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## Letter ...

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# Letter...

## Regarding Baars Review

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to R. Kenton Craven, Ph.D., who, according to his letter in the May, 1983 *Linacre*, "very much regret(s) the review of Conrad Baars's *Feeling and Healing Your Emotions*" (Logos, 1979) by myself which which appeared in *Linacre* (February, 1982).

As Dr. Craven advocates, Dr. Baars's work deserves more than my review of only one of his books, especially since his death has cut short much more productive work planned by this important Catholic psychiatrist. I was surprised to see only my review of this book, since you stated to me, "I plan to have several reviews in the same issue of *Linacre*" (letter of March 4, 1980). Mary R. Joyce's review of the same book in the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 1 (December, 1979), for example, is uniformly commendatory, and would undoubtedly please Dr. Craven.

After five years of correspondence and a personal meeting at a conference in 1978, Dr. Baars recommended me as a reviewer of his book. "I assume you've accepted their request, and hope you do — You're one of the very few psychiatrists who can think for himself." Dr. Baars wrote this on October 10, 1979, in a letter responding to my critique of two of his other books, *Born Only Once* (Franciscan Herald Press, 1975) and *Healing the Unaffirmed* (Alba House, 1976). I had made the same major criticisms about underemphasizing the will and the pejorative use of diagnostic labels in those two books as I subsequently made in the review of *Feeling and Healing Your Emotions*. More definitive discussion on these and other

issues never occurred in spite of Dr. Baars's "hope we'll soon meet again for more fruitful exchange of ideas."

Perhaps our correspondence might be included in further publication of Dr. Baars's work, which certainly merits the attention suggested by Dr. Craven. This would contribute to what Dr. Baars had in mind when he wrote in paragraph 8 of the same letter to me:

"Glad to see you appreciate so many parts in my books. Wish we could discuss all this in person from time to time.

"Many patients have asked me how our work will be continued when we die. I have no easy answer, but I hope some persons of different persuasions, i.e., not all psychiatrists necessarily, will get together . . . to exchange ideas in conferences, to teach and write. If the Lord wants this it will happen. I won't push/organize it myself again. It has to happen spontaneously. Something like this is in the works in Holland and we may work out that development."

— George Maloof, M.D.