

雨過天晴

yu3 guo4 tian1 qing2

Former TVB general manager Stephen Chan Chi-wan was fined HK\$84,000 after being convicted of conspiracy to accept an advantage. But that may come as a relief to him as the court's decision should finally end his five-year legal ordeal during which he was twice acquitted and then convicted.

The fine was, by all standards, not a heavy one, and he escaped imprisonment as the judge said there were special circumstances surrounding the case, which involved no elements of corruption, no dishonesty and no intent to conceal. It was only a technical breach.

The court did not even grant a prosecution request to ban Chan from being a director of a public body for seven years, or for him to return money to TVB. Chan must be feeling that it is finally “雨過天晴” (*yu3 guo4 tian1 qing2*).

“雨” (*yu3*) is “rain,” “過” (*guo4*) “to have passed,” “to be over,” “天” (*tian1*) “the sky” and “晴” (*qing2*)

Idiom by Lon Yan

“clear,” “fine.” Literally, “雨過天晴” (*yu3 guo4 tian1 qing2*) is “rain over, sky clear.”

The idiom can be used literally to describe the weather, which means “when the rain is over, the sky clears up.” It may also be used figuratively to describe the passing of a bad situation with things returning to normal.

This certainly is the case for Chan. Though he seemed to be rather “zen” about the matter all along, the experience could not have been anything but extremely stressful. Who wouldn't be when facing the full force of the criminal prosecution machinery for five years?

Terms containing the character “晴” (*qing2*) include:

晴朗 (*qing2 lang3*) – bright and clear weather

晴空 (*qing2 kong1*) – cloudless sky

放晴 (*fang4 qing2*) – the weather clears up

乍晴乍雨 (*zha4 qing2 zha4 yu3*) – sudden changes from rain to shine