

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I cannot, for the life of me, understand the reason that people go crazy over the latest iPad to hit the marketplace. According to what I have been told, the iPad 2S is faster, sleeker, lighter, and more attractive than the previous one that Apple produced, about one year or so ago. I am willing to believe everything that Apple has claimed about its newly designed iPad. So what? For what reason should a person, owning the first generation iPad or the second generation iPad, want to buy the latest model? Yet, people cannot wait to get their little hands on one, spending in excess of \$HK4,000 for the privilege of being the proud owner of this device! I can understand, however, the reason that, after a period of time, a person would consider, turning in his motor car in order to purchase a new one because, a motor car is, after all, a depreciating asset which, over time, tends to require more maintenance, tyres have to be changed, and normal wear and tear means that more money has to be spent on upkeeping the vehicle. For a laptop or a Personal Computer, as new computer software is developed, the older laptop/Personal Computer of yesteryear may be unable to accommodate the latest innovations in software. But an iPad, for the most part, is more of a toy than a tool so that the speed of the operating system is immaterial, most of the time. As for the looks of the device, who cares? As for the thinness and the weight, it matters not a jot, actually. People are strange!*

*Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, made the statement to me that I am becoming an old fuddy-duddy because a new electronic invention is exciting and it leads from one thing to another. He explained that the manual typewriter of his day was made obsolete with the invention of the electric typewriter, leading to the invention of the word-processor, leading to the Personal Computer. 'One thing leads to another,' The Frog explained and, then, he went on to state: 'Within the next 3 years to 5 years, it is likely that the Personal Computer could be made obsolete with, perhaps, the iPad replacing it. The only major problem, today, is that insufficient work has been done on inventing a sufficiently small battery that has a life of 8 hours or more, with the time to recharge it, coming down to a few hours. But it will come in due course.' I gave some thought to what The Frog had said and realised that, for a change, he had a point, one that I had never considered to the same extent. Which goes to prove that, even from the mouth of a frog, wisdom can, sometimes, come. Taking The Frog's logic a little further, I realised that inventions, such as the iPad, require a complete change in the accepted thinking of the day. It occurred to me that a Personal Computer/laptop, requires a keyboard and a screen. So, if I am going to invent something to replace the conventional Personal Computer/laptop of today, I must think of a manner in which to rid myself of a keyboard, first, in order to save room and space. This could be accomplished quite easily, actually, by, perhaps, reducing the conventional keyboard, which requires a certain amount of finger power in order to make it operate, efficiently, to a keyboard that operates, electronically, one that is as thin as, say, one millimeter. Such a device could be slipped into the middle of an electronic device in a slot, or attached to the back of the rear plate of my electronic device. In time, of course, the entire idea of a keyboard would become obsolete, replaced by electronically induced words and phrases, produced by brainwaves. And so it would go on, and on, and on. There is no limit to that which the brain of man may conceive.*

*The electric light bulb replaced the gaslight concept of illuminating houses and parks of the 19th Century.*

*The common light bulb of today, the invention of Mr Thomas Alva Edison, an American inventor, became the most-important of his many inventions at the turn of the 20th Century when, for the first time in history, a city was illuminated with his incandescent light bulb. The first city to make use of the light bulb was New York City. It was the death knell for gaslight. The invention of the light bulb was the result of Mr Thomas Alva Edison, thinking of a manner in which to illumine houses in a way that was safe, efficient, relatively inexpensive and which would rid the world of noxious fumes, the result of the use of gas in homes.*

*So, what does all this mean? It means that the great inventions of the world came from the ability of women to think in a way that was unique and to guide men to the Holy Grail. Women spend most of the money in this world of ours. Men, like children, are taught and, from that teaching, comes great ideas. Now, of course, I have to think of a way in which to replace men with something better.*

*Talk to you, next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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