



## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*The time has come to teach Hongkong people how to act when they visit China. As you are well aware, Hongkong people are among the rudest of all Chinese citizens, not because of that which they do, but because they do not do those things that they should be doing. Take for instance, the people of Lowu. Most of them are merchants, you know, and, as they shuffle from one commercial building to another, they are likely to spit a great deal onto the pavement and blow their noses into their sleeves or against a wall. Hongkong people have complained about these habits, but they should remember that the people of Guangdong have, only recently, been able to come into contact with the people of Hongkong. Because of this, Hongkong people should not complain about Lowu people and, in order to make them feel more comfortable, they should, if necessary, follow the example of the Lowuers: Spit copiously on pavements and blow their noses against buildings if the spirit moves them so to do. If Hongkong people were forced to work in those commercial complexes and live in the vicinity of that area, with everybody smoking all over the place, and with the air, filthy with fumes from motor scooters and what-have-you, then, they would, also, be spitting all over the place and having to blow their noses against walls. People's habits are a matter of necessity in the same way that I like to eat Shanghainese dumplings. Habit is merely an action, being programmed in the brain of another, just like a wife gets used to having a man around the house in order to clean toilets and dry the dishes. The trouble with men, of course, is that they smell when they sweat a lot – especially when they get fat, such as Grandpa is, today. I note that Swire Properties Ltd has recognised its duty to Chinese tourists, visiting Pacific Place. That is good work, Mr Swire! Now, the Chinese tourists are permitted to smoke in the complex, which, two years ago, was designated as being a non-smoking area. Well done! I assume that the air-conditioning system in Pacific Place will be upgraded to take into account the smoke from Panda cigarettes. As for the spitting, I was thinking that Swire Pacific might like to place spittoons at all of the entrances and at the base of all escalators. My thinking is that sputum, when it is fresh, can be a little slippery. Of course, when it is dry, then, there is no danger of it being slimy. But the thing is that Hongkong people should try to make Chinese tourists feel at home in shopping arcades, such as Pacific Place and Queensway Plaza. We can all do this by making use of the spittoons and taking an occasional puff on a cigarette (even if one does not smoke). After all, our prosperity, according to Grandpa, is, now, linked with that of the Motherland. As part of China, proper, we must realise that we must all live in harmony. While it is all hats off to the management staff at Pacific Place, at Queensway Plaza, it is another situation, again: One footbridge makes all the difference. I think that this is because the footbridge, separating Pacific Place from Queensway Plaza, is reminiscent of the Lowu Bridge. Also, Hang Lung Development's management staff, which attempts to police Queensway Plaza, is very different from the management staff at Pacific Place. It is time for these two management teams to adopt a Cross-Border Economic Partnership Agreement so that there are common rules and regulations for visitors from China to follow in the complexes.*

*I have read that Beijing Normal University is planning to have courses for Chinese people, who have the wherewithal to travel out of China. Professor Zhang Kai Tao, recently, commented on this matter, stating that 'the effective method to improve our (meaning Chinese people's) social customs should include family education,*

*school education, enterprise training and other kinds of education.' This is really a brilliant idea! Now, conversely, Hongkong people should consider taking similar action, in the home, in the school and 'other kinds of education.' We ought to start by realising that the customs and habits of Chinese people are not to be considered unsocial behaviour – because Chinese people, by and large, have no idea what is meant by the term, unsocial behaviour. When the spirit moves a man or woman from China, he or she has to do it. That is all there is to it. There is nothing unsocial about it. But Hongkong people should not complain about such actions. Understanding is important between all peoples of the world. That is the reason that I tolerate some of the so-called democrats of Hongkong. I am tolerant of these people, who might be considered much more unsocial than the innocent spitters and nose-blowers of Lowu.*

*Well, must go, now, because I am told that there is likely to be another demonstration of the democrats. These demonstrations seem to be a weekly occurrence, these days. This is fast becoming another Hongkong attraction for Chinese people, visiting Hongkong from Lowu.*

*Love you,*

*The Chief Lady of Hongkong*

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