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except
where
noted

ON 2014, FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND MY FUTURE AT HALLOWED

It's been a pretty slow year for me on Hallowed. I have not made as many reviews as I'd like and as you readers and bands wants me to. It's been a busy year, definitely the most busy year in my life but that's due to me releasing a book and having a busy year with work outside Hallowed. Some of you might have wondered what happened to me this year and the answer is my life happened. My life outside Hallowed, that is.

I've been thinking a lot about ending my Hallowed adventure this past year and more than once I've decided to do so. But how do you leave your baby? How can you move on from your own sweat and blood? When children moves out the house, parents don't just stop talking to them and meeting

them and same goes for me and my baby, my Hallowed. I just couldn't move on entirely.

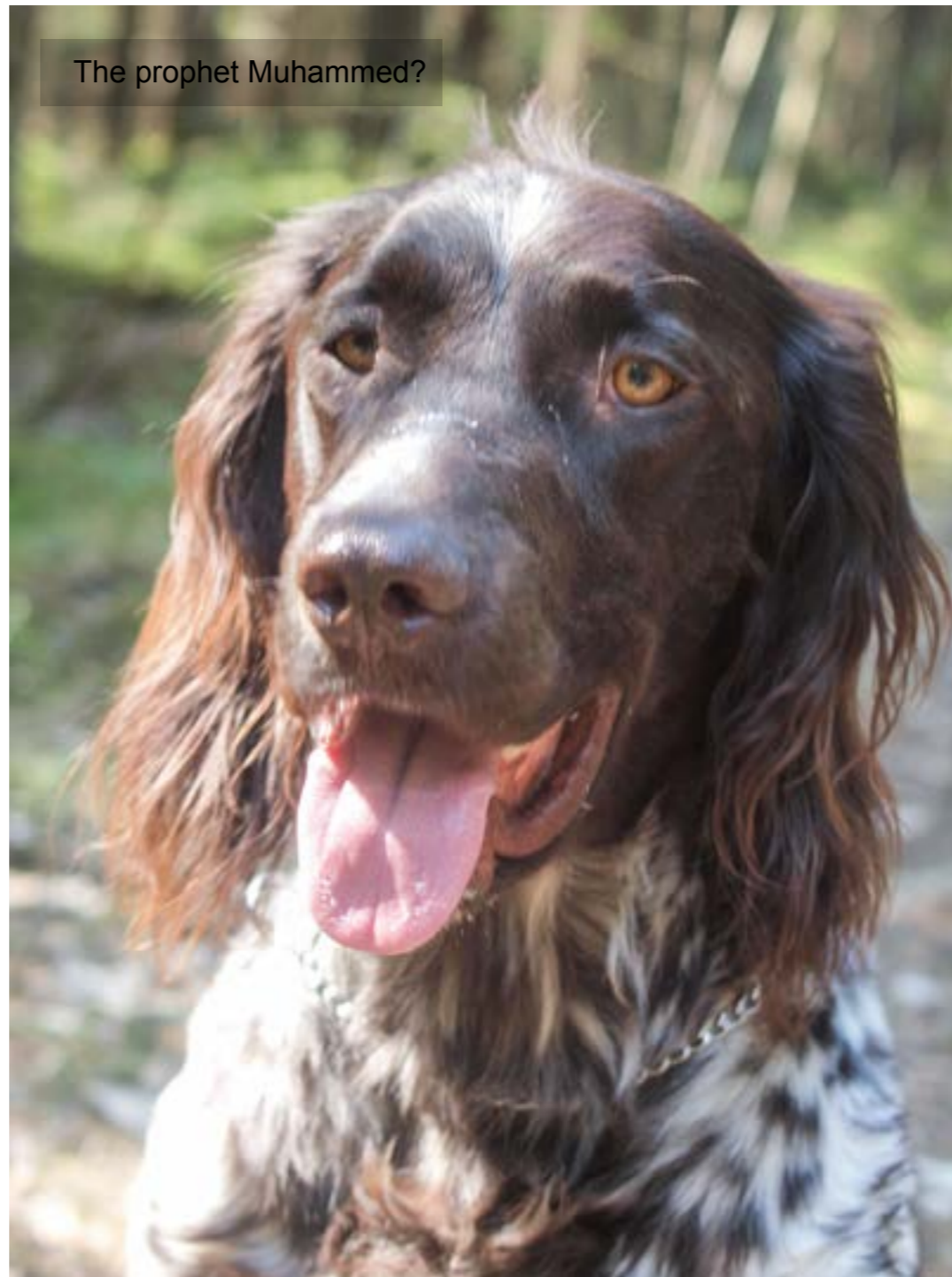
2015 won't be the year I produce most for Hallowed and it might be that I'll end this adventure before the year is over but for now I will keep on going and do my best to get as many reviews and other things done and finished.

