FANATICISM, OR MAHOMET THE PROPHET

Voltaire's play Fanaticism, or Mahomet the Prophet was controversial in its own day, and has stirred up controversy in recent decades as attempts to mount stage productions have been met with protests....



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Fanaticism, or Mahomet the Prophet

Author	Voltaire
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Peek Inside the Book

What we find in books is like the fire in our hearths. We fetch it from our neighbors, we kindle it at home, we communicate it to others, and it becomes the property of all. Voltaire, Le Fanatisme Ou Mahomet Le Prophte: Tragdie //

Reader's Opinions

I read the English translation. The play is excellent critique of religious and political fanaticism. It takes shots at both Christianity and Islam, and few at the King of France.

If you read the book in French you can appreciate the poetry, lost in translation. It is fiction - not history - as Voltaire says in the intro. It is meant to show the insanity of extremism, no matter what the religion (or superstition as Voltaire would call it), and in this sense, it is ageless.