

## Thoughts from a confused man

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I have been thinking a lot since the sudden and unexpected death of my beloved daughter Njilefe. I have also asked a lot of questions and some of the answers I got raised more questions. I remember when the doctor who tried unsuccessfully to save her life in response to our confusion advised us to consider her untimely death as fate or destiny. He used the German word "Schicksal." What is destiny, predestination, fate? Was my daughter destined to die after about two and a half years on earth? Was my father destined to die at 63 years old? Was the lady in Zwickau destined to be killed in an accident? I keep pondering about these questions when I think about destiny as an explanation to the cause of death.

Although I am a young man, I have unfortunately witnessed the sudden death of three people, two of them my blood relations. My father and daughter. Prior to my father's death and despite my youthfulness at that time, it was crystal clear to me that I would lose somebody that is dear to me although none of my relatives was really sick at that time. I heard the dogs crying, I heard the cats crying, I day dreamt at school and even told my classmates about what later became a sad vision. All these signs although different in nature were confirmed with signs from my mom and sister. I remember they told me that they dreamt about working on the farm and harvesting crops among others. Such types of dreams are an indication of death in our culture. Our dreams and fears became real to the extent that we were just waiting for the unexpected to happen. We used to sit behind our house and talked about all these ill feelings.

My father was called to rest by the Lord and I reminded my friends of what I told them. They were all perplexed and dumbfounded how my worries were unfortunately confirmed. Did all these signs mean the inevitability of my father's death? Is there anything that could have prevented him from dying? This brings me to the next case. I dreamt that a woman died in front of me. That was in Zwickau. When I left my student apartment with a fellow Arab student and we were talking and walking around our hostel near the main road leading to the city, we saw how a car driven by a young girl hit an old woman who wanted to cross the road and before the helicopter could arrive after about twenty minutes, the woman died at the spot despite the quick arrival of medical officer. This sad dream seems to have proven me right again. I keep on asking my self these questions. Was this woman destined to be killed in an accident? Was

this young girl destined to be instrumental to her death? Why did my dream come to pass? I did not know this woman. I did not even know the girl who hit her but I dreamt about it.

My daughter was sick but I did not even want to think about the possibility that she might die because children are supposed to bury their parents and not the reverse. I tried to ignore all my dreams that were indicative of something bad. However, her mom dreamt that she died although the doctors assured us that she was responding to treatments and would recover. I also dreamt about the death of somebody the day she died. If these dreams were prophetic of her death, does that mean she was destined to die on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2010? Does that also mean that the efforts of her doctors were meaningless ab initio? Why should a two years old child destine to die?

Does destiny really influence our lives? Did God want my daughter, my father and the old woman to die the way they did? Or is destiny an answer to all issues that are difficult to explain or just vague consolation. Why did our dreams come true in these three cases? Was it just accidental? I still have a lot of unanswered questions.