Reprinted from The Humanist, *Volume* XIII, 1953, *No.* 1.
The Humanist *is published bi-monthly at Yellow Springs, Ohio, by the American Humanist Association.*

The American Humanist Association

DEAR READER:

Humanism is a philosophy and a way of life. It is the faith of a growing number of thoughtful, discerning people for whom the old orthodoxies have no significance and who find satisfaction in this positive, constructive viewpoint. Humanism is contemporary man's attempt to meet the world with a faith that is based on experience—a faith in himself and his capabilities. Those persons holding this view tend to believe that a reasonable way for men to learn to live together is on a basis of human understanding without authoritarian influences of any kind.

As a faith or orientation, Humanism has both religious and philosophical aspects. Not all Humanists are interested in all aspects. For some, Humanism is a vibrant, satisfying religion; for others, it is a reasonable, adequate philosophy. This selection of emphasis seems to me to be largely a matter of personal temperament. In this general regard it is worth noting that in some other countries Humanism is coming to be regarded as the best alternative to the weary religious faiths and the strident political movements. Here in the Western Hemisphere many of us accept Humanism as a fourth faith, the other three faiths being Protestantism, Catholicism, and Judaism. Most of our members have come out from one of these traditional faiths.

Thoughtful people realize that organizations accomplish many things which individuals cannot do alone. Yet it has not been without difficulty that the strongly individualistic Humanists have formed an organization. The his-