It is almost consensually held that the Enlightenment in Europe – in Germany as also in France – was a project of monumental significance for the deployment of reason and universality. Focusing on the German Enlightenment and its star philosopher, Immanuel Kant, this talk, in contrast, shows how the Enlightenment was instead an ethnic project organized in opposition, among others, to Islam as a significant other. Derived from Religion as Critique: Islamic Critical Thinking from Mecca to the Marketplace, it concludes by ethnographically illustrating how reason and critique work in Islamicate milieus of South Asia.