But there are more stressing matters that needs to be addressed at the time. As I write this it's been a week since the horrendous and terrible terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo and reactions from all over the world is starting to drop in. And the reactions seems to be - *we love our freedom of speech and will defend them, however we're going to limit that and all the other rights people have from now on!*

The prophet Muhammed?



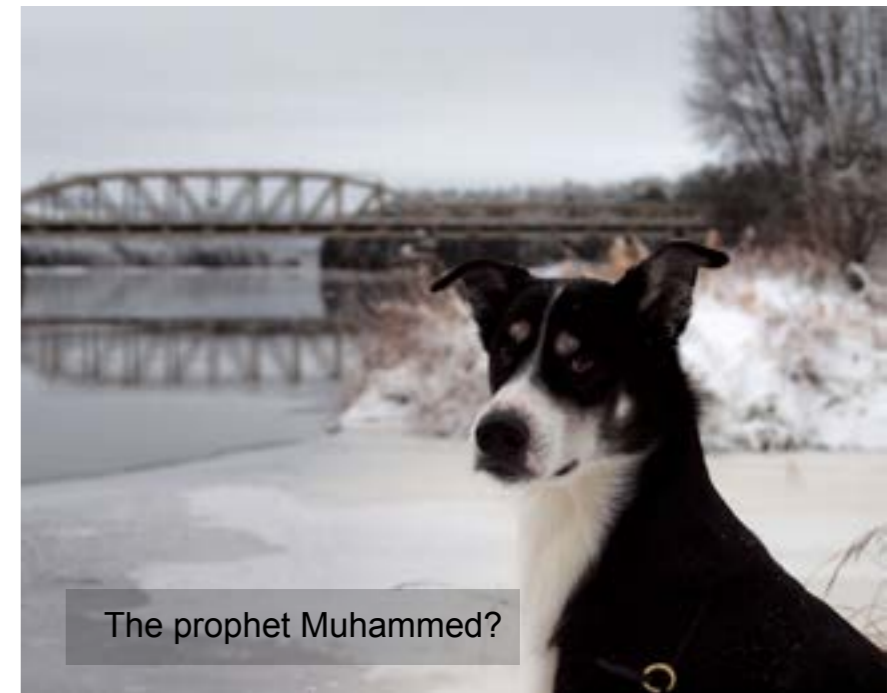
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A bit surprising, or not when you think about how the winds blow on the British isles, it's England and the United Kingdom that's leading the hunt for limiting peoples right to express them selves and move freely. The prime minister wants to forbid, or at least limit, social media like WhatsApp, Twitter and such which I in a way wouldn't mind as I don't use them and people who do just craps up bull shit every minute on these things but I rather have that than a limitation on my right to say what I want without having the government and all kinds of police tracking my every movement, imprisoning me for thinking the wrong things.

I'm honestly very offended by how leaders around the world use this tragedy to get a control

on people that they don't have and wouldn't get support for without tragic events like this. There will always be people frightened by things like this that are so blinded by fear that they accept being watched every hour of every day without freedoms anywhere, not even in their minds just so they could imagine they are safe. And these people will make sure that Big brother gets his control and can repress the people. Power from the people, power to the tyrant. North Korea - we admire your ways.

Hallowed say all kinds of extreme and "surveillance demanding" things in our reviews - if you interpret them wrongly. We write all kinds jokes on killing and raping and bombing or overthrowing and even disease spreading but I can assure you

that we'll never ever do any of the things we say, nor would we want anyone else to do them but how would you know? Why couldn't we? Why shouldn't the tyrant repress our voice - it could be used for terror, perhaps. Who knows and who could guarantee the opposite? No one. And who are we, a simple music magazine to have anything to say or do against the big fat community of world leaders? Nothing! Silence our voices, please!

Hallowed will not go for these shenanigans! We will write whatever we want no matter who we offend, no matter who gets insulted or angry. Hallowed will not be frightened either by the desperate terrorist (the Isis) or the mad with power terrorists (the world leaders). We will continue to joke, hu-

