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Review Fromm, E.: >Faith as a Character Trait<

Martin Grotjahn

Review Fromm, E.: Faith as a Character Trait (1942b, English),“ in: Psychoanalytic Quarterly, Vol. 13, p. 263.

Faith is not one of the concepts that fits into the intellectual climate of the present day world. The fight against faith expressed emancipation from spiritual shackles in the past, but today lack of faith is often identical with profound although inarticulate despair. There is a difference between rational and irrational faith. Rational faith is certainty of one's own experience and firmness of conviction in the realization of one's rational vision. It is rooted in the experience of growth, in the active relatedness to man and nature and therefore inseparably linked with a state of activity. Irrational faith, however, will be found in any society built on the submission of one group of people to the power of another. Faith in oneself, like faith in others, implies the recognition of potentialities and the vision of their unfolding.