

難以置信

nan2 yi3 zhi4 xin4

Clandestine love affairs have a way of ending in misery, or even tragedy. Such is the case with a married medical equipment salesman and his lover, a student nurse, who attacked him when he suggested breaking up.

Breakups are emotional situations, and bloodshed is not unheard of. But how this attack unfolded was rather weird.

According to *Headline Daily*, the two were arguing at the woman's home in Sheung Shui when she suddenly picked up a knife and stabbed the man once. After that, they continued to talk and the woman lost control again, picked up a second knife and stabbed the man five more times.

Still, the man did not seek medical attention, but allowed the woman to drive him back to his home some 40 kilometers away in Tseung Kwan O. Along the way, the two argued again and the man was stabbed a seventh time.

Only then was an ambulance called. The man was

Idiom by Lon Yan

taken to hospital in serious condition and the woman was arrested.

The whole incident is just “難以置信” (*nan2 yi3 zhi4 xin4*). “難” (*nan2*) means “difficult,” “以” (*yi2*) “to use,” “to,” “置” (*zhi4*) “to place at” and “信” (*xin4*) “to trust,” “to believe in.” Literally, “難以置信” (*nan2 yi3 zhi4 xin4*) is “difficult to place belief in.”

When something is “難以置信” (*nan2 yi3 zhi4 xin4*), it is “hard to believe,” “beyond belief.” It also means “implausible,” “inconceivable,” “incredible,” or “unbelievable.”

The idiom can be used to express amazement at weird happenings, and depending on your tone of voice and context, disapproval or literal disbelief.

Terms containing the character “信” (*xin4*) include:

信心 (*xin4 xin1*) – confidence

信任 (*xin4 ren4*) – to trust in

信用卡 (*xin4 yong4 ka3*) – credit card

信譽 (*xin4 yu4*) – good reputation