

a humorist makes the conscious decision to exclude a group from derision, isn't he or she implying that the members of that group are not capable of self-reflection? Or don't possess the mental faculties to recognize the nuances of satire? A group that's excluded never gets the opportunity to join in the greater human conversation.

Luckily, a lot of people get this—at least when it comes to their own cultures. Like the burn victim in our sketch, they plead, “You skipped me! Do me!”

There was the half-Hispanic, half-Native American man who told Keegan recently just how much gold there was to be mined from his hybrid culture. A young Arab man told us how much he loves Karim and Jahar (a couple of sexually repressed Arab characters we play). “You gotta do more of them!” he begged. Gay and lesbian couples tell us to “keep going ... There's plenty to make fun of ... *Trust us!*”

Where a lot of people get nervous, however, is when it comes to laughing at other people's culture or perceived weaknesses. That's when we worry that we're being insensitive—that we're being mean.

But ask yourself again what's worse: making fun of people or assuming that they're too weak to take it?

The white whale of comedy is still out there. The day we can make fun of a black lesbian dwarf with Down syndrome who's in a wheelchair, and someone who isn't a black lesbian dwarf with Down syndrome is able to laugh—instead of trying to protect the dwarf's feelings—we can pack up our artificial larynxes and retire.

Key and Peele are the creators of their namesake television sketch-comedy show on Comedy Central

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BY CAMILLE PAGLIA

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