**The Reluctant Fundamentalist**

**Content:**

A conversation between a Pakistani and an American in a café in Lahore, Pakistan.

It reveals the clash of two cultures, two world views, two civilizations.

“it is not the business of literature to offer answers; it is the business of novel to ask questions.”

**Author:**

1971: born in Lahore

1986: moved to the US

Graduate from Princeton

Publication of Moth smoke

Harvard law school

Finance and management consultant

Live in London

**Narration/Structure:**

Dramatic Monologue

Take place in real time

Infer the reaction of to whom Changez is speaking

**Beginning:**

Simple: “Excuse me, sir, …”

A bearded Pakistani accosts a foreign traveler, probably an American, who looks lost.

He ushers the American to a seat in a tea shop. As they sit, the Pakistani immediately offers personal details. "I spent four and a half years in your country." where? Oh, oh, I worked in New York, but before that, I studied at Princeton, New Jersey." The American seems nervous, and Changez constantly reassures him. "ah, i see i have  
alarmed you. Do not be frightened by my beard. I love America." and as they sit in the cafe, the voluble Pakistani comments, "you prefer that seat? With your back to the wall? Oh, very well. Although you will benefit less from the intermittent breeze." and so the conversation begins.  
What could be more innocent, more believable?

No hostility**:** bursting with friendliness and good cheer, and he launches into his life story to entertain his new friend.

**Changez:**

A product of Muslim history and Pakistani history

An outpost of the American empire.

But in the whole conversation no mention of religion, or faith, or spirituality.

Changez is the Urdu pronunciation of Geneghis Khan

Hinting at Changez’s believe that Americans have no interest in studying others than their own culture.

The discovery that the Gothic buildings of Princeton have been artificially aged by acid treatment.

FALSE: trying to create history where there isn’t any history.

**Underwood Samson:**

Principle: Focus on the fundamentals

Get to the core, know the target company to its very foundations

Even Filipino, a colonization of America is better than his own civilization.

**Erica:**

A parallel narrative all through the novel

It would be asking too much of human nature to except old civilizations to applaud the new civilization that has supplanted them.

It isn’t just jealousy; it’s the resentment by those who were once imperial powers themselves and are looking at the new empire.