

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I find it extremely difficult to believe that the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of France would travel to Libya just to praise the insurgents who were victorious over most of the forces of Muammar Gaddafi. It is not that I believe that the insurgents were not deserving of their victory because they, clearly, were deserving, but I find it difficult to believe that 2 of the most-powerful men in politics in Europe would take the time to fly to this desert nation just to praise the fighters who, in spite of the odds, stacked against them, they won the day.*

*It is said that the best liars in the world are politicians. This is not to suggest that Messrs David Cameron and Nicolas Sarkozy are liars, but politics, being what it is, there has to be that pot of gold, somewhere down the yellow brick road, leading to The Emerald City that, in this case, would be the City of Subterranean Black Ooze – also known as Tripoli, Libya. In a country of about 7 million people, all living in a huge desert, measuring about 1.76 million square kilometers, with the only known natural resources, being petroleum, natural gas, gypsum, what would Great Britain and France find so fascinating about this sandy country of North African? Further, I have it on good authority that neither Mr Nicolas Sarkozy nor Mr David Cameron embraces Islam; and, it is known that they both enjoy a pork chop for dinner, from time to time.*

*Which brings me to the matter as to the various methods by which man chooses other men or women to represent him, at least in the Western World. Some people call this politics, which is the art or science of gaining and holding onto power in a government. I maintain that the true reason that a person selects what he thinks would be the best candidate to fill a top position in a governmental post is that his choice of a candidate is perceived as being the least likely person to have been completely corrupted or, alternatively, he obtains an advantage, directly or indirectly, by casting his vote for this candidate. I find it extremely difficult to believe that there exists a man or woman who is completely devoid of greed or covetousness or would not like to enjoy a position, akin to absolute power. At the same time, I find it very difficult to believe that a man or a woman would devote a great part of his or her life in the pursuit of goodness and kindness for humankind. It is not in the genetic disposition of a man or a woman to be so endowed with such an attribute. Even the Catholic Church has been found wanting over the centuries, with the popes and cardinals, being among the most-corrupt of human beings of their day. In the past few decades, it has been proved that Catholic priests have been among the biggest rapists of young boys and girls under their care, either directly or indirectly. For the most part, human being are, sadly, cheats, scoundrels, liars, hypocrites, egotists and totally untrustworthy. And these are the same people who man votes into high office in order to represent the constituents in matters of government, knowing fully well that, at the end of the yellow brick road, these same politicians would have served only themselves rather than having considered and acted in the interests of the benefit that they could have brought to the people whom they were supposed to have served by virtue of their position of power.*

*Now, this is not to suggest that Messrs Sarkozy and Cameron fall into any of the above categories because I am fully aware that they are both married men and they are not known as being in the employ of any schism of the Catholic Church. But they are politicians, after all, aren't they?*

*The trouble with all politicians is that, if they stay in power long enough, they tend to become intoxicated with that power and they do not want to surrender it to anybody. That, too, is human nature. This is akin to*

*a person who, having been gravely ill and having spent some time in a hospital, feels comfortable with his surroundings and, as he regains his health, he does not want to leave the hospital . This is what has happened in many parts of the Middle East, Syria and Libya, being just 2 classic examples. One should thank Oliver Cromwell of Great Britain (1599-1658), English soldier and statesman, who led Parliamentary forces in the English Civil Wars; he was lord protector of England, Scotland, and Ireland from 1653 to 1658, during the Republican Commonwealth. As one of the generals on the Parliamentary side in the English Civil War against King Charles I, Oliver Cromwell helped to bring about the overthrow of the Stuart Monarchy, and, as Lord Protector, he raised his country's status once more to that of a leading European power from the decline it had gone through since the death of Queen Elizabeth I.*

*It is fact, My Dear Grandchild, that power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts, absolutely. John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton, First Baron, eighth Baronet, who lived from 1834 until his death in 1902, is credited with this observation. Luckily for the world, Messrs Cameron and Sarkozy will not hold onto their respective powers for very long so that they will never be completely corrupted, will they?*

*Talk to you next week*

*Chief Lady*

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