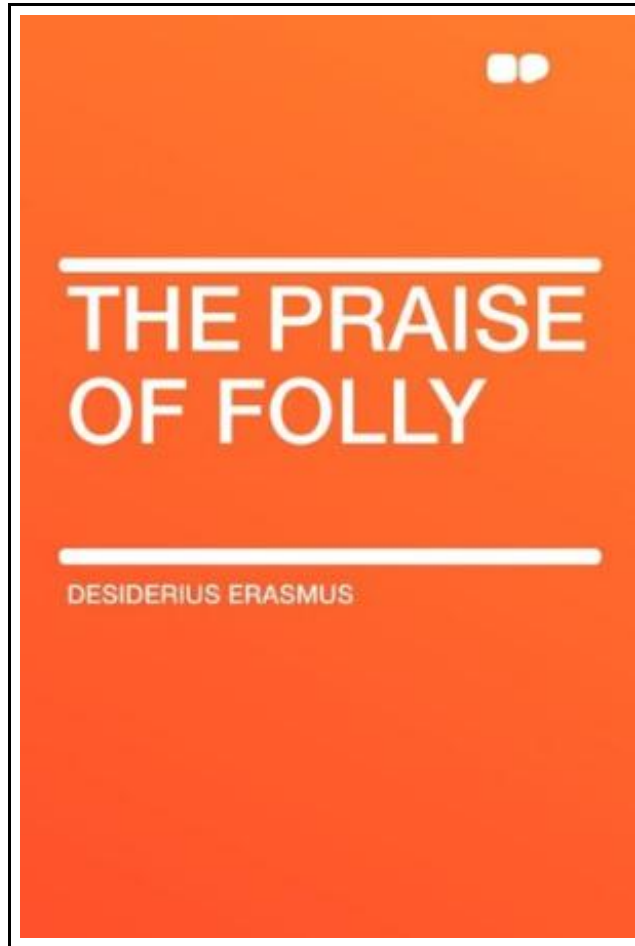


## The Praise of Folly



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*(Prof. Loyce Runolfsson Jr.)*

## THE PRAISE OF FOLLY



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HardPress Publishing. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 68 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.1in. The Praise of Folly, sometimes translated as In Praise of More, is an essay written in 1509 by Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam and first printed in 1511. It starts off with a satirical learned encomium after the manner of the Greek satirist Lucian, whose work Erasmus and Sir Thomas More had recently translated into Latin, a piece of virtuoso foolery; it then takes a darker tone in a series of orations, as Folly praises self-deception and madness and moves to a satirical examination of pious but superstitious abuses of Catholic doctrine and corrupt practices in parts of the Roman Catholic Church to which Erasmus was ever faithful and the folly of pedants (including Erasmus himself). Erasmus had recently returned disappointed from Rome, where he had turned down offers of advancement in the curia, and Folly increasingly takes on Erasmus own chastising voice. The essay ends with a straightforward statement of Christian ideals. The essay is filled with classical allusions delivered in a style typical of the learned humanists of the Renaissance. Folly parades as one of the gods, offspring of Plutus and Freshness and nursed by Inebriation and Ignorance, whose faithful companions include Philautia (self-love), Kolakia (flattery), Lethe (oblivion), Misoponia (laziness), Hedone (pleasure), Anopia (madness), Tryphe (wantonness), Komos (intemperance) and Eegretos Hypnos (dead sleep). THE PRAISE OF FOLLY An oration, of feigned matter, spoken by Folly in her own person At what rate soever the world talks of me (for I am not ignorant what an ill report Folly has got, even among the most foolish), yet that I am that she, that only she, whose deity recreates both gods and men, even this is a sufficient argument, that I no sooner stepped up to speak to this full...

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