



## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I was not invited to the birthday party of my dear old friend, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Paramount Leader of the Republic of Singapore, who is having a little trouble with his prostate gland, just now. (As I, always, maintained: If you don't use it, you lose it!) But I did not feel slighted at not receiving an invitation to Kuan Yew's Eightieth Birthday Party, knowing full well that it would not be politic for such an invitation to be sent to me, without first, having the Beijing quartet, accept the invitation. He is eighty years old, now, but he does not look a day older than seventy nine years – if you look at him from afar. He is, really, a wonderful man; and, I applaud him for the way that he looks after his family, too. His son, Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong, will soon be the Prime Minister of Singapore, following the resignation of Mr Goh Chok Tong, who has only been in power for the past thirteen years. Paramount Leader Lee Kuan Yew held onto power for thirty one years, you know, being elected every term by a huge majority. Mr Goh Chok Tong was, also, re-elected, re-elected and re-elected. Yes, Singapore is a true example of Lee Kuan Yewistic democracy. Which just goes to prove that democracy can take many forms in Asia. I talked to Grandpa about Paramount Leader Lee Kuan Yew only to receive a rebuke when he told me that there has only ever been one Paramount Leader of the world, and that was the late Paramount Leader of China, Mr Deng Xiao Ping. I don't understand the difference between one Paramount Leader and another, really, because in both cases, what is up is up, and what is down is down. Grandpa should take note of how things are run in Singapore and learn from Kuan Yew's example of democracy, don't you agree? Things are very quiet and peaceful there, I am reliably told. The people are always looking very happy; and, the streets are very clean, too. Restaurants, if they claim to have air-conditioning, must have an indicator that proves that the temperature of the air, inside the restaurant, is within the acceptable, Singapore-Government's established range. There are air-conditioning 'wardens' whose job it is to reconfirm, daily, that the restaurants are not cheating by lowering the temperature. Also, there are people, who check on the cleanliness of public toilets. Woe betide anybody, who does not pull the chain after defecating or urinating in a public toilet! Cleanliness is next to Godliness, you know. Another thing: Did you know that caning is still on the statute books of Singapore? I have not heard of anybody, dying from being caned, but I have heard that some people never recover after suffering the cane on their backs and buttocks more than twenty times. Also, I am told that one loses control of one's bowels when one is canned to the point of unconsciousness. For this reason, prisoners are given diapers, just before they are caned. I guess that stops there being a mess on the ground, during the flogging. Only somebody as brilliant as Paramount Leader Lee Kuan Yew would still keep this law on the statute books. It dates back many hundreds of years, Grandpa told me. Grandpa took a quick trip to Singapore in 1997 in order to get some tips on controlling Hongkong and its human population. Then, Paramount Leader Lee Kuan Yew visited Hongkong and endorsed Grandpa's elevation to the purple of office. It is well known that people, who live near the equator, do not have a high tolerance for pain so that the very idea of a good caning, say twenty strokes or so, is enough to keep them in check. I suggested that Grandpa should consider introducing caning to Hongkong. He said that it was a good idea, but that he would have to get permission from Beijing, first, because there is no death penalty in Hongkong ... yet. It seems that, as far as Grandpa is concerned, the re-introduction of the death penalty should be the first priority. I agree with him. After all, the threat of hanging, or shooting somebody is more of a deterrent than*

*simple caning. With a good caning, one may not be able to walk for a while, and one might have to limp for the rest of one's life, but hanging, as an alternative, has a much longer shelf life; and, it makes one remember for a much longer period of time. Life is so precious! This should be driven home, every day, by hanging the evil people, whomever they may be. There is a great deal of precedent to suggest that the rope is a good means of keeping order in a society: Look at Judge Roy Bean at the turn of the twentieth Century: Did he not bring order out of chaos?*

*Which brings me to the matter of sedition and treason in Hongkong. The implementation of Article 23 of The Basic Law of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China has been put on hold, as you, most likely, have read, but, there is more than one way to catch a cold, as the saying goes. What is happening, and I can now tell you of the plan of Grandpa, is that, when somebody is thought to have done something that is potentially seditious, as soon as that person travels to the Mainland, he or she is arrested on suspicion of publishing State Secrets or disseminating propaganda, aimed at bringing the leaders of China into disrepute. And that is the end to that. It takes a long time for a person to be brought to trial in the Mainland for offences, other than hanging ones. In fact, one could easily disappear after being incarcerated in a prison in Jilin, or somewhere else in the sticks. The next time that Mr Martin Lee or members of his clique go to the Mainland, you just watch what happens. He will get his comeuppance. Mr Martin Lee's wife may hold a Canadian passport, but that would not stop the Chinese police from arresting any foreign national if that person is thought to be considering, doing something against the country. Down with the revolutionaries! Paramount Leader Lee Kuan Yew does not suffer fools gladly, so for what reason should we?*

*Listen, I must go now, otherwise, I could get a caning from Grandpa. Wow! It sounds a little exciting, come to think of it.*

*Love you,*

*The Chief Lady of Hongkong*

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