THOMAS J. J. ALTIZER was the subject of this infamous Time magazine cover and the firestorm that followed. Altizer’s progressive New Testament theology was frequently misunderstood or oversimplified, but his scholarship attracted national attention. Altizer taught religion at Emory from 1956 until 1968, when he left to teach English at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. In 2006 he published a memoir in which he noted Emory’s support of his work.

I became persuaded that a new theological ground could be discovered by way of a voyage to the East. While this is seemingly a commonplace in full modernity, no theologian had chosen this path, and even today we are virtually bereft of genuine East-West theologies; or, insofar as they exist, they have come from the East and not the West, and at no other point is there a greater rift between the rhetoric of our theological discourse and its actual accomplishments.

I deeply believe that each and every one of us is called to a theological voyage, and that it inevitably occurs whether or not we are aware of it . . .

From Living the Death of God: A Theological Memoir by Thomas J. J. Altizer.