Profound disability? What it means?

It means you love colours and sounds and smells and all things bright and beautiful. Your presence calls up gentleness and is a call to embrace life, especially the present moment, to the full. You get people to slow down so that they can walk beside you instead of in front of you. You get them to shut up so that they can sense the deep silence at the centre of your being. When you smile, you light up the world and your tears touch the human heart. Your fragile understanding of things and your precarious health diminish your intelligence but in no way diminish the wisdom of your soul. Within your family, you bring joy and deeper understanding.

Different hair styles

The group of persons with a so-called profound disability is in no way heterogeneous. They differ in hair styles, skills, behavioral patterns, eye colour, life goals, sexual orientation, religion, body shape, personal preferences and personal performances. In fact they are hardly a group or a classification at all since the only thing they share is the D factor, this thing which in our ignorance we call Disability.

Profound invisibility

It is a sign of profound disability within our society that persons with a very low IQ suffer from profound invisibility, have less entitlements, less chances, less rights than all other human beings. This causes them to be isolated, excluded from education, work, social support - the cumulative effects of which constitute the chief characteristics of profound disability. We have to search and re-search for a better evidence-based and more enhancing name. The old Irish name was "Daoine le Dia" which means " those who are close to God". The Celtic assumption is then that some people's support needs are higher and they need extra care.

Conclusion

To conclude, we have no definitions. There are no definitions, only social constructions and ambiguities that change from week to week, from year to year, from generation to generation.

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