

Tribhuvan University

Search for Muslim Identity
in Hamid Mohsin's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

A Thesis Submitted to the
Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ratna
Rajya Laxmi Campus in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Kamal Din Miya has completed his thesis entitled **Search for Muslim Identity in Hamid Mohsin's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*** under my supervision. He carried out his research work from August 12, 2009 to April 06, 2010. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Search for Muslim's Identity in Hamid Mohsin's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*,” submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University by Kamal Din Miya, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

Hamid Mohsin's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* is a tale of Changez, a Pakistani Muslim youth, educated in Princeton University, United States of America. He has an attractive job and a sensuous girl-friend, Erica, to add to his success. However, following the infamous 9/11 attacks on various sites and cities of the States, Changez finds Muslim's identity at stake. The aftermath of the 9/11 has seriously challenged the distinctiveness of the third world youths, especially Muslim, and Changez finds life and living in the States seriously challenging by each day. On the top, he finds his beloved Erica also has changed and, she prefers to remain aloof from him. All these issues and happenings severely challenge Changez's self-respect, and he stakes his established career to return to Lahore, his hometown in Pakistan. Lahore is a typical third world predominantly Muslim city – overpopulated and full of chaos and disorder. Nevertheless, from Changez's point of view it is satiating and soothing in contrast to the sophisticated life at the States, as it satiates his self and gives him an identity of oneness and security.

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