



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

While the mad people of the Legislative Council continue to claim to be fighting for Universal Suffrage for Hongkong, it seems that the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen (), is becoming more and more like a little dictator, or, at least, acting more and more dictatorially in his approach to governing these 416 square miles with its 7 million-plus human population. He, also, appears to be trotting after Beijing bigwigs, at every available opportunity, writing down the utterances of these Great Men of China. It is as though these bigwigs have an in with The Father and/or Jesus Christ, His Son, and, if the Chief Executive does not write down their utterances in his notebook, the statements of these great people may be lost forever. Further, if he does not write down the utterances, immediately, he may forget what they have told him to do and, then, the poor man could be lost for eternity and may never ascend to that great political firmament in Beijing. I was thinking that, eventually, with all of these notations of the Great Men of China, transcribed carefully in his notebook, the Chief Executive could consider, penning his own encyclical. Instead of a papal letter, sent to the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, the Chief Executive could send out his encyclical to all of his hymenopteran in the employ of the Hongkong Government. I thought that I would fly this idea with Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, and so I asked him: 'Bo-Bo, do you think that the Chief Executive is recording all of the statements of his Beijing superiors in order to pass on messages to Hongkong Government employees, similar to the way in which the Pope pens encyclicals in order to make certain that his commands are followed?' Bo-Bo responded by asking me: 'What's an encyclical? I'm hungry!' After I explained that the Chief Executive is a practicing Catholic and is accustomed to taking orders from the head of the Church, Bo-Bo said that the training of the Church puts the Chief Executive in good stead because followers are rarely thinkers. He said: 'It's just like policemen on the beat, you know: They, naturally, can only think while walking the beat. It is their training, you know. They are not in the habit of thinking, while seated. In the case of the Chief Executive, he is in the habit of taking orders from his superiors, who either live in The Vatican or in Beijing. He is not in the habit of thinking while seated, except when praying, of course, and, therefore, he has a little difficulty, at times. Hence, he writes down things so that he (a) will not forget and (b) need not think too much.'

I think that there is some truth to the statements of The Frog because I recall that the Chief Executive does not like to answer difficult questions, either seated or standing, preferring to leave that to his underlings. When, recently, Hongkong received a delegation from Beijing and the Chief Executive followed the head of delegation around Hongkong, in the manner of a little puppy, following the bitch, like a good little Catholic man, out came the notebook in order to record the great words of wisdom that flowed from the mouth of this Great Man of Beijing. When the delegation left the territory, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen followed the orders of the Great Men and went, at the earliest opportunity, to meet some of the elderly people of Hongkong and, upon so doing, announced to the Legislative Council that there would be more money, given to the elderly and the poor people of the territory. Prior to the visit to Hongkong of the Beijing Bunch, the Chief Executive did not have any intention of trying to buy his way up the popularity polls by giving away tens of billions of dollars to the poorer people of Hongkong. Thus, The Frog is correct, at least with regard to the way to achieve popularity for the Chief Executive: If you can't earn it, buy it! And from where did he

get the idea of trying to be one with the elderly and the poor of Hongkong? Of course, it was written in the encyclical of Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen. I applaud his intentions, mind you, but would he have thought about it had not the Beijing Bunch come to Hongkong? But I am reminded of the Chinese proverb that states that popularity is like a passing cloud.

I recall that, many, many years ago, I wrote that the impartial exchange of ideas is the prerequisite to friendship. This does not appear to hold water for Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen because he does not seem to want to have an impartial exchange of ideas with anybody ... lest he lose a debate or comes out not looking very intelligent in a discussion of importance. The Catholic Church does not brook dissent from the faithful, expecting the faithful to follow the teachings of the Church without question. In fact, in days of old, the laity was not permitted even to own a Bible because it was held that the majority of them were too stupid to be able to understand the Word of God, as recorded in this Holy Book. Interpretation of the Bible in the 17th Century was the exclusive bailiwick of the priests of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. I expect that the Chief Executive is well aware of the history of the Catholic Church and, if it was good enough in days of yore not to hold discussions with the laity about certain matters, then, for what reason should such a determination not be applicable, today – and in the Legislative Council where many of the elected Councillors are only partially educated in any event. The Chief Executive has been taught the doctrine that God exists as 3 persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who are united in one substance or being. The doctrine is not taught explicitly in the New Testament, where the word, God, almost invariably refers to the Father; but already Jesus Christ, the Son, is seen as standing in a unique relation to the Father, while the Holy Spirit is, also, emerging as a distinct divine person. Therefore, it is quite likely that the Chief Executive views his Parish of Hongkong in a similar fashion to the Holy Trinity. That being the case, there is little reason to hold court with those people who do not understand or who have not been versed in the divine matters. After all, God moves in mysterious ways, you know. Lastly, it was interesting to see the way in which the equestrian events, held in Hongkong as part of the Olympics, was played up even though few people of the territory can hardly spell the word, ‘equestrian’. Bo-Bo had the last word about this matter. He said:

‘Don’t you know that there are far more horses’ arses than there are horses?’

Must go now. Talk to you next week.

Chief Lady

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