

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

It is a truism, you know, that when the testosterone in a healthy male rises and he is full of himself, there is no stopping him. Up it goes and where he stops, nobody knows, as the Chinese proverb states. Which brings me to the point of this letter: Whatever happened to Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai, the Number Two Son of Mr Li Ka Shing, the reputedly tenth richest man in the world, today? In a reported interview with Mr Li Ka Shing, recently, The Great Man said, among other things, that he did not want to comment on any matter, relating to the affairs of PCCW Ltd, a company in which his partially-educated son, Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai, was said to have been trying to manage for some years, because none of Mr Li Ka Shing's companies would participate. What The Great Man meant by the above statement was that he would not answer any questions, relating to the fact that Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai had sold most of his entire equity interest in PCCW. The Great Man, then, went on to state that Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai was 40 years old and that, if he had been married, the son of Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai would have been 14 years old, today. And, then, came the kicker: The Great Man said that he could not control or manage his Number Two Son, these days. Now, one has to wonder, exactly, what he meant by the last statement. Was he explaining to the world that Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai does not listen to his wise counsel, any more? Or was there something else, lurking in the background of his, perhaps, faux pas? For what reason would The Great Man state that, had Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai been married, his son – not his daughter or just an offspring, mind you – would have been 14 years old, today? Why not 10 years? Why not 16 years? Being a mother, I love a little tittle-tattle, you understand, so I started to put my brain to work, for a change, on the matter of the choice of 14 years and the fact that The Great Man had specified, only, a male, not a female child of his beloved son. This is the way that I look at it. Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai returned to Hongkong at the beginning of the 1990s and, in about 1991, he borrowed nearly \$HK2 billion from The Great Man in order to acquire StarTV. Later, in 1995, he sold his interest in StarTV to Mr Rupert Murdoch for about \$HK7.41 billion. Although there has been some talk of certain romantic interludes, from time to time, he has never had, what I would call, a permanent girlfriend for any extended period of time. If I am mistaken, then his romances, in Hongkong and in Canada, have been a very closely guarded secret. He is a very lucky man, I would say. The one, much publicised exception, was his infatuation with a Ms Karen Lam who, in 2000, was a post-graduate student at the age of 28 years. Before Ms Karen Lam, Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai had another girlfriend, as I recall, a Japanese lady, a news presenter, if I am not mistaken, who used to work out of Singapore. That was at the time, not long after he returned to Hongkong. Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai spent a considerable length of time in Toronto, Canada, you know, and, I am told by my friends that he (or The Great Man) made a sizeable cash donation to a certain, well-known Toronto hospital. That hospital is said to have been Mount Sinai Hospital on University Avenue, not very far from the heart of the Central Business District of Toronto. Now, I happen to know that neither Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai nor The Great Man is of the Jewish persuasion, so for what reason would either one of them determine to make a material donation of money to a hospital with a Jewish-sounding name? There are very few ethnic Chinese, going to this hospital for treatment, today, probably because the vast majority of the resident Chinese population of Toronto lives about one hour from the Central Business District of Toronto. Not that there is anything wrong with doing charitable deeds because, when you reach the standing of The Great Man, what does a few tens of millions of Canadian dollars mean?

I assume that you recall that Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai never finished his formal education at California's prestigious Stanford University, being a drop-out. He quit his studies at this university, for one reason or

another, and he got a job in the securities industry in North America. He is still remembered in Canada, I am led to believe by some of my Canadian friends. Oh! By the way, Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai is a Canadian citizen. Or didn't I tell this to you in the past? Anyway, I am certain that the Governors of Mt Sinai Hospital would love to have him return because, I am told, he is still remembered by the high and mighty of this hospital. Who knows where a return of Mr Richard Li Tzar Kai might lead, as far as the fundraisers of this hospital are concerned: More cash donations?

Talk to you next week.

Chief Lady

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