



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

It looks to me as though the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen, is facing one of the most-difficult situations of his short political career since he was put in charge of Hongkong by his masters in Beijing. The question, today, is not whether he attended the May 17, 1989, Pro-Democracy Concert at Happy Valley, but whether he lied about his attendance at that event. Look, as far as I am concerned, everybody makes mistakes when they are young and, back in 1989, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen was just a Director of Administration under the British Government's Raj of, what was, at that time, British Colonial Hongkong. He could not have been more than forty five years old at the time that he, allegedly, attended the Pro-Democracy Concert. So, even if he and his son did attend the Concert, so what! The Concert was free, you know, and so one could see and listen to some of the most-famous singers and entertainers of the day. One was not obliged to donate money to the cause of assisting the pro-democracy students of China unless one felt the urge so to do. I am led to believe that, in fact, the Concert was top-drawer. Youth, as you well know, is wasted on the young, in any event. But, if Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen lied about his attendance at that historic event and has uttered falsehoods, being afraid, or ashamed, of his attendance, that is very naughty of him. But I, for one, could forgive him since I know how difficult it can be for a person to admit the mistakes of one's youth. However, for what reason would he do such a thing as denying the silly little attendance of a Concert? He is a practising Catholic, you know, going to Church, daily, in order to wash away his sins. As such, zealots of this religion are not supposed to lie, inside and/or outside the Confessional. Everybody may be forgiven for making a mistake, and, when it comes to the young, one has to be especially forgiving. However, for the Beijing-appointed leader of some seven million-plus residents of Hongkong – our role model, so to speak – to utter falsehoods, in an emblazonry fashion, it is, almost, a crime that may not be forgiven. Of course, politicians do tell lies because, as the Americans would say, it goes with the territory. Even President George W. Bush of the United States of America has been known to fib on occasions; and, he is said to be a devout Christian, who goes to Church every Sunday.

I have made mistakes in my youth, too, you know, and the hardest thing that I had to tell my husband, just prior to getting married, was that I had not, always, been a 'good' girl. I am talking about a 'very good girl', you understand. In youth, when the sap is rising fast, we, all, perform acts that we regret in our years of maturity when there is leisure time to reflect on past mistakes. Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen, for all of his prayers, his symbolic drinking of the blood of Jesus and his symbolic eating of the flesh of Jesus, following confession, is still a long way from being close to walking in the shadow of that Great Man. Jesus would have forgiven him for attending that Pro-Democracy Concert in 1989, of that I am certain, but would Jesus, or his Father, the God of us, all, have forgiven him for fibbing about his mistakes as a young man? I doubt it. Look what happened to Moses when he struck that boulder with his staff instead of just touching it: He was banned from entering The Land of Milk and Honey, forever, according to the Holy Word of the Bible. Yes, God and his son, Jesus, are hard taskmasters and do not suffer fools gladly. I suppose, somewhere in the archives of Hongkong, there is a photograph of the forty five year old Donald

Tsang Yam Kuen, listening to the Pro-Democracy Concert of May 17, 1989. I wonder whether or not he enjoyed it and, also, whether Beijing would consider such a photograph as being a State Secret and, as such, forbid its republication. Will Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen repress such a photograph if it exists? But, if some enterprising agency does find and reproduce that photograph, what will Beijing think, then? Would that be the end to the political career of our Chief Executive? When President Bill Clinton of the United States dipped his willie into the wendy of Monica Lewinsky and, then, denied it under oath, even though the preponderance of evidence made it only too clear that he had taken advantage of his singular position as the most-powerful man on earth and, then, committed perjury to boot, he was nearly impeached. Even today, he is banned from practising law in the United States, having been struck from the rolls of advocates in his home State of Arkansas. But Mr Bill Clinton still commands hundreds of thousands of American dollars when he gives a speech. There is no way to impeach a Chief Executive of Hongkong, after his appointment by Beijing, I realise that, but good government means that the citizens of the territory respect the Chief Executive; and, it would be difficult to respect, even a practising Catholic who attends Church, daily, if it is proved that, like President Bill Clinton, he had uttered falsehoods after it was discovered that he committed indiscretions, during a period of his youthful exuberance.

If, on the other hand, he is innocent, and the people, who claim that they saw him at that Pro-Democracy Concert of 1989, have been the ones who uttered falsehoods, one has to wonder as to the reason that these people lied so boldly. In closing this letter, My Dear Grandchild, I must tell you that I do not hold with people, telling me lies, no matter what religion they profess to follow. Uttering falsehood six days per week and, then, confessing one's sins on Sunday, does not wash with me. My religious belief is simple:

Tell the truth and shame the devil!

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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