THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST CHAPTER 7

The 7th chapter is another of the most important chapter of the book. Here we start seeing the interior changes of the protagonist and his interior conflicts. We see a clear crisis of identity and his difficult positions between the two worlds.

First Changez notices the drastically changes of America’s attitude against the Muslims and the ethnic minority. All the Muslims start to be persecuted . The Americans in fact are afraid of another possible terrorist attack and uses exaggerated behaviors *“Pakistani cabdrivers were being beaten to within an inch of their lives; the FBI was raiding mosques ; Muslim men were disappearing “.*

Changez is very worried for his family and the situation in Pakistan, he thinks all the day about his relatives and his country. He is divided between Pakistan and America . when he hears that Afghanistan has being bombed by the American army he has a crisis: “*I had to sit down to calm myself”.* One day he even arrives late at work because of the continuous worries that fill his head.

Jim tries to comfort him saying that the world always changes and evolves. ”Power comes from being change”. He tries to see the positive aspect of the situation, the one that is good for the economy and for the personal career and richness. Jim suggests him to not think about personal problems because everything is going to be all right, the important is to continue to gain money. *“Focus on the fundamentals”* is the guiding principle of the Undewood Samson’s company. For America the biggest fundamentalism is the capitalism. People keep working on that motto and keep working to gain more and more power. Because money and power are the most important things in life, the other things don’t have importance. But Changez doesn’t agree completely with that sentence and idea, that’s one of the reasons why he is *Reluctant.* It is also true that his sense of pride and patriotism starts to grow up *“ We built the Royal Mosque and the Shalimar Gardens in this city, and we built the Lahore Fort with its mighty walls and wide ramp for our battle-elephants. And we did these things when your country was still a collection of thirteen small colonies, gnawing away at the edge of a continent”.* He gets emotional involved , he is raising his voice because his sense of patriotism grows up. America is judging his country and he is taking its defenses.

Erica also has deep interior changes . she is depressed again, stops eating and thinks constantly about Chris. Changez reveals us ”*I wanted to help, to hold onto her-indeed, I wanted to hold onto us”* , he wants to create something with her because he is in love. That’s why he pretends to be Chris and finally the two make love. They come to do that only because Erica thinks that Changez is Chris. Initially he doesn’t feel guilty, only after he feels ashamed and selfish. He has pretended to be someone else only to get what he wanted