

大殺風景

da4 sha1 feng1 jing3

Black rubber mats were put on the steps of a hiking trail in a country park, upsetting people.

They said the mats were totally out of place and spoiled the natural setting of the countryside. Some mocked the government, saying perhaps it might as well consider installing an escalator.

But the government said that the mats were put there to improve safety for the elderly. Also, these were secondhand material taken from refurbished facilities. So the black mats were, in fact, quite green too.

Anyway, some people still think that the mats are being “大殺風景” (*da4 sha1 feng1 jing3*).

“大” (*da4*) is “big,” “huge,” “great,” “殺” (*sha1*) “to kill,” “to reduce,” “to weaken,” “風景” (*feng1 jing3*) is “scenery,” “landscape.” Literally, “大殺風景” (*da4 sha1 feng1 jing3*) is “greatly kill the scenery.”

“殺風景” (*sha1 feng1 jing3*) means “to spoil one’s

Idiom by Lon Yan

enthusiasm,” “to dampen the spirit.” “大殺風景” (*da4 sha1 feng1 jing3*) means “to spoil the fun,” “to sink the spirits of,” “to mar the pleasure of something.”

If the school principal popped in as students were having a wild party, they would feel that it was “大殺風景” (*da4 sha1 feng1 jing3*), so is erecting a steel power cable tower in the middle of a garden.

If someone draws a fighter jet on a fine old Chinese painting of beautiful scenery, it is certainly “大殺風景” (*da4 sha1 feng1 jing3*), both literally and figuratively. But that probably is something only mischievous Old Master Q (老夫子) would do.

Terms containing the character “殺” (*sha1*) include:

謀殺 (*mou2 sha1*) – murder

殺頭 (*sha1 tou2*) – to behead

誤殺 (*wu4 sha1*) – to mistakenly kill; manslaughter

殺蟲劑 (*sha1 chong2 ji4*) – insecticide