

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

At international meetings of the leaders of some of the world's most-important countries, over the past few weeks, the one salient factor that stands out, clearly, is the way in which the leaders of just about every country has been trying to woo the Government of China. It is as though, suddenly, China is the most-beloved of all countries in the world, with China's leaders, being fêted as the heroes of the millennium. It was not that long ago that the Western World – the United States and the European Union, in particular – was criticising China about one thing or another. Now, the past has been conveniently forgotten, it seems. I talked to Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, as to the reason that China and its leaders, suddenly, have become the international popular heroes of the world. The Frog just smiled and said: 'Money talks and bullshit walks.' I hate vulgarity of any kind and told him so, but, in the quietness of the evening, I realised that he is correct: The US and Europe, simply put, want China to bail out the rest of the world with its money and influence. It is strange that, while China is blamed for maintaining its political system – and being a Communist is still considered a kind of a horrible disease as far as the US and Europe are concerned – and banning cults, such as the Falun Gong, and shooting criminals for acts, contrary to the laws of the land, which, in the US and Europe, would only result in a custodial sentence, at most, when it comes to getting money from the Middle Kingdom, it is a different kettle of fish. I happen to feel that, although the American style of democracy has many flaws, it is, probably, the best form of government, yet designed by any government in the history of the world. But, as is written in The Wu Jing (The 5 Classics) (), which originated before the time of Confucius and comprises The Yi Jing, or I Ching (The Book of Changes) (), The Shu Jing (The Book of Documents) (), the Shi Jing (The Book of Poetry) (), The Li Ji (The Book of Rites) (), and The Chun Qiu (Spring and Autumn Annals) (), it takes a certain kind of poison to kill a certain kind of snake. The duplicity of the governments of the US and the European Union toward China is disgraceful and I hope, sincerely, that China reminds these governments of their past misdeeds and the slanderous remarks that they have uttered toward China and its leaders.

Unfortunately, however, it seems that China, regardless of everything, will have to assist the other governments of the world because, in today's world, isolationism is desirable and is just not possible. For centuries, Japan isolated itself from the rest of the world and, to a great extent, it prospered. But today's world is not conducive to isolationism, be it of a political bent or of matters mercantile. China, really, has not much of a choice because, as the economies of the US and the European Union deteriorate, it will impact upon the economies of Asia and, especially, upon the economy of China. As it is, in southern China, factories are closing down, one after another, and tens of thousands of workers are finding themselves, walking the streets, looking for alternative employment. Beijing will have to do something, quickly, in order to avoid civil unrest within the country. 'The devil finds some mischief still for hands that have not learnt how to be idle', in the words of The Frog. The reason that business is contracting in China is, partially, due to China's trading partners, being in trouble, financially. Therefore, ironically, assisting these trading partners will come to mean assisting the Government of China. I am quite sure, however, that when the current, international financial mess is resolved, the US Government, under the new Administration of President-elect Barack Obama, will forget, conveniently, the part played by China in helping to resolve the economic crises that have spread from one corner of the globe to another. The European Union, almost certainly, will, also, forget that China helped out in its time of need. What did William Shakespeare say, again: 'The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones.' So, it shall be and,

probably, it shall always be.

Intolerance of foreign thinking is legend in the history of the world; and, the biggest wars of history have, more often than not, been waged between States over political and/or religious differences. The ignorance of man astounds me because it appears that he never seems to learn from his past mistakes. There are, in China today, some 1.30 billion human beings, about 800 million of whom are living in rural areas, not in the large cities of the country. Beijing has a huge dilemma in trying to solve the problems, confronting those 800 million people, many of whom are poor farmers, as well as the huge unemployment level in the country. The US and Europe look at China, only, through eyes that can only see in one direction, something like a horse to which blinkers have been affixed. While, statistically, it is claimed that more than 90 percent of the population of China is literate, one must bear in mind that, for those 800 million rural dwellers, their knowledge of the world is extremely limited and, as such, their ability to understand international finance must be next to zero – sadly. Things will change, in time, of course, but it will take decades, rather than just years, for these people to learn. The Western World, for the most part, cannot understand the immense problems, facing the sixth-largest economy of the world; and, the Western World has never shown much interest in caring about these problems. If, for instance, the US had shown its willingness, in the past, to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Government of China in trying to assist it and its economy in an impartial and objective manner, without criticisms of the political regime that has caused China to raise the standard of living of living in the country to become another economic powerhouse of the world, things may be very different, today. Then, President George W. Bush would not have had to go to China, cap in hand, looking for a handout. Instead, China would have come to the aid of the US and offered assistance as it has done so on the African Continent where it is building bridges and roads in order to assist some of the poorest economies in return for raw materials in a win-win situation.

What the West has to remember is that the fingers of the hand are not all of the same length.

Talk to you, next week. Love you.

Chief Lady

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