

Destiny Unknown

By MRS. HABEEB

WHEN the untimely hand of death takes away one from among us, our thoughts turn to the futility of life.

We wonder why their works, hopes, ambitions, dreams should have been so rudely cut off before being realised. We wonder if we too will be taken away so suddenly! Should we give up now? Why strive when we do not know our destiny?

When a tragedy takes away so many precious lives in one sweep as did the PIA plane crash at Cairo every thought turns to the one question: Why should these particular people have been on this flight?

One thinks of one's friends and acquaintances. Would they have been safe and happy and alive amongst us today had they not gone on this ill-fated flight?

The near and dear ones of the departed keep feeling if only they hadn't travelled on this flight their people would have been safe today. This one thought keeps chopping their grief-stricken wits.

Sober reflections bring to mind thoughts like, "our life span is pre-ordained, the time of our death, too," "God's ways are strange," "we must bow to the inevitable"—but can these reflections help the grief-stricken man, woman or child?

What of those who were the earners of bread?

God the Sustainer will provide for them.

What of those who were protectors of their family?

God the Protector, Who never sleeps, and Who watches over all, is there.

Who will guide young sons to their future.

God is one's best Guide.

What of those who gave Love, Comfort, and Encouragement to their families?

God can and will fill this void—in His own way, with His unseen Hand.

Why did Allah choose certain people to depart from this life early? To punish someone on earth? No. Was the person needed there more than here? Does He take away those He loves more? Or do these things happen because they are a part of His plan?

People are born, they grow, they work, they marry, they bring forth more human beings—and then they die. What for—to make the scene change—a sequence of the changing scene to complete the drama by and by?

Does man learn his lesson, will he make the grade; will he triumph? Why does he not give up hope? Knowing the futility of this life, how does he still continue to do his earthly duties?

God Willed it so. Our only salvation in the hour of gloom lies in putting our trust in God and praying that in His Infinite Mercy He gives patience and perseverance, hope and strength, to those left behind to carry on, and bear their irreparable loss with fortitude.