



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

It has been brought to my attention that China has never been awarded a Nobel Prize. But China invented pizza, spaghetti, paper and gunpowder, just to mention three important contributions that the Motherland has given to the world! Spaghetti and pizza were stolen from China by Marco Polo and his brothers in the thirteenth Century. These Italian peripatetic wanderers, who may be considered to be the first of the mafia line to establish themselves in a foreign land, after gaining the confidence of Kublai Khan, the Mongol emperor, went to Iran, then to Turkey, and, then, back to Italy. And these Italian crooks took the credit for the culinary invention of pizza and spaghetti, both of which had been eaten in China since the dawn of creation when they were known as 'mien' and 'bok beng'. Never, never trust an Italian! All that they know is how to sing. I cannot say that China invented sex, mind you, but, certainly, we discovered a method by which to control this drive among the human population. And, I have been told, we are working on a method to teach certain other animals to control their urges when their sap is rising. To say that China has made profound and unique contributions to the world goes without saying, but for what reason has China never been awarded the coveted Nobel Prize? Which other country in the world has such beautiful calligraphy? China was the first country to invent three-dimensional drawing, also, you know. Go all the way back to the Yuan Dynasty, at the time of the great Kublai Khan, and you will see our accomplishments in art. I suppose Marco Polo and his mafia brothers stole that invention, also. Aside from the massive contribution that China has made to the world, a prize of about \$US900,000 – the usual amount of the Nobel Prize award – would be most welcome because we can use the money. It was really too much when I read that a South African had won a Nobel Prize for literature. What about Lu Hsun, Lao Tzu, Confucius, Mao Ze Dong ... and, even, Grandpa? It is not well known, yet, but Grandpa is writing his memoirs about his term as the High Muck-a-Muck of Hongkong. When it is published, it will be a great work of art. When I read that that Iranian lawyer, Ms Shirin Ebadi, had won a Nobel Prize, it made my blood boil. What about Hans Su Yin, I heard myself say? What about that great and gifted lady? What about that Crippled Tree? It is just not possible for China, the greatest country in the world, with a population of more than one billion people, that there are not people, who should not be considered eligible for the Nobel Prize of this and that. Yes, the Swedes have not been very kind to China in the past. Wait until they want some more shirts and, then, they will be in trouble. Denmark, back in the early 1970s, learned their lesson from China when the shirt factories at Jutland had to close down due to our exports of shirts to that icy country.

Another thing about the Nobel Prize, I have noted that England has had quite a number of them. Is it possible that England has been bribing somebody in the Nobel Selection Committee in Sweden? The British are known to be quite capable of bribing people, you know. That was how they got the nineteenth Century Emperor of China to sign The Treaty of Nanking in 1842. I suppose the British are in line to receive the Nobel Prize for introducing heroin to the world. The Opium Wars in China raged, on and off, between 1839 and 1860. If it had not been for that stupid old woman, Tz'u Hsi, the mother of T'ung Chih, who ruled through manipulation and intrigue, the British would never have been able to get a foothold on the Motherland. History, sometimes, can be cruel. Dowager Tz'u Hsi came to a rather sticky end, when, in 1911, up came the Father of Modern China, Sun Yat

Sen. And for what reason did that great leader of China not get the Nobel Prize? You may well ask. After all, what single leader of any country, at any time in the history of the world, has done as much as this great man? In the words of one of China's greatest brains: 'Never has so much been owed by so many to just one man.' Of course, I suppose you know that it was Chairman Sun Yat Sen, who formed the Kuo Min Tang Political Party in what was, then, known as The Republic of China, back in 1917, after ending the Manchu Dynasty in 1911. I have been told that, prior to calling China, the Great Republic of China, he had toyed with the name, the People's Republic of China. But it was for that other great Chinese leader, Chairman Mao Ze Dong, to coin this name, the People's Republic of China for our great country. And for what reason did not Chairman Mao Ze Dong get a Nobel Prize? According to Grandpa, just because some people do not speak Swedish, it should not exclude them from being receivers of prizes, be they Nobel, Pulitzer, or what-have-you. It took Mikhail Sholokhov twenty five years to receive the Nobel Prize for literature for his great work, written between 1928 and 1940, 'And Quiet Flows The Don'. And so, I suppose our great Chinese people will have to wait in line before the Swedish Nobel Committee goodies are distributed our way. I am thinking that I should make representation to the Swedish Government to do something about this matter. I am good at getting things, you know, just ask Cathay Pacific about Seat A-1 in First Class.

Well, I must go, time for dinner.

Love you,

The Chief Lady of Hongkong

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