



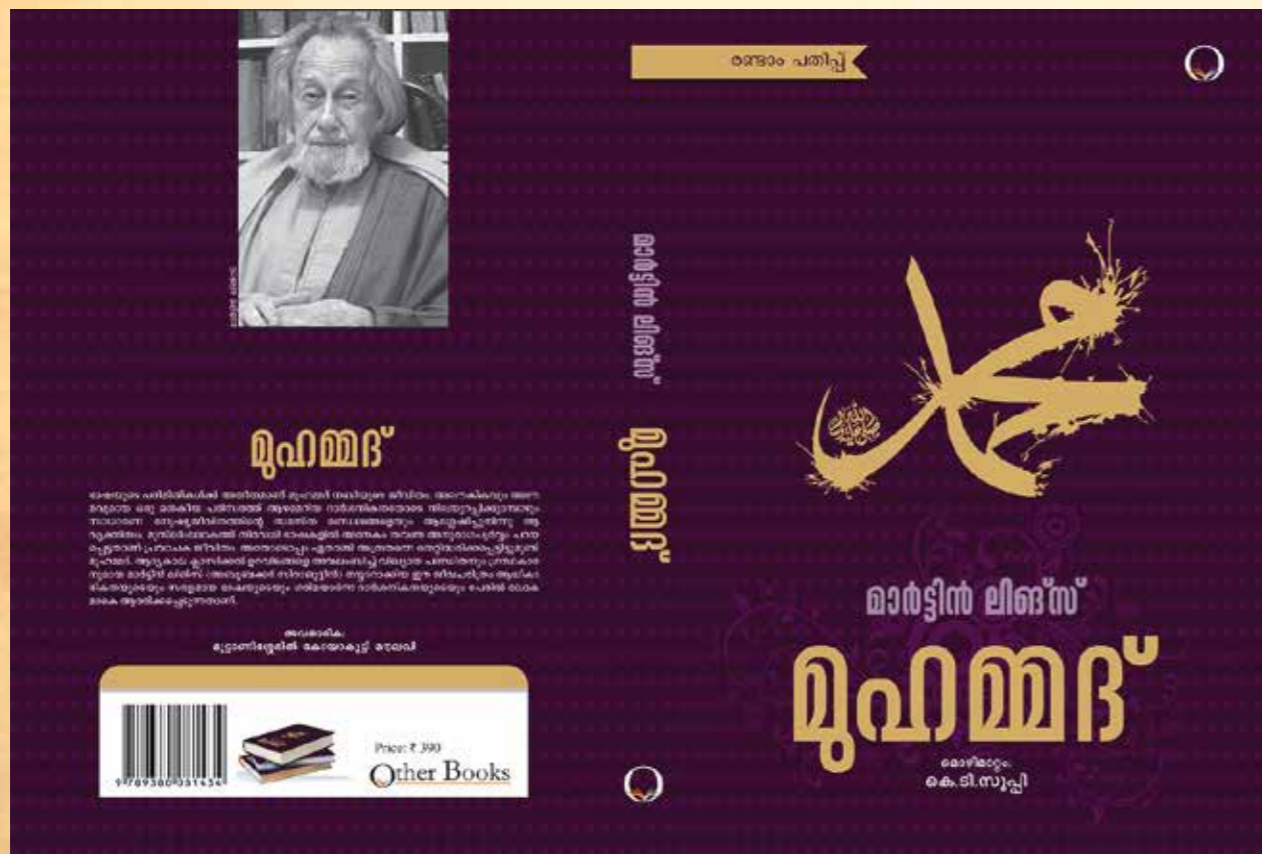
## The Two Episodes of a Success Saga

Martin Lings' *Muhammad* is Other Books' best seller. To say that means the publisher lays claim to something which it often abhors. Best sellers may not be the best titles we often boast of. There are titles which we hardly find many readers but which stand for the aims and objectives of Other Books- to publish books on subaltern history and narratives from Kerala. But Lings' *Muhammad* has been our pampered project-conceived and actualized with

guided its readability. Firstly, the book in original is highly readable, guided, of course, by Martin Lings' photographic prose which emanates from the author's sublime, spiritual and spotless mind. Secondly, the translation is so highly readable, too, that, according to many readers, it can be read as another book, and on its own merit. Thirdly, the cover, where the gilded 'Muhammad' and his honorific in Malayalam and Arabic respectively in a violet canvas tries to and, according to many readers again, succeeds to reflect the content. Fourthly, a heavily subsidized price brought about by the generosity of its sponsors (who don't want to be identified) and our desire to generate more readers and well-wishers than profit.

The good news is that on 13th September, 2014, the book had its second launch, initiated by some well-wishers at Manjery who read the book and became its fan. About that the second page tells.

