

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I have been watching, with great interest, the case of that poor woman, Ms Amina Mariam Bokhary, the niece of Mr Justice Bokhary () of the Court of Final Appeal of Hongkong. What a pity! As you, probably, read, His Worship Anthony Yuen Wai Ming () placed Ms Amina Mariam Bokhary on probation for a year for assaulting a police officer. It was the third time that this poor woman had been convicted of slapping coppers (this is the way that Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, describes police officers). At the trial, Ms Amina Mariam Bokhary did not try to plead mitigating circumstances for slapping Constable Tang Man Wai when this policeman asked her not to leave the scene of an accident on January 27, 2010, in which her motor car hit a coach on Stubb's Road, Happy Valley. It was a head-on collision, you know. In passing a non-custodial sentence on Ms Amina Mariam Bokhary, who is mentally ill, you know, His Worship Anthony Yuen Wai Ming, said, inter alia, that she has a good background, a well-off family and outstanding academic achievements. The learned Magistrate, also, made mention of the fact that the lady suffered from bipolar disorders, which used to be known as manic depression in my days of being a nurse. In addition, the learned Magistrate made mention of the fact that Ms Amina Mariam Bokhary is an alcoholic. On reading the reports of this poor woman, I could not help but wonder as to the reason that she is permitted to drive a motor car. I would have thought that she would have been proscribed from driving because she, clearly, is a menace to herself and others, using the highways of Hongkong.*

*I talked the matter over with The Frog, seeking his opinion on the entire case. He, sniggered, for a minute, and then asked me whether or not Magistrate Yuen Wai Ming was well aware that, by passing a non-custodial sentence, it would lead to massive repercussions from many directions. The Frog was absolutely correct because, the very next day, I read that The Department of Justice had sought a review of the sentence. Wow! How did The Frog work it out? I asked him and he replied that it reminded him of a report that he read, some years ago, published in the People's Daily () (a daily newspaper, published in Beijing in the Chinese language). It seems that 2, high-ranking judges of China had been caught, speeding on a highway, and both had been required to attend Court in order that their respective cases be heard – in camera, of course. The 2, high-ranking judges, at the time of their respective criminal actions, did not know each other, personally, but, since both had to attend the same court on the same day, they met, secretly, in a restaurant and made a plan to thwart the legal system.*

*At the trial of the 2, high-ranking, Chinese judges, Judge Number One determined, for the sake of expediency, to be the trial judge of Judge Number Two. 'Well, Sir!' Judge Number One said with authority to Judge Number Two, the Defendant, 'How do you plead?' The response: 'Guilty, Sir!' With that, Judge Number One fined Judge Number Two 25 renminbi and put him on good behaviour for a month. The 2 judges, then, changed positions so that Judge Number One became the defendant in the case of driving a motor car in excess of 20 kilometres per hour of the speed limit, and Judge Number Two became the trial judge. 'Well, Sir!' began Judge Number Two, looking very sternly at Judge Number One. 'You know of the charges, levelled against you. Speeding is a serious offence. Especially for a judge of your rank. How do you plead?' Judge Number One said, only: 'Guilty as charged, Sir.' Judge Number Two looked at some*

legal documents and said: 'Since you have pleaded guilty, I must tell you that, normally, I would fine you 25 renminbi and put you on good behaviour for a month. However, looking at your history, and noting that you come from a good family, which is known to be well-off, and noting, also, your special background, and special guanxi () (connections), especially your academic achievements, I find it difficult for me, in my august position, just to fine you 25 renminbi. This is the second such case this morning, you know. It is my duty to pass a deterrent sentence ...'

'You have to be joking with me!' I interrupted The Frog, at this point. 'It cannot be true. It is too similar to the case of this poor woman, Ms Amina Mariam Bokhary.' The Frog, however, just turned on the television in order to look at some half-naked ladies in a fashion show. Typical of a Frog.

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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