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In Praise of Profanity

By Michael Adams

Hardback. Book Condition: New. Not Signed; When President Obama signed the affordable health care act in 2009, the Vice President was overheard to utter an enthusiastic This is a big f*** deal! In 2003, Bono dropped the F-bomb while accepting a Golden Globe, prompting nation-wide debate. A town in Massachusetts levies \$20 fines on swearing in public. Nothing is as paradoxical as our attitude toward swearing and bad language : how can we judge profanity so harshly in principle, yet use it so frequently in practice? Though profanity is more acceptable today than ever, it is still labeled as rude or at best tolerable only under specific circumstances. Cursing, many argue, signals an absence of character, or poor parenting, and is something to avoid at all costs. Yet plenty of us are unconcerned about the dangers of profanity; bad words are plainly recorded in dictionaries, and are commonly used in mainstream music, Academy Award-winning films, books, and newspapers. And of course, regular people use it in conversation every day. Clearly dirty words serve an important purpose. In In Praise of Profanity, Michael Adams offers a provocative, unapologetic defense of profanity, arguing that we've oversimplified profanity by labeling it as taboo,...


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