

Morality Without Mysticism

In this context the term "a fourth faith" is by no means a perfect one. To some it may obscure the fact that modern Humanism shares with many of the better expressions of both Judaism and Christianity much of the morality which is at the core of the Judeo-Christian tradition -- the belief in brotherhood, in "mercy, pity, peace, and love." But, because Humanism rejects the mysticism, the dogmatism, the other-worldlyness which have in so many cases obscured and obstructed that morality, Humanism is properly held to be different from the many varieties of supernaturalistic faith in our Western World.

A Third Way

From a global perspective, Humanism might better be termed "the third way." Since in Humanism are found the true roots of the democratic process (respect for the individual, belief in human brotherhood, etc.), Humanism offers the thinking man anywhere in the world a "third" way as an alternative to religious authoritarianism on the right and Soviet totalitarianism on the left. That these two apparent extremes are actually closely related (in their essential inhumanity) may be seen in the ease with which adherents of Stalinism-Malenkovism so frequently leap to membership in one of the authoritarian relig-