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Barabbas (1952) is an extension of Pär Lagerkvist's novel about the imaginary fate of Barabbas, the thief, after the death of Jesus Christ. He is seen as a sympathetic, doomed character, born like Erik XIV out of tune with his time. An unhappy childhood leads him astray in life and, after working as a Roman slave in Cyprus, he is caught up in the fire of Rome and flung into prison, eventually suffering crucifixion with hundreds of Christians. The paradox of the novel and the film is Barabbas's change of faith, which takes place during his imprisonment in the copper mines. At the end, he is unable to reconcile the strange non-violence of the new faith with the more instinctive practices of his upbringing. He dies perplexed, a victim, Sjöberg seems to be saying, of circumstance. Like the heroine of *Only a Mother*, he is insufficiently intelligent and articulate to rise from his predicament and to interpret the events around him in any but the most physical of terms. To a certain extent his crisis is that of modern man, torn between doubt and belief, between darkness and light. The film, shot in Israel and Italy, is ponderous in execution, but contains a dignified performance by Ulf Palme as Barabbas. The final sentence of the book has an ambiguity that Sjöberg conveys successfully in the film: "When he felt death approaching, that which he had always been so afraid of, he said out into the darkness, as though he were speaking to it: 'To thee I deliver up my soul'."