



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I read, recently, that about half of the population of the world does not love the President of the United States (US), Mr George W. Bush. Pity, isn't it? What could one expect from a 'father', whose position of power within a family unit requires him to guide the activities of the family members so that they perform certain acts, or do not do that which is proscribed by the paterfamilias. The father of the family is, always, the strong one, with the family members, doing the right thing – which is defined, according to the determinations of the paterfamilias, from time to time. Grandpa's duties are the same, you know: He, very often, has to administer 'medicine' to his family, medicine, which has a rather foul taste and unpleasant after-effects. I ask you, my dear grandchild, which baby enjoys taking medicine? So it is with poor President George W. Bush: He has to give medicine to the children of the world – and the children do not, always, like it. What to do? If the child does not take the medicine, it will never recover health. Take Hongkong, for instance. Now, Grandpa had to do something in order to try to assist the poor economy of the territory. In order to be effective, it meant that some people had to suffer a little discomfort. Is it not better that some people have to suffer so that the majority of the population may benefit from the sufferings of the few? Ask yourself: What is more important, the individual or the masses? It is a rhetorical question that requires no answer. It has always been in China that the State must be protected from the outrageous actions of people of the State. Let me put it to you in this manner: Should not a surgeon use his scalpel, bravely, making just one incision into the flesh in order to cut out the lesion? It is a pity, of course, that operations, of the political type or the medical variety, are found to be necessary, but, when it is determined that surgery is the only solution to a problem, then, one slice of the flesh is certainly preferable to multiple cuts. When the US 'liberated' Iraq, it was termed as being a 'surgical strike'. Even the term, decapitated, was employed when describing an attempt by a US missile to kill some of the leaders of the former Government of Iraq. But it had to be done. Even the killing of some thousand or so innocent Iraqi civilians had to be carried out so that, in the words of one general of the US Army, the future generations would not have to be killed. I hope that the innocent mothers and fathers and husbands and wives of those, who were killed so that others may live in years to come, understand and appreciate the philosophy of the US Government, and of the sacrifice that they must make for that government. Note, also, that decisions were even made for the innocent civilians of Iraq: The US Government decided what is best; and, who should live and who should die so that the children of the corn could survive. Of course, it is understandable that President George W. Bush may not be loved by all. But who is? Grandpa is not loved by all, too. We all have our enemies, but it is the balance of good and bad that counts when one goes before the Chief Judge in the sky.

When one reads the Bible, especially the New Testament, it is filled with Godly works. The Old Testament, known by scholars as the Pentateuch, explains, among other things, how Moses was punished by God for striking a boulder instead of touching it. That taught the old traveller a lesson that he would never forget: He was barred from entering The Land of Milk and Honey. So, as you can see, even God has to chastise his children when they do naughty things. Strangely, God has, historically, been attributed with the personality of a human being, whose acts are predicated by the actions that are expected of mortal man. There is an old expression that states that out

of nothing, nothing comes (Ex Nihilo Nihil). God is the lone exception to that rule, however, since he has always been, having never materialised out of something or nothing, according to the allegory of Sumerians (4,000 years before the birth of Christ). Today's thinking man is the product of Sumerian beliefs although we have changed Sumerian theosophy to suit modern times. We call it Christianity, Catholicism, Protestantism, etc. So, there you have it: Punishment is metered out by the mightiest of the mighty, from the time of the Sumerians to today. God is feared because he is mighty, just like President George W. Bush and Grandpa are feared because they are so powerful. It is so easy to dislike the hand that helps you, but it seems that it is so difficult for man to love the giver of foul-tasting medicine. But, is it not better for a person to suffer a little, so that that person and others who follow him may not suffer as much, and may enjoy the fruits of suffering in the fullness of time? In the words of that Chinese philosopher of the Sixth Century Before Christ: Bitterness precedes sweetness.

*Enough for today. I feel like an ice cream.
Love you,*

The Chief Lady of Hongkong

***While TARGET makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published,
TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.***

If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which they have read in TARGET, please feel free to e-mail your views to editor@targetnewspapers.com or targnews@hkstar.com. TARGET does not guarantee to publish readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.