

*"Son of the Republic, look and learn."*

— Washington's vision, 1864

# America's

*agonies*

John E. Fetzer



**J**ohn Fetzer's essay "*America's Agony*" invokes the hope and promise of Spirit to move beyond the trials facing America. The essay is reprinted herein with a prelude by Michael C. Gergely and comments by Jacob Needleman.

Author Jacob Needleman provides an insight into the power of wisdom, truth, and vision captured by John Fetzer's essay. Needleman expounds upon:

- **The meaning of America.**
- **The sacred dimension** of the discoveries of modern science and the need to make the application of scientific technology serve both spiritual and material purposes in our common life.
- **The open and hidden love of truth and justice** in the minds and hearts of the younger generation—and how to allow that idealism to irrigate our culture.
- **The need for spiritual, meditative practices** to counter the materialism and ethical decay of the contemporary culture.
- **The need and possibility** of a genuine rapprochement between science and deep religion.



In the final analysis, John E. Fetzer's life can be described as a journey in fulfilling what he believed to be his sacred commitment to the Almighty, to establish an Institute that would bring the human race closer to God, by acknowledging the innermost essence of man, to love, forgive, and honor his existence on this planet and to some day unite with the higher in total harmony.

To accomplish this, John's journey began as he designed and built his own radio station as a college student, and then transformed that into a broadcasting empire. John also had a deep love for the ability of man to express himself in the game of baseball, not simply as a competitive sport, but as a compliment to our conduct. John Fetzer owned the Detroit Tigers, but as he would say, he was the guardian of a team not the owner. He believed that the Tigers expressed the belief in what people can do, in a competitive way, without violence, and with love.

John's life was a spiritual journey, totally interconnected with the creative Source, the Archangels and the Hierarchy and felt guided both personally and professionally. He was a man born of this age to bring a message. And that message through this Institute is to evolve man to a higher path through the Almighty. *America's Agony* is but just one source, but a deep source that is as relevant today as the day it was written and will be an inspiration for generations to come.