



## The Betty Letters

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*It has come, at long last! You have got to love the Motherland after having read the latest Shanghai Government Directive. Now, I feel that my nieces and nephews will not be corrupted by Western influences when they travel to their Capital City. Look at the difference between Beijing and, say, New York. When I travel to New York, I note the vast numbers of male and female prostitutes, roaming the streets, and I read about young girls, being raped in Central Park. Not so in Beijing: There are no prostitutes, roaming the streets of my Capital City; and, rape is illegal in the Motherland, you know. In addition, I note that the people of Beijing are much better dressed, on average, than the people of New York. The latest Shanghai Government Directive has just been released; I have read it in its entirety. It is aimed at having television presenters set an example for the rest of the country. Female presenters will lose their jobs if they show too much of their titties. Even deep cleavage is now not permitted. It is illegal, also, to have too much flesh on view – I mean, other than the face, of course. No more miniskirts, off-the-shoulder blouses, and other revealing clothing. The logic is clear: The ladies, reporting the official Government's line, must look demure, at all times, and should remind the viewers that the person that they see on their television screens is a likeness of their mother, prior to her, getting married and raising her one child. The male presenters, too, will be required to toe the line. They are not permitted to have frizzy hairdos, dye their hair any other colour than official black and, of course, they must have acceptable, as well as very short haircuts, just like our great leaders, and, I might add, like Grandpa. The lesson from all this is that, if you want to be one with the family, then, be one of the family. At a formal reception in Hongkong, just the other week, a little, mousy solicitor asked me whether or not the Deputies of the National People's Congress dyed their hair black. I was about to get angry at the mouse, but I remembered my teacher at university: 'Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.' I answered that, as far as I knew, the dying of one's hair in China is a bourgeoisie trick, one that is frowned upon. I reminded the mousy lawyer of the words of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, our great political teacher, whose deep knowledge of political science has been an inspiration to every leader and follower of the Motherland since 1949:*

*'Despair is typical of those who do not understand the causes of evil, see no way out, and are incapable of struggle. The modern industrial proletariat does not belong to the category of such classes.'*

*With that, the mousy Hongkong lawyer retired. I felt so good at having put him in his place. He did not know what to say after I had finished with him. Getting back to the latest Shanghai Government Directive, it comes, directly, from The Shanghai Administration of Culture, Radio, Film and Television, but the points, contained within the Directive, were drafted in Beijing, of course. I am hoping that the television presenters of Hongkong will follow the lead of the Motherland. For some of the American news programmes, I note that presenters have, already, tidied up their acts so that almost nothing lascivious is shown by the ladies, many of whom are quite fat, in any event. Who wants to look at rolls of fat on a Filipina weather woman? Hongkong television, however, has yet to understand how presenters should look. I am going to make it one of my resolutions for this year because,*

*at some time in the future, I expect to be commanded by Beijing to be a Deputy at the National People's Congress. After all, there has to be continuity after Grandpa retires from office.*

*Well, I must go now, but I shall talk to you next week.  
Love you, all.*

*The Chief Lady of Hongkong*

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