community in the larger group. But that behaviour can give birth to fear and

discrimination. As soon as there are prejudices, it is difficult to change the mind of someone. That is why the ^{well-off} Muslims living in the United States felt betrayed after September 11th whereas those living in Great Britain were not surprised by the behaviour of their neighbours.

That is why people like Tony Blair think that it is better not to show what kind of ^{small} group we belong to. There are also those who think that all minority communities would be better off if they integrated the majority. This idea seems to be the opposite of the one stated earlier about the way people in Great Britain are feeling but that is the reason why it is a difficult problem for the government. It is even more difficult because there are less religious people than there used to be. Furthermore, there are many changes in politics and economy that require to be united because of globalisation. Therefore, even if people want to feel different, it is up to the government of the country they live in to decide whether they can or not.

To conclude, even if we believe that we have an identity, it is based on the laws of the country we live in and on the prejudices other people might have. However, what is important is that we have a sense of our identity.