

Words from Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

Avocabo Wordlist 89

ABUTTED, ANACHRONISTIC, ANTAGONIST, AUTONOMOUS, CONSTERNATION, DETERIORATION, DEVOUT, EQUANIMITY, EXTRICATE, FERVOR, FUNDAMENTALISM, GUISE, IDIOSYNCRATIC, IMBUE, INTROSPECTION, LITIGATION, MAGNANIMOUS, MERITOCRACY, NOSTALGIA, PRAGMATIC, PROPRIETY, PROTRACTED, PROVENANCE, PSYCHOSIS, RUMINATE

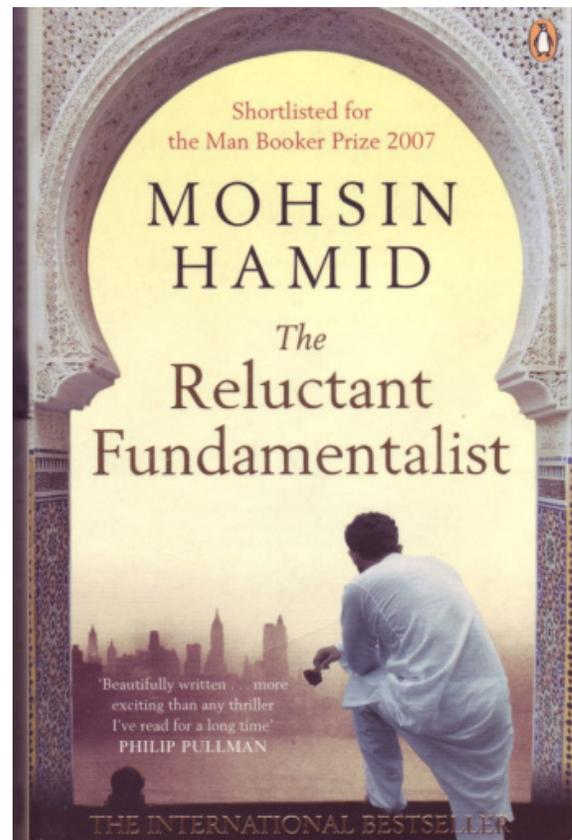
At a café table in Lahore, a bearded Pakistani man converses with an anxious American stranger. As dusk deepens to night, he begins the tale that has brought him to this fateful encounter...

Changez had been living an immigrant's dream of America. At the top of his class at Princeton, he was quickly and easily hired by an elite valuation firm. He thrived on the energy of New York, and his budding romance with elegant, beautiful Erica assured entry into Manhattan society at the same prestigious level once occupied by his own family back in Lahore.

But in the wake of September 11, Changez finds his place in his adopted city suddenly overturned and his relationship with Erica shifting. And Changez's own identity is in a shift as well, unearthing allegiances more fundamental than money, power, and maybe even love.

Exercise 89-1: Fill in the Blanks Complete each of the sentences with the most appropriate word from the wordlist above. Definitions of the missing words are provided. (25 marks)

1. Looking back now, I see the power of that system, _____ and effective, like so much else in America. *adj. dealing with things sensibly and realistically*
2. We were introduced, she smiled as she shook my hand – whether because she found me irresistibly refined or oddly _____, I did not know – and then we headed off with the group to the port city of Piraeus. *adj. something or someone that is not in its correct historical or chronological time*



3. It is the effect of scarcity; one's rules of _____ make one thirst for the improper. *n. behaviour that is accepted as socially or morally correct and proper*
4. "We're a(n) _____," he said. "We believe in being the best. You were the best candidates at the best schools in the country. That's why you got here." *n. a system in which the talented are chosen and moved ahead on the basis of their achievement*
5. I wanted to help her, to hold on to her – indeed, I wanted to hold on to us – and I was desperate to _____ her from the maze of her psychosis. *v. free (someone or something) from a constraint or difficulty*
6. I was inclined to agree, but now that I knew the troubadour posed no threat, I chose to maintain a(n) _____ silence. *adj. generous in forgiving an insult or injury*
7. In America, this would have been the start, in all likelihood, of a protracted bout of _____ with the manufacturer for using candle-wax with such a high, and unsafe, melting point. *n. the process of taking legal action*

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8. Our job required a degree of commitment that left one with rather limited time for such distractions. But then, in the latter part of October, something happened that upset my _____. *n. mental calmness, composure, and evenness of temper, especially in a difficult situation*

9. But I think I knew even then that she was disappearing into a powerful _____, one from which only she could choose whether or not to return. *n. a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past*

10. She was gaunt, her flesh seeming almost bruised where it passed over the bones of her face, and she glowed with something not unlike the fervor of the _____. *adj. having or showing deep religious feeling or commitment*

11. This was where I came from, this was my _____, and it smacked of lowliness. *n. the place of origin or earliest known history of something*

12. In any case, Juan-Bautista's words plunged me into a deep bout of _____. I spent that night considering what I had become. *n. the examination or observation of one's own mental and emotional processes*

