

Colin Coulthard (Letters 10/2) suggests that we should use a quote from the Koran in Today's text. We can extend this further and have a daily reading with a choice of a variety of religious texts as our source document.

For example, the Bible in its various versions has God's words to the effect that if there are people who "contrary to my command has worshiped other gods, bowing down to them or to the sun or the moon or the stars in the sky, and this has been brought to your attention, then you must investigate it thoroughly. If it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, take the man or woman who has done this evil deed to your city gate and stone that person to death".

There is no shortage of violence that can be found in the religious texts of most faiths. Let us not assume that the passage that Coulthard quotes is in any way alone. The historical context, the translation issues and subsequent reforms to interpretations of the texts all need to be taken into account when quoting any passage of religious and faith based texts.

In a secular nation such as ours there is much to be said for not having any such passage in the daily newspaper. At least the 30 plus per cent of us who stated that they had no religion will feel comforted by this.

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