

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I was delighted to see the way in which the US Government treated my President on Friday, January 21, 2011. President Hu Jin Tao () was treated in the manner, befitting the leader of one of the greatest countries in the world, today, and, certainly, it will be one of the greatest countries for many decades to come . Although I must tell you that I did not think very much of the menu that was selected for the dinner that US President Barack Hussein Obama chose on the night that he hosted my President at the White House. After all, the Poet's Leap Riesling (wine) 'Botrytis' is produced from rotting grapes, you know. Botrytis is a fungus that causes plants to catch a disease. I do hope that, at the time that that wine was served, President Hu Jin Tao did not know that President Barack Hussein Obama was serving him wine, produced from grapes that were infected with the killer fungus. However, food and wine aside, the visit of my President to Washington, D. C. could only be considered a whopping success for the US and for China. Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, agreed with me in every respect, saying that the food was not up to the standard that one would expect when a guest, of the status of Mr Hu Jin Tao, deigned to pay a visit to a country that had, in the past, not been very friendly to him, personally, or China. 'I don't understand,' The Frog started to explain, 'because it was not that long ago that quite a number of senior officials of the Government of the US were suggesting that China should not be trusted and that it was planning to be the mighty military force of Asia, with the ambition to become the dominant player in the region so that it could throw round its military might in order to obtain whatever it wants. This is so silly and it suggests, strongly, that the US Government has no, or little, knowledge of the history of China. Never in its entire history, reaching back more than 5,000 years, has China ever tried to attack another country with a view to conquering a neighbour. As for being dominant in Asia, as an economic power, it is, already, dominant, de facto if not de jure. China has engineered an economic miracle, one unheard of in the annals of history. Where in history can one find that the government of a country with more than one billion people has raised the standard of living of the average man-in-the-street from near mendicancy to becoming a contributing member of the strongest consuming society in the world? Where in history can one find such a successful government as that of China's? Stupid Americans!'*

*It is difficult to fault the statements of The Frog because they are quite true ... for a change. But the Americans, as he refers to the citizens of the US, still do not understand, or appreciate, my country and its many peoples. One hears, all the time, of the way in which the Government of China is insensitive to human rights and the rights and the dignity of man; and, that the Government is far from being democratic. The former statement is wrong because, in fact, great strides have been made in the field of human rights in my country, as one notes that, whenever there is a calamity and the heads of the Government quickly rush to the disaster area in order to try to help restore the status quo and, by so doing, dignify the man-in-the-street by letting him know that the leaders of China are but one of the many who feel his pain of suffering, these acts, alone, exemplify China's heartfelt feelings of the rights and dignity of man. Perhaps the Americans do not know that China, today, contains not less than 56 minority groups with 62 percent of the total human population of about 1.30 billion people, living in rural areas of the country in 22 different provinces. The present, socialist dictatorship of the proletariat, led by the Communist Party and based on a united front*

*that includes other democratic parties, was formerly established on October 1, 1949, so that, one could rightly state that modern China is only 61 years old. And, in those 61-odd years, China has become the second-largest economy of the world. The 2,000 years of feudalism was a system of the past, never to be repeated. The description of China, being a socialist dictatorship of the proletariat, led by the Communist Party, is, to the Americans, an emotive description of a government, the connotation of which is that of a cruel and heartless regime. Nothing could be further from the truth. For the most part, the human population of China endorses the Government because, in truth, as the Americans would say, 'They have never had it so good.' Few people in China need to go hungry, today, unless, such as I, they are overweight and decide to go on a diet.*

*Criticism is cheap and one can complain about nearly anything, from the warts on The Frog's leg to the change of life of a woman after she is passed her child-bearing years. One should not, however, complain for the sake of complaining. If one feels the need to complain, let the complaint be backed by facts that are indisputable. I see that the trouble with the US Government, today, is that there is just too much ignorance and emotive language, used to strengthen an arguable position that is, for the most part, untenable. It is stated that not all of the fingers of the hand are the same size. So it is for countries' governments because not all governments fit the mould of what the US would state is a democracy.*

*It is very easy to suggest that Mr Hu Jin Tao is a dictator, but it is an incorrect nomenclature of this good man for he is not, and never has been, a dictator although it is true that he wields a great deal of power at home. The Frog could say the same thing about me, stating that I boss him around and cause him to do what I tell him. This, too, is untrue because I only suggest that he follow my definitive instructions and, failure so to do would, indeed, upset me. He, therefore, is only too happy to follow my suggestions. Nothing in this world of ours is black or white, but it is composed of many hues and is varicoloured as is a rainbow, following the passage of a storm.*

*Enough for today. Talk to you, next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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