



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I wonder whether or not you could help me: How do I obtain patriotic education? It seems that, according to Guardian Wang Zhe Min () – he is a ‘guardian’ of The Basic Law of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China as well as being the Deputy Dean of Tsinghua University, School of Law – Hongkong is not prepared for Universal Suffrage because the population of the territory is not sufficiently mature, politically speaking. According to Guardian Wang, Hongkong people cannot enjoy Universal Suffrage until the Motherland can be assured that only patriots shall be selected from the population as the Chief Executive. I wonder what tests can be employed in order that a prospective candidate for the post of Chief Executive may be considered a patriot in good standing, obviously in the eyes of the high, muck-a-mucks at the Chinese Communist Party. This is not going to be easy, it seems to me, because tests must be introduced in order that the patriotism of a candidate meets a certain criterion, acceptable to Beijing. Perhaps, as in the United States where the Senate grills prospective candidates for ambassadorships and replacement jurists to the Supreme Court, delegates of the National People’s Congress will be afforded the opportunity to grill prospective candidates for the post of Chief Executive of Hongkong, prior to the candidate, throwing his hat into the ring ... to be elected by the delegates of the National People’s Congress. During World War II, in order to prove that a person was a member of ‘die untermenschen’ (a sub-human, in other words, a Jew), a German soldier merely took down the man’s trousers in order to view his penis so that a determination could be made as to whether or not the man’s foreskin had been removed. But, in the case of trying to determine whether or not a candidate for the post of the Chief Executive of Hongkong is a patriot in the eyes of Beijing, it would seem that there is no clear method of making such a determination because one man’s penis, circumcised or not, looks very much the same as another man’s – especially when it is erect, of course. I know that you will laugh at me, initially, but think it through a little bit, first. Guardian Wang has advocated that there should be introduced some type of civic education in order to teach the people of Hongkong about Chinese patriotism. How does one teach patriotism, I have asked myself. Respect has to be earned, it seems obvious to me. It is not something that just happens as in the case of a young girl, who falls in love with a handsome young man and her juices start to flow. Pubescent love is chemically induced and it is not necessary for either the young girl or the young man to have to earn the affection of the opposite sex: Nature takes over where the brain stops. In the case of Chinese patriotism, to be taught, presumably at Hongkong schools in accordance with the suggestion of Guardian Wang, is one supposed to engage in blind patriotism – ‘right or wrong, Beijing, Guardian and country!’ – or is one to be permitted to reason whether or not a concept, promulgated by Beijing, is correct? Guardian Wang has stated that, because Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen’s political proposals of last year were roundly defeated in the Legislative Council, it proves that there is a lack of consensus in Hongkong in respect of the definition of democracy. Wow! That is quite a leap! I suppose that is the reason that Guardian Wang is a Guardian: He has the ability to make giant mental leaps, unlike us, the simple fat-heads who can only stumble along at a snail’s pace. So, I take it, going along with the thinking of Guardian Wang, that because a proposal is defeated in the Legislative Council,

especially one promulgated by the Chief Executive, such a defeat is indicative of the immaturity among the people of Hongkong, especially those who were elected to represent the people of the territory. It is all very confusing to me because I, always, thought that democracy was a government of the people, for the people, and by the people. I guess I was wrong throughout my entire life. I am grateful to Guardian Wang for putting me on the straight and narrow, along the road to the summum bonum of Chinese patriotism. Actually, I am looking forward to my transformation. I hope that I shall still be pretty when I am a devout patriot of the Motherland: Some people get to be so ugly when they become fundamentalists, you know.

Talk to you next week.

Chief Lady

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