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## Sticks and Stones the Philosophy of Insults (Paperback)

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By Professor of Humanities Jerome Neu

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 206 x 138 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me. This schoolyard rhyme projects an invulnerability to verbal insults that sounds good but rings false. Indeed, the need for such a verse belies its own claims. For most of us, feeling insulted is a distressing-and distressingly common-experience. In Sticks and Stones, philosopher Jerome Neu probes the nature, purpose, and effects of insults, exploring how and why they humiliate, embarrass, infuriate, and wound us so deeply. What kind of injury is an insult? Is it determined by the insulter or the insulted? What does it reveal about the character of both parties as well as the character of society and its conventions? What role does insult play in social and legal life? When is telling the truth an insult? Neu draws upon a wealth of examples and anecdotes-as well as a range of views from Aristotle and Oliver Wendell Holmes to Oscar Wilde, John Wayne, Katherine Hepburn, and many others-to provide surprising answers to these questions. He shows that what we find...



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