13. At Princeton, learning was _____ with an aura of creativity; at Underwood Samson, creativity was not exercised – it was still present and valued – but ceded its primary efficiency. *v. inspire or permeate with a feeling or quality*

14. It was only after doing so that I saw my house properly again, appreciating its enduring grandeur, its unmistakable personality and _____ charm. *adj. peculiar or individual*

15. My colleagues greeted me with considerable – although often partially suppressed – _____ to my reappearance in our offices. *n. feelings of anxiety or dismay, typically at something unexpected*

16. I wanted to help her; to hold on to her – indeed, I wanted to hold on to us – and I was desperate to extricate her from the maze of her _____. *n. a severe mental disorder in which thought and emotions are so impaired that contact is lost with external reality*

17. We stood still for a few murderous seconds; then my _____ was once again pulled at, and he departed muttering a string of obscenities. *n. a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something*

18. At work we went about the task of shaping the future with little regard for the past, and my personal efficacy continued to grow as I immersed myself in my project at the cable company, hoping, in this way, to leave behind the many worries that preyed upon me when I was free to _____. *v. think deeply about something*

19. In America this would have been the start, in all likelihood, of a(n) _____ bout of litigation with the manufacturer for using candle-wax with such a high, and unsafe, melting point. *adj. lasting for a long time or longer than expected or usual*

20. I like Pakistanis. But the elite has raped that place well and good right? And _____. You guys have got some serious problems with _____. *n. a movement or attitude stressing strict and literal adherence to a set of basic principles*

21. She was gaunt, her flesh seeming almost bruised where it passed over the bones of her face, and she glowed with something not unlike the _____ of the devout. *n. intense and passionate feeling*

22. Such journeys have convinced me that it is not always possible to restore one's boundaries after they have been blurred and made permeable by a relationship: try as we might, we cannot reconstitute ourselves as the _____ beings we previously imagined ourselves to be. *adj. acting independently or having the freedom to do so*

23. A common stand appeared to unite these conflicts, and that was the advancement of a small coterie's concept of American interests in the _____ of the fight against terrorism, which was defined to refer only to the organized and politically motivated killing of civilians by killers not wearing the uniforms of the soldiers. *n. an external form, appearance, or manner of presentation, typically concealing the true nature of something*

24. Mughal miniatures and ancient carpets graced its reception rooms; an excellent library _____ its veranda. *v. be next to or have common boundary with*

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Exercise 89-4: Anagrams Solve each anagram to find the list word. (10 marks)

- _____ 1. Trace Exit
- _____ 2. Cop Shy Sis
- _____ 3. Radio Tree Into
- _____ 4. Tango Stain
- _____ 5. Madmen Fail Stun
- _____ 6. Type Rip Or
- _____ 7. Raincoat Chins
- _____ 8. Race Cry I Tom
- _____ 9. Corniest Point
- _____ 10. Oat Moo Nu Us

Exercise 89-5: Antonyms: Match the list word with its corresponding antonym. Use a dictionary to clarify unclear words. (15 marks)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. _____ autonomous | a. dependent |
| 2. _____ propriety | b. calmness |
| 3. _____ deterioration | c. ally |
| 4. _____ antagonist | d. misconduct |
| 5. _____ consternation | e. selfish |
| 6. _____ protracted | f. drain |
| 7. _____ equanimity | g. current |
| 8. _____ anachronistic | h. agitation |
| 9. _____ imbue | i. short |
| 10. _____ magnanimous | j. improvement |

Exercise 89-5: Creative Writing: The novel leaves us uncertain as to what is going to happen. Write that action-packed scene that plays out on the night-time streets of Lahore.

Answers to Exercises:

Exercise 89-1: Fill in the Blanks 1. pragmatic, 2. anachronistic, 3. propriety, 4. meritocracy, 5. extricate, 6. magnanimous, 7. litigation, 8. equanimity, 9. nostalgia, 10. devout, 11. provenance, 12. introspection, 13. imbue, 14. idiosyncratic, 15. consternation, 16. psychosis, 17. antagonist, 18. ruminate, 19. protracted, 20. fundamentalism, 21. fervor, 22. autonomous, 23. guise, 24. abutted, 25. deterioration

Exercise 89-2: Synonyms 1. a, 2. c, 3. a, 4. a, 5. b, 6. a, 7. c, 8. c, 9. a, 10. b, 11. a, 12. c, 13. a, 14. b, 15. b

Exercise 89-3: Making Connections Answers will vary.

Exercise 89-4: Anagrams 1. extricate, 2. psychosis, 3. deterioration, 4. antagonist, 5. fundamentalism, 6. propriety, 7. anachronistic, 8. meritocracy, 9. introspection, 10. autonomous

Exercise 89-5: Antonyms 1. a, 2. d., 3. j, 4. c, 5. b, 6. i, 7. h, 8. g, 9. f, 10. e.

Exercise 89-5: Answers will vary (creatively!)

Unit by Scott Gingrich, May 2014