

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I think that it is terrible the way in which Legislative Councillors are berating the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen (). As the elected official of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China with a mandate to lead the territory for a term of office of 5 years, he should be respected. He has the backing of Beijing, you know. He has powerful friends in the Capital City of China and, to his credit, he has yet to flex those political muscles. But, if push comes to shove, the enemies of this gentleman could be in for a very tough time. As the Bible states: An eye for an eye – Leviticus 24:19–21, Exodus 21:22–25, and Deuteronomy 19:21. The Chief Executive should not be attacked every time he opens his mouth in the Legislative Council Chamber. The people of Hongkong have spoken: They want this good Catholic man to head the Administration of these 416 square miles and lead some 7 million-plus, Chinese residents of this territory through thick and thin. I talked this over with Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, and he said that, in Beijing, the banana throwers of the Legislative Council would be punished most severely for assault and battery. I agree with him. Have our Legislative Councillors forgotten the definition of decorum. Propriety of behavior or demeanor used to mean something in Hongkong. Where has it gone? It does not now exist, it appears, if the banana throwers are to be considered representative as an example of good manners. This brings me to the matter of the light bulbs and furore that followed after the Chief Executive tried to persuade the people of Hongkong to change over to the energy saving light bulbs. The truth of the matter is that Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen's son happened to marry a young lady whose family business was in the distribution of these light bulbs. What is wrong with that? One may choose one's friends, but one cannot choose one's relatives, you know. Anyway, how can you expect a man, who wakes up very early in the morning in order to go to mass, to remember a little thing such as who distributes what light bulb in Hongkong? What is frightening, now, is that the banana throwers of the Legislative Council may consider throwing light bulbs at the Chief Executive while he stands, completely undefended, in the Legislative Council Chamber. He could get badly hurt from being hit on the head with a glass light bulb. The time has come for there to be installed in the Legislative Council Chamber a special, thick plastic cubicle in order to protect Hongkong's leader from banana throwers, who may consider switching to become light-bulb throwers. In the alternative, perhaps all Legislative Councillors should be enclosed in a thick plastic barrier so that they cannot throw anything at anybody. It is disappointing that Hongkong has come to this, but I suppose in some people's minds, this is progress. Democracy? Does it always have to go hand in hand with violence? What happened to the power of the pen? What about the power of meaningful oratory? Throwing bananas and what-have-you in the Legislative Council is demeaning of Hongkong and of its people. Which makes one wonder as to the reason that the banana throwers were ever elected to the Legislative Council in the first place. On the assumption that the Chief Executive is wrong in that he knew, or should have known, about the fact that his family-in-law distributes energy saving light bulbs in the territory, it is still no reason to try to harm him. There is lawful procedure to impeach him if needs be such. That being the case, get on with it! But, if, on a vote, the impeachment proceedings fail, then the power of the people has spoken; and, then, all Legislative Councillors must respect the decision of the electorate – all 200 or so of them!

People in high office sometimes make mistakes. It is human nature to make mistakes. None of us has risen to

the state of holiness. According to history, there has only been one man, reported to have been in league with God. His name was Jesus and he was said to have been the son of God, who took a small trip to earth to save us from our sins. He was born a Jew, you know. (Strange people, these Jews, don't you think? The Jews do not even accept that Jesus was the son of God. The Jews are still awaiting God's son to set foot in Israel, on Mount Zion, and present His people with another inscribed stone copy of the Ten Commandments.) Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen has never suggested that he has any magical powers or has a through-train to Heaven. He is an humble man who goes to mass every morning in order to ask God to forgive the many sins that he commits, daily. He knows that he is far from perfect. Most people have noted his many shortcomings, you know. However, that is still no reason to try to hurt him – by throwing bananas, light bulbs or anything else, for that matter, at him. While Legislative Councillor Members do have absolute privilege in the Legislative Council Chamber, they do not have absolute privilege to harm a fellow member of this august body, of which the Chief Executive stands on the highest rung of the Executive ladder. Legislative Councillors are supposed to be law-makers. They are not supposed to be law-breakers. The Frog completely agrees with me, My Dear Grandchild, so I must be correct. Tell me: When is a woman ever wrong?

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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