

### LEARNING THE RULES TO LIVE IN HONGKONG

While residents of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) hear a great deal about the brain drain, with HKSAR residents, leaving for other climes, what is not recorded, in any great detail, are the numbers of former residents, who are returning to the 416 square miles that comprise the territory.

According to TARGET's information, returning residents now exceed those former residents that have left.

In TARGET's continuing efforts to keep subscribers informed of matters, relating to Asia, and especially, the HKSAR, our peripatetic reporter was able to record a conversation between a Chinese-Australian fresh graduate, recently returned to the HKSAR, and a full-time resident of the HKSAR, who opted to stay on after the Government of the PRC assumed sovereignty of the territory on July 1, 1997.

In order to protect our sources and in order to guarantee that there be no repercussions to the male, who lived in Melbourne, Australia, for the past 10 years, the names of the people have been changed.

We wish to put subscribers on notice that any similarity in this dialogue to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

**Alan Wong:** The food in Hongkong is, really, a great deal better than what you get in Australia, mate.

**Judy Ma:** Of course! This is Hongkong. We are Chinese, you know! Things may have changed when China took over Hongkong from the British Imperialist dogs, but we, Chinese, demand that our food be the best. And it is. Australia never had any food worthy of comment other than prison food.

**Alan Wong:** Yes, I agree. Tell me, have things changed very much in Hongkong? Politically, I mean.

**Judy Ma:** Please, don't talk about politics. It is an unimportant subject. We are part of China, the motherland, now. We follow China. We follow our mother. Mother does not permit us to talk about politics.

**Alan Wong:** I see. Then, I take it that Hongkong is no longer ruled by the Queen of England?

**Judy Ma:** Of course, not! It is ruled by the king of China. And our Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa -- a wonderful Confucianist, by the way -- loves us as his children. If we need to talk to him, he is always available through Personal Aide Andrew Lo Cheung On, who loves to screen matters on his behalf, even when Mr Tung Chee Hwa does not know about the matters. But we can't talk too much about this man because he gets pretty angry pretty quickly. A retired judge made naughty comments about him, recently, and, now, Personal Aide Andrew Lo is thinking of suing the former judge ... or somebody. After all, Personal Aide Andrew Lo is the Government. Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa finds him 101 percent trustworthy. He has worked for Mr Tung Chee Hwa since he left school. That was when Mr Tung Chee Hwa was a capitalist. Now, he is a Chinese Communist, you know, and Personal Aide Andrew Lo follows his job specifications, whole-heartedly.

**Alan Wong:** What are Personal Aide Andrew Lo's job specs?

**Judy Ma:** Only Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa knows that. Even Personal Aide Andrew Lo will not tell anybody. It is very secret. Whatever it is, however, he is working for us, in the best interests of the HKSAR and China, in reverse order, of course.

**Alan Wong:** Can you find me a flat? I want to settle down. I think somewhere near Aberdeen would be nice. Would you agree?

**Judy Ma:** Oh! Aberdeen! Well, yes, but you know, if you buy a flat in that area you must be careful what you say.

**Alan Wong:** Why?

**Judy Ma:** Because Hongkong today is ruled by big, big people who control all the things, here.

**Alan Wong:** What do you mean?

**Judy Ma:** Well, if the big men don't like you, you will not be able to open a bank account. They can stop you having a credit card in certain supermarkets; and, they can even stop you shopping in certain supermarkets. They just gray list you. They can cut your telephone line if you upset them, too ...

**Alan Wong:** ... But I can still use the mobile telephone so that it does not ...

**Judy Ma:** ... They control the mobile telephones, also.

**Alan Wong:** It sounds as though these big people control the territory ...

**Judy Ma:** I told you that we don't talk politics. The big people don't control the territory: They just don't run a telephone into your flat if you upset them. That's all. And, naturally, they help the Government of Tung Chee Hwa by telling the Government what they think about this and that. That is the way that Hongkong can improve. You have to be willing to admit your mistakes, openly. Confession is good for you; and, confession is good for the country.

**Alan Wong:** What about the Internet?

**Judy Ma:** The Internet: How can you have Internet in your home without a telephone line?

**Alan Wong:** Hongkong sounds like a plutocracy, to me.

**Judy Ma:** What's a plutocracy?

**Alan Wong:** A plutocracy is a government for the wealthy, by the wealthy.

**Judy Ma:** Yes. That is Hongkong. We are very democratic in that way: Anybody and everybody can come here to make money. After they make enough money, then they can help Hongkong to see things, moving towards their way. And then, Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa will consider putting them as members of his inner cabinet. To be a member of The Executive Council is to have arrived. It is the highest honour anybody can get, anywhere in the world. Our great leader even has some sons of big men on EXCO, and they are doing a wonderful job for him. Schools and hospitals are being built in China because of the love of the sons of big men for their motherland. That is what all the big, big men are doing, here. And that is the reason that Hongkong is so popular and successful.

