

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*With the death of the Founder of al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, another door has opened, a door that could lead to international peace if people in high places are sufficiently intelligent to try enter that door. Fighting international terrorism with hi-tech weapons and/or troops in the field, armed with all kinds of killing paraphernalia, has proved to be completely ineffectual over past centuries. Therefore, any fool should realise that another 'weapon' is required, one that can reach out over thousands of miles and for eons to come, a weapon that can stir the hearts with dread of all who would consider, resorting to violence in order to communicate a contrary point of view. That weapon is called philosophy, the love of wisdom. Philosophy, by definition, is the examination of basic concepts: The branch of knowledge or academic study, devoted to the systematic examination of basic concepts, such as truth, existence, reality, causality, and freedom. The Greeks defined it, simply, as the love of wisdom – philo (love); sophos (wisdom). The power of thought is the most-powerful weapon, ever devised by man. Yet, ever since Western philosophy was first recorded in about the Sixth Century before the birth of Jesus Christ, starting with Thales of Miletus, it has been overlooked as a powerful weapon of war. Well, now that the terrorist Osama bin Laden is dead, the door to a modern, even greater philosophical thought, with the emphasis on how to sway man's mind, away from terrorism, which is destructive of both man and the civilisation that he has built up over the ages, can rise with the coming of a new dawn. That day could be upon us if only somebody would take that first, serious important step to universal appeasement.*

*Some years ago, Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, began a dialogue with a professor at a university in Israel. During the course of many months of exchanges of letters, The Frog suggested to the professor the establishment of an international think-tank, the purposes of which would be to consider the problems of the day and ways in which to resolve them. The professor appeared, at first, to be excited with the prospects of having a new Chair at the university and quickly fired off his enthusiasm in a series of letters to The Frog who, at that time, was staying in Canada. The exchange of letters ceased when The Frog was asked, very openly, to donate \$US10 million per annum for the establishment of that new Chair. The professor, of course, had his head screwed on in a similar fashion to somebody of the ilk of Mr Li Ka Shing, one of the richest men in the world, today. The Frog, although he could have afforded \$US10 million per annum, shelved the idea of the establishment of an international think-tank because of the way in which the 'demand' for the money was made by the professor. The demand was made in a manner that was indicative only of a university, trying to top up its coffers with \$US10 million per annum with little to no thought of the core purposes of the new Chair.*

*An idea should not die due to a personality and so The Frog made a second attempt at trying to find the cure for that which ails the world. This time, he talked to the heads of a hospital in Toronto, Canada. At this hospital, The Frog, donated \$C1 million in order to establish a new Chair in conjunction with a university which, at that time, was the fourth-largest such institution in North*

*America. The purpose of this Chair was to establish health and wellness centres in Toronto, with the Chief Psychiatrist of the well-known hospital, being in overall charge of the Chair and having carte blanche over the way in which the Chair's funds were to be allocated. Years later, the first centre had not been founded – and that was that. The university and the hospital, obviously, gave the unique concept, promulgated by The Frog, very low priority and so, eventually, nothing of any value was accomplished. The Frog's idea was an oblique method of attack by firstly, instilling the concept of health and wellness, free of any charge, to those in need, and, secondly, by that influence of example, hopefully that idea would take root in those who benefitted from his idea. The idea was, eventually, relegated to the dustbin of good and noble ideals thanks, mainly, to the ignorance and stupidity of intelligent men of science, art and hospital administration.*

*Today, thousands of people have died because of the hatred of the followers of the al-Qaeda movement, the brainchild of one man: Osama bin Laden. It should be apparent that that brainchild grew to maturity when, on September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 innocent people were murdered in New York when 2 commercial jetliners, piloted by adherents of the al-Qaeda movement, were flown, purposely, into the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. It is unlikely that the hatred, fermented by Osama bin Laden and his followers, initially, is dead, today, and it is, also, very obvious that the international war of terror has not been won. I suggest that that war cannot be won ... unless there is a way in which to reach those people who have been brainwashed into believing that the way to achieving their goals can be reached by death and destruction. The assassination of Osama bin Laden will, eventually, prove to have been a fruitless and worthless act since, as within every garden, under each and every rock, there is another insect, waiting its turn to take advantage of the death of its predecessor.*

*Ironically, as history has proved, the way to achieving goals, those that will live for centuries to come, is through birth and construction. The music of the great masters – Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Paganini, Puccini, Verdi, Schubert, Gershwin, Chopin, Wagner, Grieg, etc – will live forever, as will the great works of the authors, poets and playwrights of days of yore – Shakespeare, Chaucer, Wordsworth, Shelly, Swift, Rostand, Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll), Stevenson, Salinger, Hughes, Dickens etc. Surely, intelligent men and leaders of nations should realise that great works of man live forever whereas dastardly deeds live on, but only as tokens of that which is evil, wrong and improper, not that which is good, right and proper. Civilisation is, generally, defined as being an advanced development of a society: An advanced level of development in society that is marked by complex social and political organisations, and material, scientific, and artistic progress. I suggest, therefore, that this civilisation, in which we live, is a far distance from achieving its rightful goals; and, spending many trillions of dollars on developing weapons of war in order to kill one's fellow man quickly, as was the case in the assassination of Osama bin Laden, will not achieve that nobility of soul to which man should want to attain in his rightful pursuit of peace for all in a world of beauty, grace and freedom.*

*That is all for today. Talk to you, next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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