FAITH FOR LIVING
By Lewis Mumford
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Recent events have shocked many American intellectuals into a mood of somber introspection. In Mr. Lewis Mumford's most recent work, this self-analysis has given birth to many perspicacious and fruitful observations. It seems to him that in the present catastrophe, the guilt of the "active barbarians" (the Fascists—Communists) is not greater than that of the "passive barbarians" (the socially slothful and morally unconcerned.)

It is the latter, he nevertheless hopes, who will eventually save "our civilization and the institutions and habits of free men," by the renascence of the great Christian virtues—love, charity, loyalty, self-sacrifice, devotion, etc. Upon these buttresses will rest "a collective ideal that embodies itself in a concrete program." While this "collective ideal" of Mr. Mumford's is always poorly defined, there can be little doubt that he expects it to be realized in a planned social order.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Mumford, in spite of his admirable social disquiet, must again offer us this poor crumb. But he will never have anything better until he turns his intelligence to the question of justice without which a tolerable existence cannot be. If he will ask of his "collective ideal," not "Is it humane?" "Is it generous?" or even Is it aesthetic?" but "It it just?" he will forever reject collectivism as a possible way of life.

HELEN BERNSTEIN