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Qur’anists in al-Andalus?

Events in recent decades (such as the Rushdie affair or the Danish cartoons controversy) have shown how the way in which the Prophet Muhammad is portrayed by non-Muslims may serve to channel different claims and grievances on the part of some sectors of the Muslim population. At the same time, Western scholars such as Uri Rubin, Kecia Ali and others have tried to recover the evolving nature of what has been deemed acceptable to say or not to say about their Prophet by the Muslims themselves. The study of how the Prophet Muhammad and other prophets accepted by the Islamic tradition were and are understood and represented has much to offer in order to reach a better understanding of the construction of religious and political authority through the history of Islamic societies, which is where my interest lies. In my lecture, I will review the doctrines of some prominent Andalusi thinkers and pose the question to which extent they may be considered a specific type of ‘Qur’anists’.


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