**Alan Wong:** But I have been told that Hongkong is not successful!

**Judy Ma:** That is propaganda. Don't believe it. The democrats of Hongkong are orchestrating that type of propaganda, together with the Press. Horrible people. Stay far away from them -- otherwise,

you definitely won't have a telephone and could starve because nobody will want to sell food to you. For the stability and prosperity of Hongkong, we have to make sacrifices. You know, we don't want just anybody here. We want only loyal Chinese people. We don't want people to orchestrate the Press against the big people. The big people look after all of us. The Press likes to make us, Hongkongers, look bad, internationally. Damn them!

**Alan Wong:** So, if I want to run a business, I take it that I must be very careful?

**Judy Ma:** Of course! Unless you want to start a hi-tech company. That's a different thing. Then, you can get somebody to draft a prospectus for you, even before you open the doors of your company, and register your new company on The Stock Exchange of Hongkong and collect billions and billions of dollars. You can be set for life, even though you haven't earned a penny in your business. There was a start-up company, tom.com Ltd, which opened its doors, and the people of Hongkong were willing to put into this start-up company billions and billions and billions and billions of dollars. And, if you are a good person, you can arrange to have a good number for your company.

**Alan Wong:** What do you mean: A good number for your company?

**Judy Ma:** You don't want to have a stock market code of 4444, do you? Or even, I414? Then, nobody would buy your shares with such a number. The best number is Number one, followed by Number eight. So, if you can get a stock market code number with a one and an eight, but without a four in it, you are sure to make billions and billions and billions of dollars. But only certain people can get these numbers, you know. You are not big enough, yet.

**Alan Wong:** Then, that's what I shall do. I am an expert in computers and software things. I graduated this year. That means that I have years of experience in computers and writing software things and web-design.

**Judy Ma:** That's good! But you still have to be very careful. You need a partner. What about Richard Li?

**Alan Wong:** Who is he?

**Judy Ma:** Silly! He is the Number Two son of the richest man in the world: Mr Li Ka Shing. Mr Li Ka Shing is known as Li The Cash -- the superman of all supermen. Then, the son of superman, superman junior, must be good. We, Chinese, have a saying: *'The bough of the tree must have come from its trunk.'*

**Alan Wong:** What does that mean?

**Judy Ma:** It means that all wood is from a tree: If Mr Li The Cash is the tree and Mr Richard Li is the bough, then Mr Richard Li must be made of wood, too.

**Alan Wong:** But you said never to talk about politics.

**Judy Ma:** I am not talking about politics. I am talking about people and the people with whom you should speak. Also, certain people can affect your whole life as well as your livelihood in Hongkong. You know, you have to be very, very careful in Hongkong, these days. If you work with, or for, the wrong group of people, you will not be able to find a place to do business. People will stay far, far away from you. Newspapers have to be very careful what they say because, if they hurt a big, big man, or just say something that the big, big men do not like, then advertising will stop the next day. And, it is not just the big man's advertising that will dry up because he can make certain that other businesses and big, big men's businesses will stop giving you business, too.

**Alan Wong:** Wow! You make it look as though Hongkong could be a terrible place to live.

**Judy Ma:** No! You are wrong. It is a nice place, but we only want to have orthodox Chinese here. Just like the Orthodox Jews want Orthodox Jews, not newcomers to Jews, we want an elite society. Look at Singapore: Isn't it a nice clean place? Don't you want to live in a nice clean city with nice Chinese people? Where nobody's hurting anybody, and nobody's writing nasty things about the big, big people. Just like in Singapore: No Singapore Government Minister is ever criticised by the Singapore Press. If the Press, or anybody for that matter, makes a mistake, a libel writ is sure to follow. Also, the person or medium that made the horrible statements will lose his or its business, the next day. Nobody should harm our Chief Executive who, though he may look like a frog, speaks like an orthodox Chinese Communist and works for all of us. The only thing that I do not like about him is that he cuts his hair too short and he does not use the correct black dye. All of the Beijing Politburo members use Number 13 dye, made in Tianjin, China, at the Panda Tianjin Dye Factory (Number 13) Branch 17 Corporation. Personal Aide Andrew Lo should tell him that. I have been thinking of writing to Personal Aide Andrew Lo and telling him to do something about Tung Chee Hwa's hair colour. I am sure that Lady Chief Executive Betty Tung Chee Hwa does not like his hair colour. I would not allow his hair to be white if I were married to the Chief Executive.

**Alan Wong:** I have noticed that none of the leaders in Beijing seem to lose much hair and rarely lose the original colour of their hair.

**Judy Ma:** See! I told you! That's because they live in a proper way and live in a clean, orthodox place and the Press does not orchestrate things against them.

**Alan Wong:** You must be kidding!

**Judy Ma:** No! I am telling you the truth. Hongkong is better now than it ever was under the British: We have freedoms that the British never gave us. Today, no newspaper dares to attack our leaders. If a newspaper, radio commentator, television station, etc does something against us, then, we can destroy the offending medium, almost overnight. Why do you think so many gweilos have left Hongkong? They know. They know. Hongkong has been cleaned up. Even the Press knows how to discipline itself: The Press knows what to write and what not to write. All the media people know the rules. TV stations know which persons they should interview and whom they should not interview. We are cleaned up.

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