



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

Everything happens for a reason: Nothing happens for nothing. I am not a scientist, you understand, but I am not completely ignorant when it comes to science and scientific things. In fact, my dear, I read China Daily and The People's Daily, daily, in order to keep up to date with the latest developments in the Motherland. I have been having strange feelings, recently, however, and I am convinced that these feelings have to do with the recent flare-up on the surface of the sun. You will recall that, in the first week of November, there was a solar flare-up of such intensity that it overloaded detectors on the satellites that were monitoring the activities on the sun's surface. There was, simply, no method to calculate the power that was unleashed by our sun. As a person of vast academic training, one who keeps up to date with the latest events in China, it stands to reason that the increased power of the sun must have affected the peoples on the surface of the earth, which is only about ninety three million miles away from the sun in any event. It is a well-known, astronomical fact that when the moon passes closest to the earth, tides rise. Therefore, when there is such a disturbance on the face of our sun, it is logical to assume that it has some affect on the surface of the earth – and its population, of course. I have been watching Grandpa since the November solar flare-up, and I have noticed that he continues to eat too much and that he continues to lose hair on his head. I have not investigated his Mound of Venus for any hair loss, but I assume that alopecia mons pubis will, in due course, materialise as a result of the energy, unleashed by the sun. It is a pity, really, that the sun's activity of November did not do something positive for Grandpa. Heaven only knows that he needs help! While jingoistic man continues to fight over some sand dunes, here and there on this earth, up in the sky, there is the sun, with natural activities, the power of which makes earth's little problems appear to be absolutely insignificance. Man's attention should be directed to the sky and the potential problems that could materialise unless we are, all, watchful and mindful. Here are some things about which you should consider:

1. **Question:** *What would happen if the sun were to come just one hundred miles closer to earth?*
1. **Answer:** *The entire population of the earth, human and others, tyrants and republicans, communists, anarchists, dictators and advocates of democracy, all would be burned to death, just like that. It would be a free funeral for all.*
2. **Question:** *What would happen if the sun were to come just ten miles closer to earth?*
2. **Answer:** *The temperature on the face of the earth would rise by more than forty degrees Celsius, causing man to be unable to think, logically, if at all. It would drive us, all, mad. The democrats of Hongkong would be unable fight with Grandpa over this and that, and the entire structure of the Hongkong Civil Service would have to be restructured, once more. There would be no requirement for meetings and no requirements for negotiations. Air-conditioners would melt from overwork. My mascara would run and my face powder would melt. I would look a mess in very short order and I would be unable to face my people (forgive the pun).*

3. **Question:** *What would happen if the sun were to come just five miles closer to the earth?*
3. **Answer:** *There would be immediate mood changes in the human population of the earth, and the incidences of violent crimes would increase. My police force would be overworked and I would be forced to give salary increases – which would hurt, tremendously. I suppose, also, the Hongkong cops would be more aggressive than usual in trying to be paid of overtime work. The cheek of it! The birth rate would rise and I would be forced to take a leaf out of the book of the late Paramount Leader of China, Mr Deng Xiao Ping, who disallowed married couples, having more than one child and penetration incidents of not more than three times per month.*

And these things are just the tip of the iceberg, if you do not mind me mixing metaphors. We, the inheritors of the world from our forefathers, should consider what to do in the event that the sun starts to move closer to our home, the Planet Earth. There is little time to wait: We cannot procrastinate: We must act, and act, now

For me, I am going to get a new ice-maker and deep-freezer in order to prepare for the worst; One cannot be too careful.

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.