

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I think that I may have forgotten to tell you that I had to attend what I thought was going to be Japan's National Day on December 14, 2009, but it turned out to be an official function, which was labelled by The Japanese Consulate at Hongkong as being: 'A Reception to Celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty, The Emperor of Japan, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.' I and Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, had to stand in a long queue of Hongkong dignitaries, including the present Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen (), in order to be welcomed by the senior officials of Japanese Consulate at Hongkong at a swank, Pacific Place hotel. And all of that waiting for a single little drink! The Frog was not happy, at all, because his legs ached, having to stand in such a long line of people, some of European people, smelling horribly – as many do, you know. I don't know any of the names of the people in the Japanese reception line and, to be honest, I could not recognise or, to this day, remember any of their faces because they all looked very much the same: Same height; same weight; same dour look; etc, etc, etc. Japanese you understand. After mingling with some very unpleasant people, mostly unwashed, British, former Hongkong Government servants at the time that the British ruled the Hongkong roost, we left and went home where The Frog soaked his poor feet in a salt-water bath for about one hour. As I sipped a cup of Jasmine tea, I thought a great deal as to the reason that The Frog had accepted the invitation. He claimed that, had it been left to him, he would have declined to attend the function until the Japanese admitted, inter alia, to their many horrible crimes, during World War II. However, as he explained, he had to be among the dignitaries to represent the People's Republic of China in the same way that Donald the Duck had to attend as the Chief Executive of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. I did a little research on the matter of Emperor Akihito's birthday and it is on December 23; and, it is celebrated in Japan where this day is known as 'Tennō Tanjōbi' (). So, for what reason did The Japanese Consulate at Hongkong celebrate the Emperor's birthday 9 days earlier? I telephoned the Japanese Consulate for an answer and, after being shunted between 2 telephone operators, a Ms Martha Leung, who told me the correct name of the official function, and Ms Jennifer Ho, an Assistant something-or-other, I was informed that the hotel did not have a large-enough room available on December 23 for the Japanese Consulate's function. So, at this point, part of my question had been answered. But wait, there is much more*

*Now, World War II has been over for some 65 years, following the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on September 2, 1945, at Tokyo Bay aboard the USS Missouri. This date is, also, referred to a Victory Over Japan Day. Yet, Japan continues to refuse to acknowledge its wrongdoings from December 7, 1941, until September 2, 1945. And, in addition, of course, we, Chinese, all know about The Rape of Nanking, a 6-week period, following the Japanese capture of the City of Nanking, the former capital of the Republic of China, on December 9, 1937. During that 6-week period, hundreds of thousands of innocent Chinese civilians were murdered as well as between 20,000 women and 80,000 women were raped by soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army. When Japan attacked Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, the Japanese pilots managed to kill and maim more than 3,500 Americans in the attack, which was unprovoked and without Japan, declaring war. December 7 is designated, today, as National Pearl Harbour Remembrance Day. On December 7, 2009, President Barrack Hussein Obama said:*

*'Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Monday, December 7, 2009, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I encourage all Americans to observe this solemn day of remembrance with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I urge all Federal agencies and interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff this December 7 in honor of those American patriots who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.'*

*December 7, therefore, is a day of mourning and a day of remembrance, as far as the United States of America is concerned. Not so for Japan, however. That country denies that it should be a day of mourning, otherwise empowered dignitaries of Japan would have made a declaration of that fact and, at the December 14, 2009, function in the HKSAR, mention would have been made of the Pearl Harbour atrocity of December 7, 1941, when Japan attempted, with forethought and premeditation, to kill as many American servicemen and civilians as possible – without any cause and/or without any provocation, at all.*

*I could not stop here, however, and I asked the Japanese Consulate at Hongkong whether or not Japan celebrated the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender, thus ending World War II. 'No, we don't!' came the terse, stentorian answer from somebody at The Japanese Consulate, a person who refused to give me his name. I wanted to ask the reason that Japan does not celebrate this historic event because, if The Land of The Rising Sun had not surrendered on September 2, 1945, it could well have been the end of sushi or sashimi because the United States of America had perfected the atom bomb, a bomb that could kill more than 100,000 people in a single detonation. Come to think of it, if Japan had not surrendered, 10 atom bombs, dropped by the United States Navy on Japan could have sunk all of the islands of Japan. And that would have resulted in there being a dearth of sake in the world. If the President of the United States of America determined that the sneak attack of December 7, 1941 – 'a date that will live in infamy', as President Franklin D. Roosevelt labelled the day, for what reason would not Japan commemorate its day of infamy when it surrendered to the Allied Forces that destroyed a goodly part of Japan and smashed to smithereens the remnants of the Japanese Imperial Army, Navy and Air Force? It seems to me that September 2 is a very good date for Japan to remember how it was brought to book, once and for all, by the forces of good, which fought for 4 bitter years against the forces of evil – Japan!*

*I must tell you, My Dear Grandchild, I am not a hater of the Japanese people. Not at all. But, just like a naughty child, it is in its best interests that he or she learns his or her lessons lest he or she forget. Japan must never again be permitted to wage war and, if September 2 were to be a National Day of Remembrance in Japan, it would remind the government of this country what can, and did, happen some 65 years ago. It is high time to bury the dead, but this cannot be done until the bodies have been counted. Japan refuses to count the bodies: The country needs to be spanked, annually, until it admits, openly, as has Germany, of its crimes against humanity.*

*Talk to you, next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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