

## The Flies Know the Truth

*by Suzy Hopkins*

In Afghanistan the Taliban members wake up in the morning and say, "Death to Americans". But the fly on the wall knows they say, "We can never find their weapons. They keep coming back. Their drones are killing our leaders."

The tribal chiefs in Pakistan say, "Girls don't need to go to school." The fly on the wall hears, "These girls are too smart already. We need to keep them stupid to control them."

In India the leaders say, "Every family wants a son. Men are more important than women." The fly on the wall knows they say, "Women provide us with a dowry so we don't have to work and can drink and gamble away the money. You can always kill your wife and get a new dowry. However, there are too few women now that our elders killed the girl babies."

In Palestine girls are married off at eight or nine years old to older men. That is the only way to make sure they are virgins. The husbands say, "These girls want to be married." The fly on the wall knows, "These girls cry, are treated like slaves and often run away, back to their families."

Chinese families can only have one child. They say, "All families want a son." The fly on the wall hears, "Since we aborted the girl babies there are not enough Chinese women for these men to marry. No marriage. No heirs."

Japanese survivors of the Tsunami living in tiny temporary houses have been told someday they can move back into their nice houses in the affected zone. The fly on the wall knows, "They mean in 20 or 30 years. Most of the people will die before that."

Why are so many people in denial? Wouldn't life be better if the truth was acknowledged and valued?