THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST CHAPTRE 5

In the 5rd chapter Changez analyses and underlines the difference between Philippine, America and Pakistan. The protagonist in fact is sent to Philippine for work and he discovers a different and totally unexpected reality.

In the airplane he is well treated, ha has a seat in first class and drink champagne. He feels like part of the company and America but, arrived in Manila, he realises totally other things.

Immediately he sees the big difference with Pakistan and Philippine. Philippine have taken the American system of living, even the city is full of high skyscrapers and superhighways. It is more modern, technological and even more richer than Pakistan. Changez feels a little surprised and upset, he can’t understand why Pakistan is in a such difficult situation and how Philippine, another state of Asia is in a better position.

Maybe because of revenge or because he is upset, he starts acting like a real American businessman, he gives orders and wants probably to appear bigger and more powerful. He wants to show that he is very proud of his job and position in the company. For example he maintains the eye contact till the end with a Philippino driver, he wants to be respected and maybe feared. But after, when he looks back to his colleagues he realises that, actually, he was way closer to the driver. This explains us that he was acting all the time and that it wasn’t his real nature.

Jim, Changez’ boss reveals his ideas: Changez is like a shark. He is determinate and “never stops swimming”, he is constantly working to reach the top. Both of them have similar backgrounds, different from the others, that’s why they are “not mart of this world”. They weren’t rich but they have worked hard to get that position and will never stop to go on.

Then there is the clue moment of the whole chapter: Changez sees the attack on the Twin Towers and smiles. He is not a psychopathic, he doesn’t like the idea of hundred dead people, but he likes the idea that someone has put America on her knees and that has affected America’s pride and arrogance.

The consequences unfortunately are terrible . America’s security started taking several and hostile attitude against immigrants, above all those of Arab origins. In the airport, for example he is several times escorted by armed guards, he is all the time under suspect and seen as a possible terrorist.