

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

The main problem with man, in my opinion, is his innate propensity to kill. He loves to kill. Left to his own devices, he would wage constant war. Man loves to hunt for the sheer pleasure of killing other animals, in order, inter alia, to hang up their severed, dead heads on walls of his sitting room so that, in years to come, he can boast of his prowess with a rifle, knife, etc. Man is the only living creature on this earth that kills for pleasure. Other animals know nothing of hatred because, for them, they kill only to eat their prey. And so I ask you, My Dear Grandchild: How far has man progressed along the evolutionary path, during the past 7,000 years? Not very far, I suggest. I am sure that everything that I have said, so far, you already know, but have you assimilated the above with the situation as it exists, today, among Asia, the Middle East, and the Western world as we know it? Since time immemorial, man has waged war on his fellow man for the sake of domination of another race, for increasing his wealth, for lust, for conversion of the non-believer to a certain religious order, or simply for the sake of the enlargement of a territory. Today, World War III is closer than it has been since the end of World War II in 1945, that is 62 years. The next world war is likely to be between Christendom and Islam. Nobody will win this war. Further, World War III is likely to be fought, not on a battlefield(s), but on the home turf of Christendom. The President of the United States of America, Mr George W. Bush, has stated, not once, but on a number of occasions, that Iran will not be permitted to have the capacity to produce weapons of mass destruction, specifically, nuclear weaponry. The Vice President of the United States of America, Mr Dick Cheney, has parroted, in essence, the pronouncements of President George W. Bush. The reasoning of the United States of America is that, regardless of the statements of the Government of Iran – that it only wants nuclear capability in order to produce electricity – once Iran has the ability to create nuclear weaponry, it shall produce it. It follows that, once Iran has produced nuclear weaponry, it will threaten any and all of its enemies with these weapons of mass destruction. It is written in the Old Testament that a man should never look at the house of a loose woman because, if he does, he would be tempted to look at the door of this house, then, on closer inspection, he is likely to knock on that door ... and, then, he is lost. Translating this it means that when (not if) Iran gets its nuclear weaponry, it will threaten its perceived enemies and, then, if it is not satisfied with the result of the threats, it may well use its new weapons of mass destruction. Reprisals will follow and many tens of millions of people will die in the process. There appears to be little difference between the sabre-rattling of Iran and the raised fist of the United States of America. The United States of America, of course, has the largest and best-equipped fighting force in the world. But, in a war between Christendom and Islam, there are unlikely to be any winners. There shall be only dead bodies. Last Friday, in Tehran, the Capital City of Iran, there was a colourful inspection exercise in honour of Ayatollah Ali Khomeini. It was broadcast on Iranian television and showed precision drill teams, massing into an American flag with a swastika and the Star of David. Each member of the drill team ‘stabbed’ the flag, using the legendary scimitar of the Islamic leader, Ayatollah Ali Khomeini. And each member of the precision drill team chanted: ‘Khomeini, we are your soldiers! Khomeini, at your command!’ Defiant is the Government of Iran over the determination of the United States of America to prevent this Islamic, fundamentalist country to have the ability to manufacture, and use, weapons of mass destruction.

The Secretary of State of the United States of America, Dr Condoleezza Rice, went on record on Thursday, October 11, stating that Iran has been lying about its intentions with regard to producing nuclear technology. She said, from Shannon, Ireland, that Iran was lying about the aim of its nuclear programme and that there was no question about the country’s intentions. One wonders whether or not this very intelligent and erudite lady had been fed this rhetoric or has the ability to be psychic. Regardless, the stage

is set, today, that unless one side or the other concedes some ground, the probability exists that World War III will break out, in one form or another, between the allies of the United States of America and the allies of the Islamic (fundamentalistic) Government of Iran. It will matter little who is right and who is wrong because the United States of America and its allies will state that it only wants to prevent a nuclear holocaust while Iran and its allies will claim that the infidels are attacking Islam. What man shall do to man will enter the history books as yet another blot in the book of man, proving that, indeed, man is far from being civilised.

To be civilised is to live in harmony with one's fellows. To be civilised is for man to come out of the state of barbarism; to bring to conformity with the standards of behaviour and the tastes of a highly developed society; to be enlightened; to be refined and to be educated; and, to educate. The mandate of the United Nations was, always, envisaged to prevent nations from waging war on one another. The United Nations' charter states, inter alia, that this international organisation has been established to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to achieve international cooperation in solving economic, social, cultural, and/or humanitarian problems; to encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms. Members are pledged to fulfil the obligations they have assumed, to settle international disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force. Sadly, many of the members of the United Nations have been unable to live up to the high standards, enshrined in the mandate of this organisation.

What a pity it is that power of the pen is unable to better the power of the bullet! I do not take one side or another in the present situation between the United States of America and Iran because, actually, it matters little as to who is right and who is wrong. What does matter is that both sides sit down in order to come to an agreement as to how to share this planet called earth without the requirement to try to kill each other, using the most-efficient weapons of destruction ever devised by man. President George W. Bush may not enjoy the company of Ayatollah Ali Khomeini, and Western religious scholars may well baulk at the interpretations of various suras of the Q'ran, but what a boring world it would be if everybody thought alike. What the West and Christendom have to do is to learn to live with the Middle East and Islam and its leaders because the alternative is unthinkable.

I go to a gymnasium every morning, My Dear Grandchild, and there I engage in an exercise regime that lasts about 2 hours. When I shower, some of the ladies with whom I share the changing room of this health club are not very clean and many of them are not courteous, at all. But I work around them, without the suggestion of an altercation of any kind. I learn to share the facilities with these strangers without resorting to unpleasanties due to the bad manners or a lack of consideration of others. So it must be with man if he is not to be replaced on this earth by cockroaches.

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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