



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

It seems inevitable that the United States of America will have its first black President, whether or not Senator Barack Obama is qualified for the job. Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, says that one of the main weaknesses of the democratic system of government is that the best-qualified person is not always the people's choice. Bo-Bo maintains that Beijing's system of Government is superior to the US system of electing officials to guide the fortunes of the government by popular vote because the way in which elections are held in China guarantees that the right men are placed in positions of power. The National People's Congress comprises the right people and those right people vote for the right person or persons to be placed in the top slots. Very efficient; very streamlined; and, most of all, very expedient. Weighing the pros and cons of the US Presidential candidates on my scales, Senator John McCain has a bit of a cross to bear in that his choice of a Vice President is Alaska Governor, Mrs Sarah Palin. The fear of many people is that, if Senator John McCain, as President of the US, should become terminally ill, during his tenure of office, and is unable to continue with his duties, Vice President Sarah Palin would take over the reins of office as President. That could be a terrifying situation because many of this lady's determinations are based on fundamentalist Christian beliefs. Religious fundamentalism is not my cup of tea and it should not be the drink of any leader of any part of the world. Religion and politics very seldom make for good bed-fellows and the US Constitution makes it clear that there should be a separation between Church and State. Also, this lady – a hockey mom, she calls herself – is incapable of making decisions and voicing any objective opinion unless, as was seen, during her televised debate with Senator Joe Biden, recently, she has copious notes to guide her through an argument or even to respond to a question. I noted that, during her interviews with people on television, she often hedged her answers and was definitive about very little. Is this the type of person that the people of the US want to guide them for the next 4 years or so in the event that Mr John McCain should fall critically ill? I do not know that Senator Barack Obama is the best person to lead the US Government in these trying times, also, but, since there are only 2 people, who are running for the highest office in the world, the electorate of the US has little choice in the matter. As I said, quite some time ago, Senator Barack Obama, probably, was chosen because of his ethnic uniqueness as a candidate rather than any profound, innate mental ability although, clearly, he has some ability. But is it enough to guide the fortunes of the most-important country of the world for the next 4 years? With the US economy in tatters, what does this black American know about business? Come to think of it: What did President George W. Bush know about business when he put his bottom in the Presidential chair about 8 years ago? The answer: Nothing. And he, still, knows nothing about business. As for Vice President hopeful, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, she knows even less about business than President George W. Bush and Senator Barak Obama, put together. But if Senator Barak Obama beats Senator John McCain to the White House, he will have Senator Joe Biden by his side. Senator Joe Biden, aside from his work as a US lawmaker, is an academic as is his wife, Jill, who is a Professor at Delaware Technical Community College. At the debate between Governor Sarah Palin and Senator Joe Biden, it was only too apparent as to the winner.

Who wins the race for the White House is so important that one cannot idly stand by and not have an opinion. The next President of the United States may have to make very difficult decisions, especially about

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which happens to be the 16th largest country of the world. This country is known to have a very powerful military machine and one that is not just made up of reserves. Everybody knows about the recent history of Iran and so I shall not bore you with those facts, but the way that things stand, today, the world must not permit this fundamentalist Muslim State to have nuclear weaponry – because, for certain, President Mahmoud Ahmadinijad will use such weapons against the perceived enemies of Islam, whether or not he is correct in his determinations. As with Governor Sarah Palin, Mahmoud Ahmadinijad is a fundamentalist and, as such, all of his determinations are coloured by his religious nurture. Senator Sarah Palin believes in the existence of evil spirits, floating round in the ether, with imps – children of the devil – ready to invade the consciences of the Christian faithful should they weaken in their religious resolve. I saw Governor Sarah Palin on television, being cleansed by her Church of evil spirits and could not help laughing. It reminded me of the Salem witch hunts of 1692. In Salem, Massachusetts, in case you have forgotten, there was a series of hearings before local magistrates, followed by county court trials to prosecute people accused of witchcraft in Essex, Suffolk and Middlesex Counties of colonial Massachusetts, between February 1692 and May 1693. Over 150 people were arrested and imprisoned, with even more accused who were not formally pursued by the Authorities. The 2 courts convicted 29 people of the capital felony of witchcraft. A total of 19 of the accused, 14 women and 5 men, were hanged. One man, Mr Giles Cory, who refused to enter a plea, was crushed to death under heavy stones in an attempt to force him to do so. At least 5 more of the accused died in prison.

Alaska Governor Sarah Palin continues to assert that her rise to Governor of Alaska was due, in large part, to her Church's cleansing her of imps and things. Such nonsense! Is this the world's legacy of 2,593 years of so-called civilisation since the birth of Western philosophy in 585 B.C. in Miletus?

Think of it, My Dear Grandchild. I'll talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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