**By Auswaf Ahsan**  
For the OTHER BOOKS TEAM



utmost care that the title deserves. It is a spiritual, yet meticulous and truthful, account of the multi-faceted life of Prophet Muhammad, Peace of God Be Upon Him. This justifies Other Books, says one of our stringent critics.

In a span of two years, the title has gone to the second edition, with the deliberations for the third one looming large. There are many factors which



**Munawwar Ali Shihab Thangal launches the book with VP Mohammad Moulavi**

## A Spiritual Soiree



Sameer Binsi sings

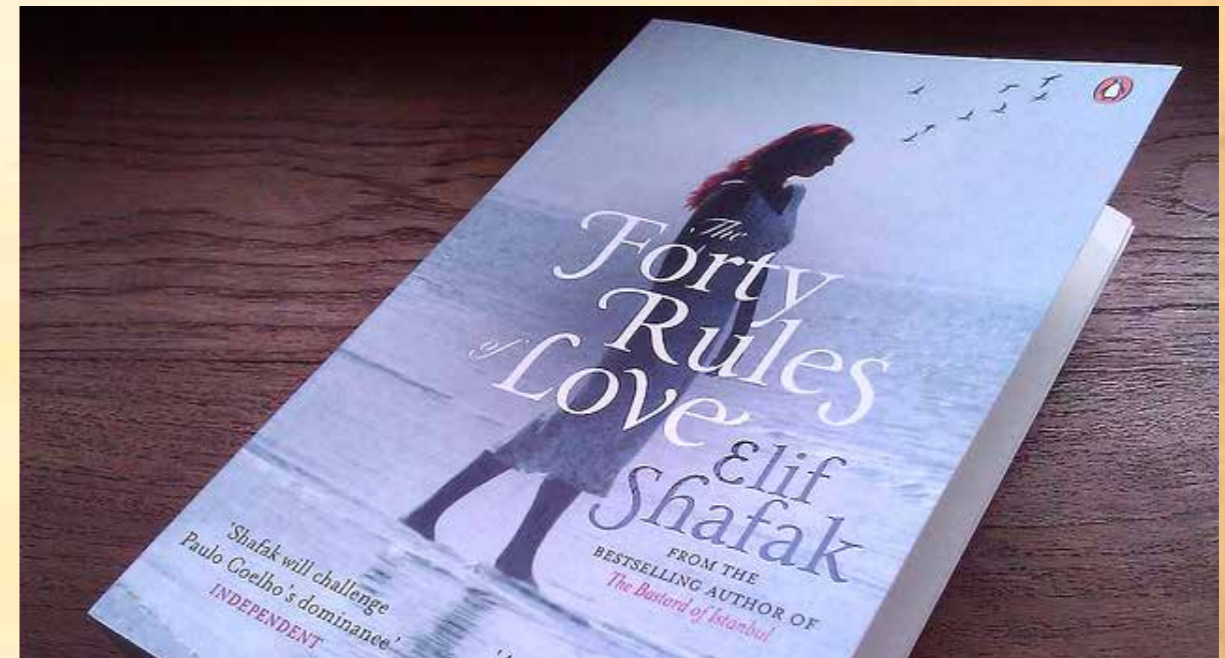
Manjery Sabha Hall, a tiled assembly hall which dates back to the early twentieth century, barely occupies more than one hundred people. But the Hall has its history, rooted as it is in the Mappila Rebellion of the 1920s. It may be sheer coincidence that the committee members of the Hall set the stage for the launch of Martin Lings' *Muhammad*. During deliberations for organizing the launch, Other Books was asked and we heartily agreed, to digitally archive and document the history of Hall, which has a different story to tell from the mainstream Muslim narrative of the Mappila Rebellion. That would be, hopefully, one of our dream titles to come.

On 13th September, 2014, the book was launched by Syed Munawwar Ali Shihab Thangal with VP Muhammad Moulavi, Qadi of Manjery. There was the esteemed presence of the translator of *Muhammad* KT Soopy, author and critic Ajay P Mangadu and Calicut University Senate Member Abdul Ali Auswaf Ahsan, Other Books' Managing Editor welcomed the gathering. UA Majeed, organizing committee secretary, paid a vote of thanks. Shameer KS, Other Books executive editor, introduced book.

The meet had a fitting finale with the musical rendering of some deeply meaningful prayers by Ghazal maestro Sameer Binsi. Everyone on the dais spoke about the spiritual and mystical illuminations of the book, rendering the whole event a spiritual soiree.

