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Prologue

"The city first took form as the home of a god: a place where eternal values were represented. Though the symbols have changed the realities behind them remain ... Without the religious perspectives generated by the city, it is doubtful if more than a small part of man's capacities for living and learning could have developed."

Lewis Mumford
The City in History, 1961

The Myths of Metropolis

The drama of history formed and forming — of lives past, promised and denied — is revealed in cities, vital embodiments of human purpose in our civilizations. What can we understand about the city's complex origins and functions? Has the city been rendered obsolete by the technology it spawned? What are our symbols of urbanism? What myths inform us as we inhabit, participate in and design town, city, metropolis and megalopolis?

J.E.F.