

Jonathan Power, and “Why Islam Is Not Violent” Yet Again

“Yet most Muslims do not commit acts of violence. If Islam is intrinsically violent then roughly a billion believers either do not understand their own religion, or are too cowardly or unfaithful to follow its precepts. That is my sarcasm but, indeed, this is what violent Islamists say.” – From [Karen Armstrong: The Coherence of Her Incoherence.](#)”

However, there is one, rarely quoted, important exception [in verse 9.29 the Koran says, “Fight those who believe not in Allah nor in the Last Day, nor hold that for which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor abide by the religion of truth even if they are People of the Book (the Bible).”

To that extent one can understand why ISIS and Al Qaeda say they have scripture on their side. Of course, this does not excuse their particular brand of savagery and brutality and their refusal to follow Mohammed’s demand that the defeated be treated well.

Overwhelmingly, Muslims are a peaceful people, less prone to war than Christians and Jews. But for some violence is in their inheritance.

If Jonathan Power believes that verse 9.29 is a “rarely quoted” exception to the general rule that “in nearly every passage [IN THE QUR’AN] it maintains that violence should only be used in self-defence,” then perhaps his re-reading of the text may be in order. He could read the Qur’anic quotations below, which I have simply lifted from the website