



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

The United States of America has now its first black President in the very athletic-looking hunk of Mr Barack Hussein Obama. (I, really, like the strong, dark, handsome type, you know.). The number of black people who have, now, been, installed in different positions in the Administration of President Barack Hussein Obama has risen, markedly. The door to black people in high political positions in the US is wide open. Last week, Judge Sonia Sotomayor won approval of the majority of US Senators to become the first Hispanic to sit on the Supreme Court of the US. This, as you know, is the highest court of the US. And so, in the US, another door has been thrown wide open for another ethnic race to join the high and the mighty in positions of power even though they are not white Protestants. The door for Muslims to be appointed to important positions of power in the US is, still, not completely open, probably because this religion is not the flavour of this decade. But, in time, I suppose an American-born Muslim will be selected to sit in the Supreme Court or be selected as Secretary of State or Vice President or some other high political position. As soon as the US Government sorts out Iran, it will be politically correct to have a devout Muslim be confirmed to a high office. The US Supreme Court nominations are political appointments, you know, unlike the United Kingdom where religion, politics and the law are supposed to be separate and independent. President Barack Hussein Obama proposed the appointment of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to sit on the Supreme Court; the US Senate endorsed the proposal. It is good, of course, that the social, cultural and race barriers are being eroded in The Home of The Free and The Land of The Brave, but the fact that President Barack Hussein Obama is still referred to as a black man while Judge Sonia Sotomayor is still referred to as an Hispanic seems to fly in the face of the concept of total disregard for race, colour, creed, etc, etc, etc, when it comes to selecting the best person for a particular job. I would have thought that the appropriate way to describe these 2 intelligence people is just to call them: Americans.

In China, today, according to Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, nobody cares very much from which part of the Middle Kingdom a certain person was born or, for that matter, the family pedigree of the person. It is sufficient that that person is a Chinese. Even religious leanings are not taken into account when a person is being considered for a particular office. But it is better for a candidate not to be a devout anything, other than being a devout lover of China. It is enough that a person is Chinese. When a person wants to hold down a political office in China, the only criterion is whether or not that person is ethnically Chinese. Of course, it is expected that the candidate must have a very good working knowledge of Mandarin, his hair should appear to be black – dye code, 999 – and he should wear conservative black suits with a white shirt and a grey tie. Ability is one thing; but ethnicity is most important. Of course, it helps if a chosen candidate for a political office knows somebody of importance in Beijing, but even without being in the in, so to speak, there is always that other medium of exchange: Lots and lots of money. But money in China is not everything, also, you have to understand, although it does help in most cases. Unlike the US, a man's politics in China, for the most part, is quite immaterial. What is very important is whether or not the chosen one concurs with the opinions of the man who sits in the hot seat in Beijing. Loyalty is a virtue, as we all know, acquire if you can, it is seldom in a woman, but it is never in a man. Loyalty is highly regarded in China and most of the time, loyalty is rewarded, most generously. At the same time, treachery is rewarded

with, dare I tell you? When a person is chosen for a position of importance in China, unlike the selection method in the US where accountability is considered important and may be demanded, it is sufficient that due diligence of a candidate is performed by somebody of high authority, wishing to promote the candidate to a position of power. This modus operandi is much faster and is a much-cheaper method of obtaining the best person for the job than, as is the case in the US, having senators, subject a candidate for a high office to severe and, very often, embarrassing questioning. Even women of China have almost the same chances as men when it comes to political positions, but, of course, there is a limit to the rank to which a woman may aspire due to the fact that she, after all, is a woman. This is not sexism, but a matter of common sense.

China, you see, is a truly democratic country with a constitution that is far superior to that of the US. However, the Chinese Government is not about to waste its valuable time when it comes to making political appointments because it is so much more expedient to have somebody appointed after the candidate has been vetted by a truly worthy officer of the Government. It is far better for a candidate to high office to have gone through the accepted vetting system, prior to the first vote, being cast publicly. In that manner, a candidate knows, prior to the outcome of the democratic process, whether or not he will be in the in. This, also, allows the candidate to obtain the necessary wardrobe and hair dye so that he will be one with all and all for one of the other high and mighty in Beijing.

Yes, the Chinese system of Government and its democratic process has much to commend itself, don't you think, My Dear Grandchild? Democracy, you see, is not just a term, but a living organic system of government which may vary from one place to another, depending on historical and cultural determinations. There is not just one system of democracy in the world, as I have just demonstrated. In my view, China has the right system for China.

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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