



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I don't know if I ever told you, my dear, but I knew Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton when she was just a little housewife, living in the White House. I took tea with her in the Crockery Room and we discussed all kinds of things. Her husband was persona non grata, at that time, because ... well, I think you know the reason so I shall not elaborate on that subject except to state that he was not to be trusted in the company of genteel ladies. Anyway, Hillary, as she was known to me before she was made Secretary of State by President Barack Hussein Obama, was never a very pleasant person as a housewife: She is a lawyer by training, you know, so you understand the baggage that such people carry after receiving their sheepskins. I note that, today, she is having a little tour of this part of the world in order to get to know her political counterparts in other governments. I did a similar thing when Bo-Bo was in power. I had to meet all kinds of funny people of all manner of different hues. But I don't want to go into that in this letter. What I want to concentrate on, today, is the good that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton can do in her new position as a high officer in the Obama Administration. As you know, I am slightly older than Hillary – only slightly though, I hasten to add – and my political experience is far more comprehensive than hers. I have been to Beijing with Bo-Bo and have met all of China's leaders as well as their wives. In Rome, as you know, I met the Pope and his charming wife. In England, I met the Queen at an official reception and a number of the members of her family although I was a little disappointed that I was never invited to Buckingham Palace to take tea with Her Holiness. In Paris, France, I met the young son of the Dalai Lama, a relatively tall, lanky and rather dark-skinned fellow for a Tibetan, I thought to myself at the time.

Bo-Bo, on hearing that Hillary was visiting Asia, said that she had been having trouble with her varicose veins. The poor dear: Standing around too long, I suspect. Anyway, now that Hillary is shot of Bill, who has no job or position of any real consequence, and he can't even make a speech without, first, having it vetted by members of the Obama Administration, she can concentrate on helping the economies of the world. The biggest problem that Hillary faces today is that she knows little to nothing about Asia, its languages, its many and varied religions, and, of course, the customs of its peoples. In fact, she is about to step into uncharted territory, territory that is replete with political landmines. I would be quite willing to offer my assistance to Hillary for the sake of posterity, but I know this lady and she is very proud of herself. (Somebody ought to remind her, however, that she lost the chance to sleep in the Whitehouse, again, when Senator Barack Hussein Obama beat the knickers off her at the last Presidential Election). Americans are nice enough people, but they have yet to learn the lesson of humility: You learn when you listen, not when you talk. Most Americans know about the United States, its history, and the noble ideals on which the country was founded, but Americans do not seem to understand, or can even comprehend, how the Asian mind works. Not everybody in the world embraces the American form of democracy, for one reason or another, but it is a sure bet that pride can be the downfall of anybody who tries to shove his or her beliefs down the throats of others. In a country of about 1.30 billion people, as is the case in China, it is very doubtful that the American style of democracy could work very well. In time, perhaps, it could work in China, but, today, the present government has proved its worth. In order for the American style of democracy to work, efficiently, the majority of the human population of a country must have attained a

certain level of education and have an understanding of the meaning of the word, democracy, and of the obligations of the populace, which accompany its adoption as the official policy of the government. China does not, at this stage in its political development, embrace the American style of democracy, but look at its track record and tell me whether or not, adopting democracy as the form of government for China, would have resulted in a better result than the present form of government. What the present government of China has achieved is, simply put, to raise China, within a period of about 3 decades or so, to become the second-largest economy of the world after the economy of the United States, overtaking, you will notice, Japan's economy. While the US enjoys a recession, China enjoys an annual growth rate in its Gross Domestic Product of about 7.80 percent ... or something like that. If it had not been for the rapid growth of China's industrial infrastructure, accommodating the ability to be the manufacturing base for many countries of the West, including, of course, the United States, there would have been widespread inflation. The cheaper-made products, manufactured and sent to the US by Chinese industrialists, kept inflation in check in the US and in Europe. Of course, Hillary is unlikely to be able to understand such complex matters because, when I met her in the Crockery Room of the White House, all that she could think about was Bill's little problems in the Oval Office.

One of her first public utterances, on landing in Asia, was to issue a veiled warning to North Korea, stating that the Obama Administration was watching this reclusive country, carefully. The United States, South Korea and Japan want to maintain a nuclear-free, Korean Peninsula, but Pyongyang has made it clear that it would like to have the ability to produce weapons-grade materials, used in the creation of nuclear armaments. Hillary will have to dangle more than one 'carrot' under the nose of Mr Kim Jong Il, who is the one-man dictator of North Korea, who brooks no rival. She, probably, does not know this, but North Korea has a standing militia, numbering about 5 million men and women, all of whom are fit to serve their country. The country is poverty stricken, to be sure, but that does not seem to matter to the present government of the country. Some people claim that Kim Jong Il is potty. It is, probably, correct – and that is something that Hillary will have to take into consideration if she ever meets the dictator. Armed with this intelligence, this is where Hillary can score some brownie points: Feed the country, first, then, smile, politely, and, after presenting Kim Jong Il with some of newest movies, produced in Hollywood, of course, discuss the direction of future political relations between the United States and North Korea. The gift of some new movies is likely to please the little, fat dictator because he loves to watch movies in the same way that the former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Junichiro Koizumi, loves to try to sing Elvis Presley songs. The way to the hearts and minds of North Korea is not be cajoling or threatening, but by offering that which the country needs, urgently, without strings attached, and talking sweetly. It is said that one should never try to corner a spitting cobra, you know. The government of North Korea knows, only too well, that the world fears it because the world does not know what the country is capable of doing. Hillary must not, therefore, cause North Korea to flex its military muscles, but placate it with badly needed food and Hollywood's latest movies. The American missionaries to China in the 19th Century proved that this policy works when it offered rice to hungry Chinese peasants in return for them, converting to Christianity. Hillary can, therefore, take a leaf out of the American missionaries' book on how to convert people to the way of the cross.

As for Hillary's trip to Beijing, her best course of action is no course of action. She should raise no contentious matters with China's leaders, but, simply, sip Chinese tea and thank the government of China for its purchases of US Government bonds and equities. Today, China is the largest single creditor of the US and Hillary must not upset Beijing by trying to give the appearance of being an American bitch. If she follows my advice, at the end of her visit, Beijing is likely to tell her that it will be buying some more American Government bonds and aeroplanes as a sign of its endearing friendship with The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave.

I shall have to cut this letter short now because Bo-Bo is expected back soon and he will be hungry. He has been playing golf with that horrid little, half-educated man, the son of a business tycoon who used to be the fourth, richest man in the world. You see, I have learned that the way to Bo-Bo's pocket is through his stomach.

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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