

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I have come to learn that Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun () has paid more than \$HK150 million in medical bills in order to save his life, following the poor man, suffering from a stroke. Spending this huge amount of money over a period of about 7 months, all the time, lying on one's back in a hospital bed, seems obscene, to my way of thinking. How can a man pay so much money in order to recover his health ... and, then, after paying out so much money, still not be able to enjoy an active life with 3 wives. And who knows how many children he has made by inserting his willy in women's wendies? I am told that the poor multi-billionaire is, probably, never going to be the same active man again that he was before he suffered his stroke. When I was told just how much he had to pay to doctors and nurses and what-have-you, I complained to my doctor because I became concerned that, when I reach the age of 89 years, I do not want my doctor to say to me: 'Betty, do you have \$HK150 million-plus to spend on me and my friends in order to save your little life? Dr Frank Chong, my doctor, replied to my enquiry as to there being any valid reason that Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun had had to pay so much money, said: 'But, Betty, he can afford it!' It is not material, in my opinion, as to whether or not a person can afford such a king's ransom in order to regain one's health. There must, and there should, be a method by which doctors are paid that which they should be paid, but be restrained by their guild from 'milking' a patient just for the sake of milking a patient. Patients should be charged in accordance with an approved fee scale, set by the medical guild, or whatever it is called. Patients should not be charged in accordance with the amount of money that they are known to have in the bank or the number of buildings that they are known to possess. The current system of milking patients is morally corrupt and, completely, unacceptable. I investigated the Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun case and discovered that the hospital room in which Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun stayed cost \$HK16,000 per day. That is more than the Presidential Suite in the best, 5-star hotel in Hongkong. Also, I happen to know that the food in most hospitals in Hongkong is terrible. I would not want to eat hospital food, would you? So, for what reason should Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun be forced to pay so much money, per day, for the best suite when the hospital does not even have a decent chef?

According to Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, a professional should be paid in accordance with his level of expertise. 'Look, if you want a professional, then, you have to pay the price, demanded by him or her. Professionals work very hard in order to achieve their high level of knowledge or skill. Should they not be compensated in accordance with their level of competence?' I agreed with The Frog, but said that, in the case of Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun, it was not the matter of the level of the competence of the doctors, but how much they could extort from this 89 year-old man while he was still breathing. 'That is extortion!' I stated, stentorally. Then, The (silly) Frog took the route of my doctor, saying that he could afford to pay the bill. I maintain that The Frog and all of those, who claim that it is acceptable for an ageing man, who is very ill, to pay upwards of \$HK150 million in order to stay alive for a short time more, are immortal ninnies. And, when a hospital, claiming a closeness to a Christian God and even employing His name, directly and indirectly, as the name of the hospital, it is outrageous. Shame! Shame! Shame!

Poor Stanley Ho Hung Sun had to have 2 operations on his head and the result is that he is, still, not back to

his old self. Did you know, My Dear Grandchild, that the doctors, calling on Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun, today, at his luxury home, are continuing to be paid upwards of \$HK6,000 per visit. I am, also, told that it does not matter how long a doctor stays in attendance to Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun because the doctor gets his \$HK6,000, in any event. Even solicitors can only charge in accordance with the time that they spend, attending to clients. Doctors, like solicitors, should be put on the clock.

Just because Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun had been able to amass a fortune, over a period of some 40 years, in operating gambling dens in Macau with the approval of the former Portuguese Government, it does not give the right to doctors to hit a man when he is down, so to speak. It is said that, when a man falls down a well, one throws down a rope, not a rock. But these doctors, who are milking Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun, are throwing rocks down the well in which this man, who helped to build up the gambling structure of Macau, has fallen. Anyway, Las Vegas has, now, become entrenched in Macau, cutting into the monopoly that Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun once enjoyed. The income of this poor man will sink, without question. The Las Vegas 'boys' are almost certain to cut a swath through the empire, created by this great man of Hongkong and Macau: Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun. With his health, being what it is, it is unlikely that he can fight off the Las Vegas duo of Messrs Sheldon Gary Adelson and Steve Wynn, whom I have dubbed as 'The Las Vegas boys'. Also, there is the matter of Dr Stanley Ho Hung Sun's family, his 3 wives and his many children as well as their extended families. With his income, having been slashed, what will those people do when he has gone up to that castle in the sky? The way that things are, today, there will be no more billions of dollars left after he succumbs to the ravages of age, only a few tens of millions of dollars, left in the coffers.

Where is the social conscience of these men of medicine of Hongkong? It is a poor testament to Hongkong, don't you think?

I am hoping that my doctor will give me a discount when it is my time to go under the knife. The Frog said that I should not worry my little brain about such matters. I cannot help but worry: I don't have \$HK150 million. Do you? If I don't have \$HK150 million, will I be left to die because some greedy doctor determines not to attend me in my hour of need? Or perhaps, my doctor is telephoned by the family of a multi-billionaire, seeking his services, so he forsakes me for his 'cash-cow' of the day. Life is difficult enough without having human leeches, trying to suck up all that I have accumulated in my short lifetime when I am very ill. It is a very worrying time, don't you think? Can we do anything about this terrible state of affairs or will Donald The Duck just pretend that such a situation does not exist – in his inimitable way?

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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