THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST CHAPTRE 3

In the third chapter Changez starts to see the first differences between America and Pakistan but he is very attracted by the city of new York. New York in fact is one of the biggest cities in America and one of the few that are multicultural. New York is rich of different cultures and ETNIE, that is the reason why the protagonist is so attracted by the city. He hears speaking Urdu in a taxi, he hears a song that was played to a relative’s wedding and in a café, he smells and tastes the typical food of his country. In New York live people from all the world and all the countries and they bring with them their traditions and costumes. He feels at home because he sees traditional things of his country.

But New York has also the America’s tradition. Here we see also the cultural shock of a men who changes his way of living and working. Changez is surprised and gradually he tries to adapt to his new “home” and the new life style. New York is a business city where everybody are in a hurry, work a lot and have a frenetic life. Changez is trying to find his place in this new reality .Everything seems possible and New York seems to offer a lot of chances. It is the same thing when you meet a new person: you are immediately attracted and happy when you find out you have a lot in common. You feel comfortable and at “home”.

There is also a big contrast between the Pakistani and the American civilisation. Changez reflects about the history of the two countries . Once, thousand years ago ,Pakistan was a great and powerful country, with a great and rich culture, big cities, efficient streets and roads. America instead was dominated by barbarians who didn’t have a culture. Now the situation is the opposite: America has great Universities, big cities, efficient roads and Pakistan doesn’t have any money for education or for the state’s development . Changez is a little upset and can’t understand why the situation is like that.

Changez also understand the way of working of his company. The motto is “make as much money as possible and as faster you can”. The company workers are like soldiers, they are trained every day to work hard and to gain money. All his colleagues try to do their best to have the maximum of the profits, money is everything and with money you can do whatever you want