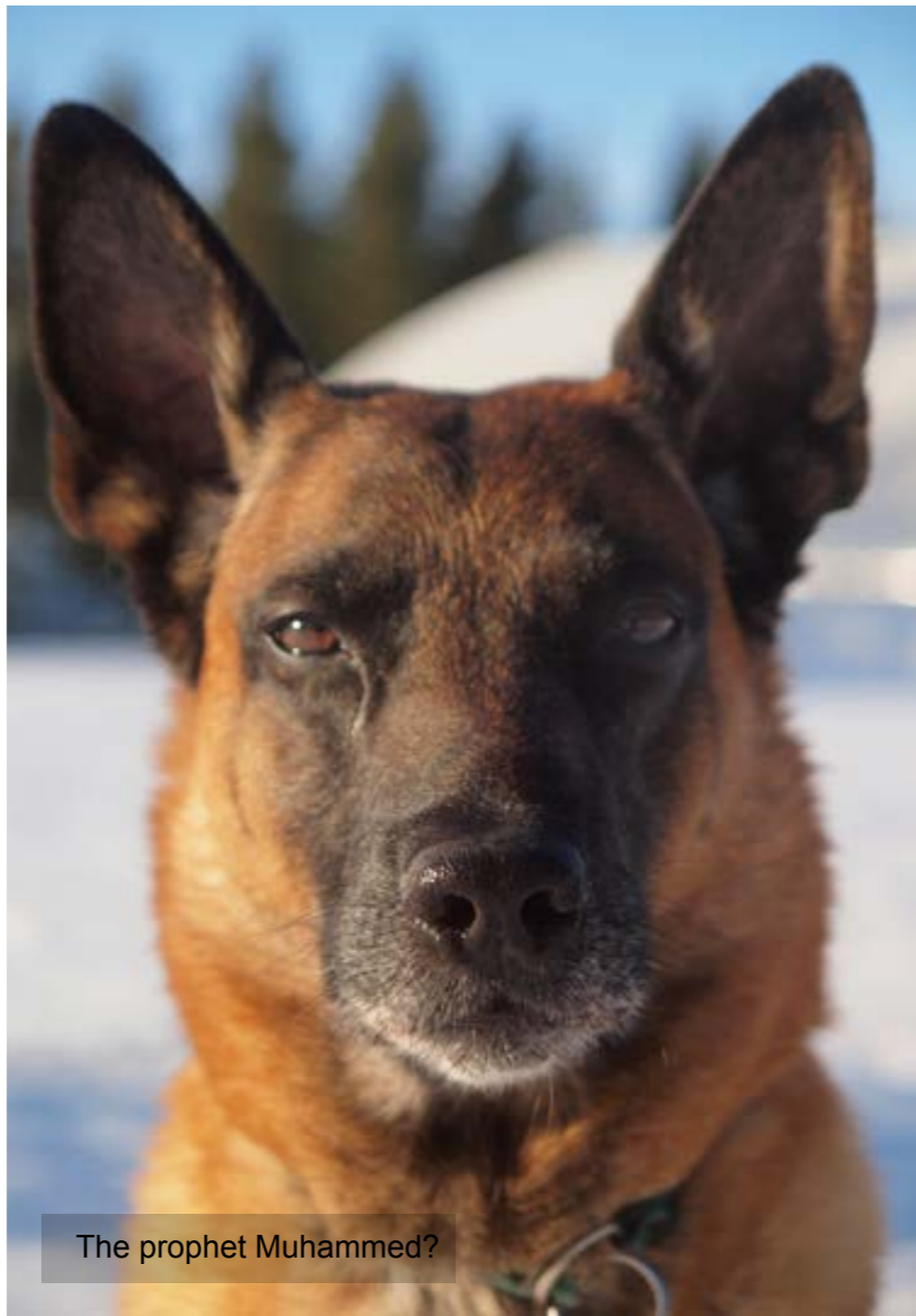
mour and sarcasm whoever we want and in the way we want to do it - that's one of the reasons why I've decided to stay with Hallowed for a while longer: Hallowed needs to be here to say all those uncomfortable things that so many people are afraid to say. And we will be there to do that.

So how about all these photos of strange creatures? I'm asking, are any of these Muhammed? No, of course not. Will somebody be offended by me asking the question? Probably. But that's their problem. I'm not saying Mohammed is any of these creatures, I don't know who the fuck Mohammed was and I don't care. But these creatures are not Muhammed.

That's that for the future, now we look back on



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Photo: AnnaKarin Eliasson

the past for a short while. How was 2014 as a year in music?

Well, we had one seven and nine sixes so it can't be a too bad year in that sense. We also had plenty of good releases that didn't get a review and 64 albums awarded with 5/7, which means that they are very good albums! On the opposite we also had two 1/7, ten 2/7 and 35 3/7. The top/bottom scores gives an average of $(127+381=508/121=)$ 4,2. Count in the fours as well and we get an average of $(508+332=840/204=)$ 4,12 from 204 reviews, which is about half as many reviews as we did last year but more or less the same average.

I have a hunch 2015 will be even better so keep reading, Hallowed will be there for you and us!

THE TOP TEN OF OUR CHOICE IN 2014

1. Insomnium – Shadows Of The Dying Sun (7p)
2. Poets Of The Fall – Jelous Gods (6p)
3. Vega – Stereo Messiah (6p)
4. Dennis DeYoung and the music of Styx – Live In Los Angeles (6p)
5. Devin Townsend Project – Z2 (6p)
6. Vanden Plas – Chronicles Of The Immortals – Netherworld (Path 1) (6p)
7. Icon & The Black Roses – Thorns (6p)
8. IQ – The Road Of Bones (6p)
9. Sebastian Bach – Give 'Em Hell (6p)
10. Elysion – Someplace Better (6p)