## Maghreb Fiction

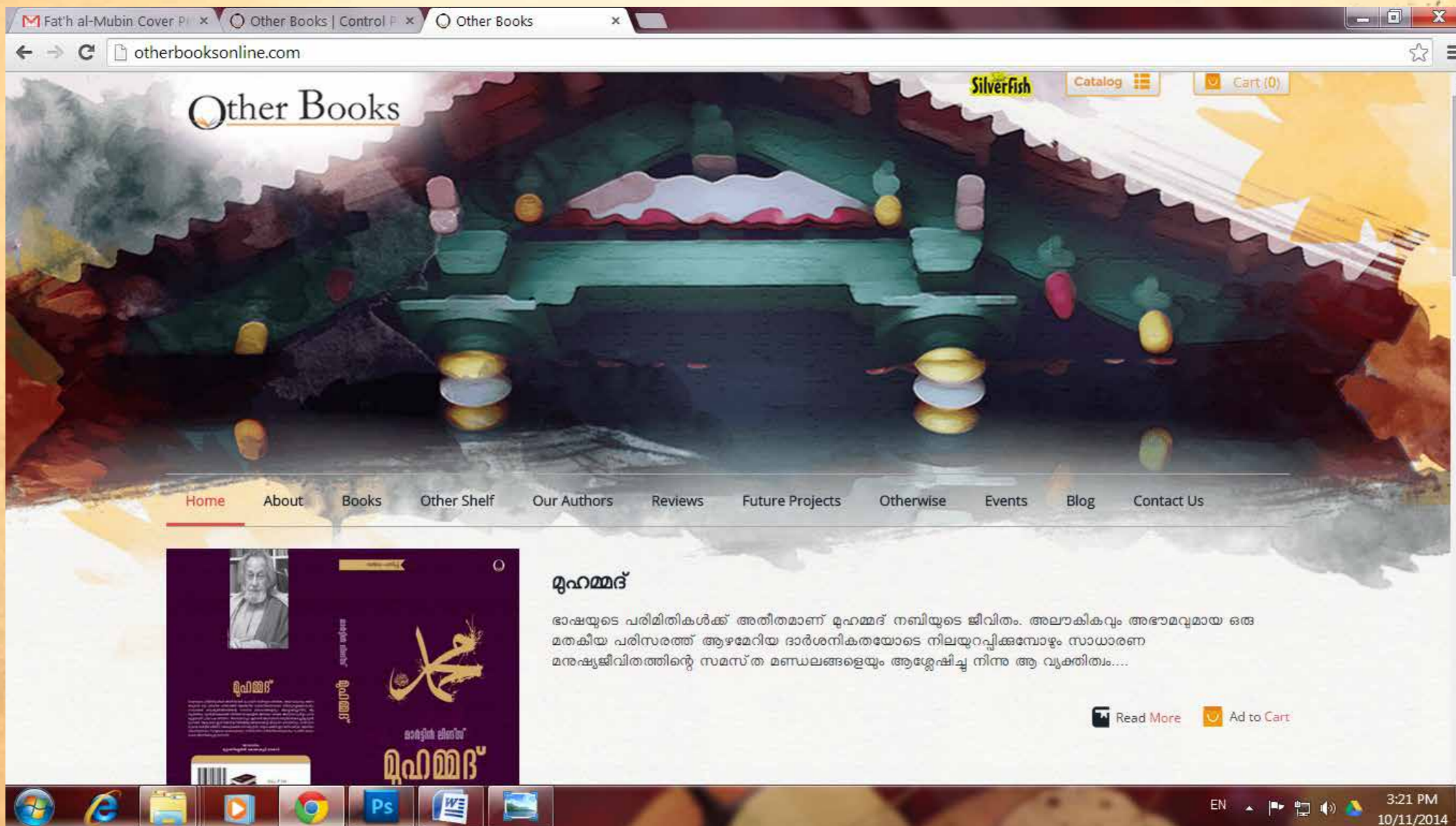
Fiction was not Other Books' cup of tea. We have focused on narrating histories, sociologies and theologies. Of late, we analyzed the Malayalam translations of some important fictions. The quality and treatment of most of them were poor, to say the least. And there were suggestions that Other Books should take the initiative of translating fictions from the Muslim world, especially the politically vibrant Maghreb region, into Malayalam, thereby trying to intervene in the way fictions are treated in Malayalam translations. The concept is in limbo, with communications being under way with the publisher of *Forty Rules of Love*. Our friends that means you can suggest, advise and criticize the Other Books team about the titles, authors and areas we should not miss. Feel free to write to [editor@otherbooksonline.com](mailto:editor@otherbooksonline.com)



## Brief Takes

# Website Relaunch

The URL [www.otherbooksonline.com](http://www.otherbooksonline.com) which had for a long time been under construction was launched in a new look with some attractive features. In a few weeks, readers will be able to purchase books directly from the site. The site features our authors, titles, bookshelf, reviews and blogs which narrate the pangs and the actual birth of some of our books. Feel free to visit and send us your feedbacks to [editor@otherbooksonline.com](mailto:editor@otherbooksonline.com)



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