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Letter to the Editor

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ANN RIGGS

A Response to Dean Freiday's Defense of Folly

Dean Freiday is for many of us simultaneously a trail blazer, a model, and a personal friend. As I have entered into the public work of ecumenical theology in the Faith and Order movement under his wing, I have had my way smoothed and my heart warmed by this dear Friend.

Yet, it is true that in scholarly writing I most frequently use Barclay's Englishing of his *Apology* as my primary text, citing Freiday's work secondly. Because Barclay himself made this translation, with all its stylistic discomforts, it remains, in my mind at least, the counterpart of Barclay's Latin text in a way more similar to the relationship between the Masoretic Hebrew text of the Old Testament and the Greek Septuagint text of the same material, than the relationship between these two ancient versions and a modern English biblical version such as the RSV, NIV, or NAB.

This does not in my view diminish the value of Dean Freiday's achievement and gift in *Barclay's Apology in Modern English*. The Barclay of *Barclay's Apology in Modern English* is the Barclay that seekers and newcomers to Meetings meet, the Barclay of religious education programs in Meetings, the Barclay that Friends pick up to refresh themselves in the roots of our tradition. If the preparation of such a gift is indeed a work of folly, we can only be grateful for such generous foolishness.