



## RECLAIMING THE PROPHET (PEACE BE ON HIM) AFTER 9/11

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The Prophet (peace be on him) remains indisputably the axial figure of analysis in the civilisational dialogue and conflict between Islam and the West — a standoff that has been heightened, and a dialogue that has become more imperative, since the events of 9/11. Historically embedded Western stereotypes of the Prophet (peace be on him) appear to have been revived — stereotypes that are far removed from Islam's view of the Prophet (peace be on him) as the 'mercy to all the worlds' and as the Messenger, servant and devotee of the one and only Creator of the entire Universe and thus the sole Deity Allah the Almighty.

There has been a clear need to challenge the Western stereotypes in the contemporary context and to reassert the traditional insider's perspective of the Prophet (peace be on him). The three books under study in this review article serve this need in their varying ways: Ibrahim H. Malibari appeals to the mind, Osman Nuri Topbaş to the heart and Tariq Ramadan to history. In reflecting on themes raised in these works and its implications for civilisational dialogue, this paper brings to the fore that these works are as much, if not more so, for the 'insider' as they are for the sympathetic Western reader — allowing the latter to understand the real person of the Prophet (peace be on him) from the Muslim perspective and allowing the former to reclaim him as he truly is.

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