THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST CHAPTER 2

This chapter has the main function of introducing a new character: Erica, the girl Changez loved.

He meets the young girl during a holyday in Greece. He remembers exactly all the particulars, her hair, her eyes.. Changez is attracted by her because not only because she is an interesting person but also because she is different from the girls that the protagonist used to see. Through the conversations they had together we can deduce the instability of Erica and her desire to escape from the reality.

That’s why we can also see the difference between the oriental girls and the American girls. In Pakistan women are modest and wear traditional costumes and clothes following the rules of the country. Erica , in contrary, does and wears whatever she wants, she follows her own rules and doesn’t listen to anybody.

Secondary, Changez analyses the attitude of the Americans in front of the others. They are disrespectful and arrogant, they have a strange view of money and power, they spend a lot of money even for stupid things. They don’t have any respect for the elders and they think they are on the top of the world.

Then the exclamation “ to be the dictator of an Islamic republic with nuclear capability” reveals us that Changez’ position is changing a little bit. He is just joking but the other are serious. He uses stereotypes of Islam to be funny, but in this way he is accepting the American’s view of his religion. It is also interesting because the ending of the book recalls that joke, Changez has become really a guide for the demonstrations.

Finally we can see an interesting particular about the characters’ names . Changez reminds us to the world “change” and represents the protagonist’s character and his position during the time. Erica reminds us to the world America. Like the country, the young girl thinks she can do whatever she wants and that nobody can stop them. Both of them are powerful and don’t think about the others and their problems, they are arrogant and disrespectful . Just as America, Erica is a “dream” that will never become true and something that Changez will never reach. Also Chris, Erica’s boyfriend, reminds us the word “Christianity”, America’s religion and the main opponent of the Islam religion. Chris and Christianity are “against” Changez and Islam.