



## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I went to Beijing with Grandpa, recently, and there I had afternoon tea with Mrs President Hu Jin Tao and Mrs Premier Wen Jia Bao. The principal subject for discussion was whether or not executives, who have risen to the highest level of government, should employ male or female assistants. In the democratic world, there is such a thing as sexual discrimination so that females have equal opportunities with males when applying for jobs. My position in this discussion is that if Hongkong is to move towards more democracy, women should have equal opportunities in the job market ... but only up to a certain level. It is well known, as well as being well accepted, that when a male doctor discusses the problems of a lady patient in his clinic or in a hospital, he should have female nurse present in order that there be no misunderstanding and in order that the male doctor only doctors – and nothing else. In an office environment, however, female staff, especially if they are pretty, may try to take advantage of their God-given attributes and try to obtain advantages that their male counterparts are unable to obtain, due to their sex (disregarding the third sex, of course). A man's ego can be a horrid thing and can, easily, be a weapon to be turned against him if a female is desirous of obtaining an advantage. The desire for power in a male is another horrid thing because, only too often, a male will try to exert his power in order to prove his manliness. So, in the case of a comely female, working for a man, who has attained a certain level of prominence within his chosen profession, she may well attempt to allow the man to prove his power over her by simply asking for a favour that only he, her boss, can grant. Take a situation whereby a woman, at a certain time of the month when she feels uncomfortable and out of sorts, approaches her male boss and requests a few days off for whatever reason she dreams up. The man, showing how powerful that he is, may accede to the request on the grounds: 'You see, I am Mr Powerful!' However, if a male employee came to see his male boss and asked for a few days off, it is more than likely that the boss would say 'No!' without a second thought. In Hongkong, today, my people must learn that this is 'One-Country, Two-Systems' and, that being the case, we must be aware of what is happening in other areas of the world. As time goes by, it is likely that Hongkong will import foreign ideas and try to integrate them into Hongkong society. Sexual discrimination and age discrimination will, in the fullness of time, pop up in our courts, to be sure. Race discrimination and sexual discrimination are, already, here. It is just a matter of time before the other discriminations will come to town, also. We must be on our guard! For that reason, I think that male bosses should not hire female assistants unless the females are very ugly and/or over the age of, say, fifty years. This has to be done, surreptitiously, otherwise the Equal Opportunities Commission will be on one's doorstep. I am not saying that bosses and political leaders should be banned from hiring females, but, for their own good, they should be restrained from hiring any female who may seem to be likely to try to take advantage of a male boss's natural attributes. In this regard, I suppose the same logic applies to a male boss, who is a heterosexual, considering hiring a homosexual. Homosexuals, because they are emotionally mixed up, most of the time, or they like to play the role of a female when the lights are out, may well look to a powerful-looking male in a position of authority in a similar way as a female heterosexual looks to her boss for favours. So male bosses should consider, carefully, before employing homosexuals, even if he is a closet-homosexual himself. At this point, my dear Grandchild, I must tell you that I have nothing against gays of any*

*colour, but I would caution you, if you are ever tempted to look lovingly on one of your own sex, in the words of William Shakespeare, such a relationship would well lead to 'Love's Labours Lost'.*

*In the Southwest of China, today, there is a new regulation, proscribing male political leaders from employing female secretaries because there is a great deal of concern that it could lead to corruption – if it has not led to corruption, already. When it comes to sex, as you will learn, it, often, is considered more important than money in the eyes of a male because it represents power. Corruption is like an evil snake which slithers up to you, unseen and unheard. If one lives in a forest, in order to avoid snakes, one should clear the land so that snakes may not have ground cover in order to sneak up on the unwary. So it is with life: If one does not permit temptation, one cannot be tempted. Grandpa never tempts me and I never tempt Grandpa: We know the territory, only too well. You know, of course, that China, today, does not have many of the laws that you find in Hongkong. This is because China does not want to be infected by the Hongkong social fungus. So, instead of having an Equal Opportunities Commission and/or other such laws, the Government of China simply proscribes male bosses from employing good-looking female secretaries. Luckily, in China, there are no homosexuals, anyway, so that this social evil does not have to be root out.*

*Well, that's about it for now.*

*I love you.*

*The Chief Lady of Hongkong*

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