

The Reluctant Fundamentalist: A Critical Companion

Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* has become a major literary work in the aftermath of 9/11 massacre. It has explicit repercussions of racial prejudices against Islam, and has been highly instrumental in effacing the stereotypes of Muslims. In so doing, the novel dismantles the Western religious bias against the Muslims, and thereby reminds us of Edward Said's statement: "To demonize and dehumanise a whole culture on the grounds that it is 'enraged' at modernity is to turn Muslims into the objects of a therapeutic, punitive attention." Ostensibly, to equate traditional and conservative as diabolic and as the symbols of terror is extremely inhuman, and sometimes can be a cause of dilemma for the sufferers and the oppressed. Changez, the protagonist of the novel, poses a serious question to the audience: "Why does everyone hate us?" This quite correctly points to the themes of fear and suffering of the Muslims, especially in the post 9/11 world, and thereby to the institutionalization of racism in the so-called era of globalization: where nations and races are still subalternized by the superior and the mighty. Quite ironically, it is Hamid's marginalized protagonist, Changez who does all the speaking throughout the novel, and makes the American listen to him. It is through this freedom of speech granted to Changez, that he undermines the American's opinion about Pakistan, and underpins the advancing face of Muslims.

For this companion, we are seeking submissions of articles of 4,000-6,000 words that explore the following themes:

Terror & Violence

Nationalism and Modernity

Ethnicity & Religion

Islamophobia

Cultural encounters

Postcolonial Otherness

Immigration & Integration

Negotiation of Identity and Alterity.

Extremism and Radicalisation

Globalisation & Sovereignty

The book is designed as a critical handbook to be used by academicians and scholars interested in the works of Mohsin Hamid.

Last date for submission of abstracts of 200-300 words: 31st May, 2011

Last date for submission of final paper: 31st January 2012

Please email abstracts and queries to the editors:

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