



## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*It must be gratifying for the intelligent and far-sighted Jews of the State of Israel to understand that the time has come to bury the old and rusty hatchet and to assist Muslims of other countries when the need arises. While most Israeli hardliners claim that the only good Muslim and/or Arab is a dead one, the Government of Israel is setting a wonderful example to its population by offering assistance to Muslim Pakistan in its hour of need, following the earthquake which hit the country on October 8, an earthquake which, thus far, has claimed the lives of not less than thirty eight thousand Muslim people of the country, with another sixty two thousand people, having been badly injured. More than an estimated three million Pakistani people are, today, without shelter of any kind, according to the Government of Pakistan. Last Saturday-week, it was officially announced that Pakistan will accept aid from Israel if it is offered. It is the first time in the past sixty years that the Jewish State has made any kind of definitive diplomatic overtures to the Islamic country of Pakistan. On September 1, 2005, Mr Silvan Shalom ('Shalom', in Hebrew and Arabic, means 'Peace by with you!' by the way), the Israeli Government's Foreign Minister, had a meeting in Turkey with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri. (Turkey, for many decades, has been the country of choice whereby Jewish traders and representatives of armament factories in Israel have been able to transact business with Arab traders and officials of Muslim countries, surreptitiously, without the prying eyes of the world, taking careful note of their duplicity) And so the frigid diplomatic waters of the past sixty years have started to thaw. Of course, not every Jew, openly, will agree to offer financial, or other assistance, to the Muslim and, conversely, not every Muslim, openly, will agree to accept aid from the Jew. Nevertheless, it is a beginning and, in the words of that great Chinese philosopher, Mencius (孟子) (371 – 288 B.C.): 'When the people have more grain, more fish and turtles than they can eat, and more timber than they can use, then in the support of their parents when alive and in the mourning of them when they are dead, they will be able to have no regrets over anything left undone. This is the first step along the Kingly way.' Having cracked this nut, do you think that Israel will, sooner or later, offer financial assistance to the Palestinians? For fundamentalist Jews, the only good Palestinian is a dead one, also, you know. But, it is held by the Palestinians that their plight is the direct result of the founding of the Jewish State in 1948. I do not want to engage in a dialogue as to the rights and wrongs of the founding of the State of Israel and how the Jews of 1948 were said to have displaced about one million, mainly nomadic Arabs, from what is, today, the State of Israel, but it is fact that the Palestinians of today are the descendants of those former inhabitants of the country, which, today, bears the name, Israel. These unfortunates had to camp in tents on the borders of Israel after the founding of the Jewish State, which had, and still has, the blessings of the United Nations. The Jews of today, numbering about fifteen million, worldwide, had a very difficult time of it between 1936 and 1945, with the massacring of more than six million of their number by Germans and their allies. The Jews have always had a difficult time of it, according to annals of history, and have been hated by the English, the French, the Germans, the Italians, etc, etc, etc. It is time, however, to move forward, in my opinion, and to forget and forgive the sins of our past. For the United Kingdom, it will be difficult for those chinless people to accept the Jews into their closed society because, even today, there is discrimination against the Jews in this mainly Christian country. Canada and France enjoy a similar situation, as does the United Kingdom. Whereas, the State of Israel is trying to repair the broken bridges of the past, it is noted that the governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, France, etc, appear to be doing little to nothing to integrate and foster amity of their ethnic groups with resident Jews. Because of the centuries of hatred and bickering between the Jews and other religions, today, many Jews have leaned all the way to the left and have become intolerant of other religions (although they rarely admit this, openly). Many of these fundamentalist Jews make an outward show of being different from other Jews and, indirectly, ferment the*

*hatred of the past into a passion for hatred in today's world. To give you one example, I was invited to a dinner, a little time ago, when a rabbi of a fundamentalist Jewish sect asked for donations from his congregation for those members of the Israeli Defense Force (the army of Israel), who had been permanently incapacitated during their tenure of duty in the army. The rabbi explained that these brave soldiers were fighting for all Jews of the world, not just the Jews of Israel, and that the Arabs, that is all of the Arabs of the world, were trying to finish off the job, started by Adolf Hitler by trying to annihilate all of the Jews left in the world and to disassemble the State of Israel. According to this rabbi, it was the duty of all Jews to join in the struggle and to fight for the State of Israel. As I sat there, listening to this learned man's dribble, I thought to myself: 'I wonder whether or not the Imam in mosques, throughout the world, were saying similar things in reverse against the Jews of the world?' You see, My Dear Grandchild, there is little difference between one fundamentalist group and another: Hatred is the same colour, no matter where one views it. Talk to you next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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