

OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS on my airplane trip back to
New York from San Francisco. July 30, 1957.

How great, magnificent and mysterious this little planet of ours looks at a distance of 24,000 feet from the ground. You look out into the endless space, and you cannot help but reflect. How insignificant man's place is on this earth. He is nothing but a speck of dust. He thinks of himself as the Universe's master. But he is only one of its errand boys.

From here, looking down you see scenes and places of awe inspiring beauty. No artist that ever lived could have drawn or painted pictures with such beautiful patterns, colors and shades.

Looking down it seems that both nature and man have combined to bring out all the majestic beauty they both possess. Beauty that stirs the emotions and lifts man's spirit to the greatest heights.

To paraphrase the psalmists: "Those that ride up into the heights in airships...they have seen the deeds of God, and his wonders in the heights."

Here and there you scan a stretch of desert land. You can see plainly the stony mountains and big craters, the results of the earth's eruption while in an angry mood. The realiza-

tion comes to you, that Mother Nature is not always sweet and beautiful; but also harsh, cruel and furious.

There is much for us to learn from the balance and counter-balance in Nature. Darkness is balanced with light, evil with goodness.

We have choices, and the privilege to find our own way. Those are blessed who make the right choices.

In the endless distance you see the clouds and they appear like snowfields with snow piled up in mountains on top of mountains. You feel yourself alone with your God, you communicate with him. You pour your soul out to him, as though you would talk to your own human father.

Your lips murmur a prayer: Oh Lord, how helpless and insignificant I feel in thy glorious presence. Give me your blessing: and wisdom to understand your mysterious ways that I should not stumble in my approach to them. Bring me back to earth safe and whole that I may be with my loved ones again.

Help me to understand the purpose of my life and the reason for my existence.

Help me to accomplish while I am still alive, the things that make life worth while, the things that give it value and meaning, that bring full satisfaction, spiritual as well as physical, the things that I have meant to do but are still undone. I fell far of the mark of what I wanted to do, yet I am very grateful for the little that I have accomplished.