Emanuel Simionato 5QLSC

In the following text I’m going to analyze the novel “the reluctant fundamentalist” by Mohsin Hamid.

The faction is set a few years after the Twin Tower’s Attack in a bar in Pakistan, where the protagonist, a Pakistani, communicates with an American. Their dialogue is atypical because there’s not a really communication between them: only the Pakistani talks; the American is just a listener and coincides with the reader. Th1is monologue appears as an interview.

Starting from the title, the reader can immediately focus on the main themes of the novel. The key word is surely “reluctant”, which is connected to the word “fundamentalist”. It can sound weird because the most important value for a fundamentalist is to be committed of his own ideology, thus the title creates a sense of confusion.

The author explains the protagonist’s phycology by his actions. For example, his incessant traveling is one of the manifestations of his reluctance. There is another strange situation when the main character finds out about the attack of 9/11 and his reaction is a smile, thus he shows his satisfaction about the United States’ weakness.

Mohsin Hamid is very precise and intelligent, therefore he chooses every element with deep attention. The names of the characters are a proof of that. Changez wants to remind of “changes”, the aspect which more identifies the protagonist, because he changes his vision of USA, while Erica, the female character, stands for “America”. At first Changez loves Erica (or the America), but then he understands his fragility and starts to disregard her.

The most peculiar aspect of “The Reluctant Fundamentalist” is the conclusion. The American interlocutor brings out a metallic object from his jacket and the final chapter finishes in that way. Mohsin Hamid gives to readers a free interpretation, thus also the reader is reluctant. As a matter of fact that metallic sound could stay for a gun. The reader can see the ending from the American point of view, so the interlocutor was going to use his gun to save himself, or from a pakistani point of view: the American killed the Pakistanis because of his prejudice.

In conclusion, in my opinion “the Reluctant fundamentalist” is studied in a perfect way. The writer chooses each element in a perfect way, and this peculiarity conveys to a perfect understanding of the message: only one truth doesn’t exist, it depends from the point of view.