

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I have noted that, in large corporate enterprises, generally speaking, the higher up the hierarchical ladder a person moves, the more conciliatory and humble that person tends to become. Conversely, the employees at the lower rungs of the ladder, on average, tend to become more and more pretentious, leaning toward arrogance, and, then, to superficial haute as they view their superiors, up the clouds. The situation in respect of governments of most countries of the world, however, is very different to the situation with employees of large corporations because the more powerful a nation becomes – or perceives itself to be – the more bellicose the country's government tends to become. Take the United States of America, as an example, while I, personally, feel that this democratic country is the hope for the entire planet, at the same time, I cannot condone all of its activities on the world stage. The present Iranian situation, which is fast approaching crisis proportions, is just one example of the innate propensity to bellicosity of the present Government of the United States because, while it does appear to be true that the Iranian Government is uttering falsehoods and is working toward the production of weapons of mass destruction – atomic reactors, leading to nuclear warheads, fitted to Iranian-produced, intercontinental ballistic missiles – at the same time, the United States and its allies do not appear to be making very much effort to come to terms with the Iranian Government and to seek a diplomatic solution to the obvious political impasse. France, just last week, attacked Iran, calling its government, in so many words, a bunch of bloody liars. France, no doubt, was correct, but can such stentorian outbursts be meliorative? Also, last week, Secretary of State for the Government of the United States, Ms Condoleezza Rice, asked Congress for seventy five million American dollars in order to fund radio and television programmes, aimed at launching a propaganda campaign at the Iranian people. I can imagine the message of Voice Of America: 'Get with the programme, Iranians! Demand to be free as is the United States of America!' This, in political science, is termed hegemony – one state, attempting to influence another state(s). To the thinking of the United States of America, it is impossible for anybody not to love democracy. It follows, I suppose, that it is impossible not to love the Christian ethic. I, personally, cannot understand how people would not want to embrace democracy, but, in certain countries of the world, it is fair to state that their peoples enjoy other forms of government. While the Constitution of the People's Republic of China is, in essence, very democratic, in practice, it is far from being democratic: It is, in fact, completely autocratic. However, the Government of the People's Republic of China has, since 1949, proved to be extremely successful, with the country, today, having reached a new record in terms of wealth: Never, in the entire history of the world, has the People's Republic of China been as strong, financially, as it is today. Its peoples have more money in their pockets than ever before; and, extreme poverty in the People's Republic of China has all but been wiped out, although, no doubt, there is still some poverty in the country. But some poverty exists in all countries of the world – even in the United States of America and France. Today, the People's Republic of China is the world's fastest-growing, developing country and its exports to the United States are saving the consumers of the largest developed country of the world about six billion American dollars per year. The United States is the largest single market for Chinese-made goods and, for the United States, China is the fourth-largest consumer of goods*

*and services, produced in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave. Since 2001, American exports to the People's Republic of China have grown about five times greater than American exports to any other country. More bilateral trade brings more jobs to both the exporting country and the importing country: Both countries benefit. For the average American, living in the hills of Arkansas or in the largest metropolises of this country, he buys his toothbrush, made in the People's Republic of China, along with the shirt that he puts on his back, along with the alarm clock that wakes him in the morning, to the sheets on his bed, to the running shoes that he uses at his sport, to the condom that he fits over his penis in order to prevent unwanted pregnancies or to stop the spread of venereal diseases. The profits, derived from Chinese exports to the United States, are partially ploughed right back into the United States as the People's Republic of China purchases such things as aeroplanes, US Government bonds, and stocks and shares. According to the official statistics of the United States, the People's Republic of China, in the past decade, has spent not less than forty billion American dollars in purchasing five hundred and thirty four civilian aeroplanes, all made in the United States, and, in 2005, alone, the People's Republic of China spent eleven billion American dollars in purchasing another one hundred and thirty Boeing aircraft. And, yet, the human population of the People's Republic of China does not enjoy all of the freedoms that are enjoyed by the human population of the United States. I do not know any Iranians, personally, but there are quite a number of them who appear to enjoy, being part of a fundamentalistic, Islamic Regime, which believes in following, to the letter, the suras of the Q'ran. There is a Chinese proverb, which, roughly translated, states that, of the ten fingers on a person's two hands, each finger is of a slightly different length.*

*Talk to you next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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