## **Perfecting Spirit**

The highest goal that "We, the People", unified, can achieve is that of peace. It is a platform upon which all souls may evolve. It is government's function to build this platform and maintain it to provide security so that we may pursue our individual dreams and desires. It is a church without walls, without intrusion. It is a place to which People are drawn, not dragged.

The poem titles in this book are labeled through the eyes of organized society. The goal most people seek is a safe, secure world, yet defense of our individual countries is the highest goal any large group of people can seem to focus on. Governments are instituted as separate, sovereign nations. Rigid boundaries are maintained. Massive weapons are assembled. From a stance of defense comes fear and distrust.

If we're brave enough to face ugly facts, history continually teaches us that our biggest battle is ongoing personal evil. Invisible, it is carried with us everywhere we go in everything we do. Rapidly advancing technology is only exasperating its volatility.

All religions preach a different approach. They all place the goal at spiritual change, continual personal improvement. Prioritizing **Soul's Essence** and a trim, discreet government, as our founders planned, is the first step in our battle with evil, so that we may not battle with each other. Unless government radiates "Morality and Reason", our church is without a floor. Our fear of vulnerability will only intrude, like any other bully, requiring the rest of our world to be defensive.

## A Spirit's Cry For Freedom

The term "American" used to be a world class moral standard, the collective meaning in our Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Pledge of Allegiance, Star Spangled Banner, and government's behavior in representing them. Each person's belief in this moral standard and trust in government's allegiance to it is patriotism. Our patriotism, our morality, our country's self-respect is decaying. Our country's world respect must also be.

Sliding farther from our moral expectation and job specification each year, government manipulates our expectations, instilling indifference and despair. Be it by small, concealed, intentional deviation or by natural tendency toward evil, the result is the same.

Teaching involves ethics, listening, comprehension, empathy, and setting good examples for all to understand, regardless of religion or language. Evolution is the advancement of spirit, not military might. Is our **Stride** the evolution of **Souls**?

**Essence** or a contribution to terrorism?

Have you forgotten your Pledge of Allegiance? Will you, in **Silence**, approve less for our posterity?