THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST CHAPTER 9

In this chapter Changez find out and realizes how much he has actually changed living in New York.

The first impression of his Pakistani house is not very positive . The situation is even worst, there is no electricity, cracks on the walls . He feels a little ashamed, he couldn’t believe that that was his house his provenance . he sees everything with different eyes, with the eyes of an American *“I had changed; I was looking about me with the eyes of a foreigner, and not just any foreigner, but that particular type of entitled and unsympathetic American who so annoyed me when I encountered him in the classrooms and workplaces of your country’s elite”.* Unconsciously he has acquired another type of perception and he doesn’t like it .

We can clearly see another moment of interior crisis. In his bed, Changez thinks about his behavior in front of his family, his population and his country. He feels like a traitor because he was to leaving again Pakistan. *“Indeed, I would soon be gone, leaving my family and my home behind, and this made me a kind of coward in my own eyes, a traitor. What sort of man abandons his people in such circumstances? And what was I abandoning them for? A well-paying job and a woman whom I longed for but who refused even to see me?”.* Ha wants to stay longer but his parents don’t agree because they want to protect the son and because he has become in part an American. He has always been very tied with the family but in this situation he would like to stay with them forever.

Changez’ beard has also an important role of the whole story. One of the reasons because Changez has a beard it’s because it represents his culture ,it is a sort of rebellion and a symbol of his identity . His colleagues, instead, are pessimists and the company starts to be subject of whispers.

Meanwhile he goes to visit Erica in a clinic. Changez represent for Erica the most real thing in the world and something that makes her loose her balance. She is totally in her world, she doesn’t communicate with the world, she is getting worst and worst. She is not clear and have a contorted vision of the world.

Jim notices Changez’ strange and anxious behavior and gives him the change to go to Chile not only because the young Pakistani is a great worker but because he hopes that, in that way, Changez will not think about his problems with Erica and Pakistan.