

新仇舊恨

xin1 chou2 jiu4 hen4

A man in his 60s ruined the wedding banquet of his daughter when he got into a heated argument with his sister and slashed her with a knife. The woman's husband was also hurt when he tried to intervene.

Needless to say, what should have been a happy occasion ended with the attacker spending the night at a police station and the injured couple in hospital.

The incident took place at a five-star hotel in Admiralty. The man's younger sister traveled all the way from Shenzhen to attend the wedding. But the father of the bride criticized her for dressing sloppily, saying that had caused him to lose face. A heated argument ensued, ending in the attack.

It was reported that the brother and sister had bad blood between them for years and the complaint about the sister's attire was just the latest trigger for the two to be at each other's throats again.

Idiom by Lon Yan

When two people are in a bad relationship and keep looking for new excuses to continue hating each other, we say they are locked in “新仇舊恨” (*xin1 chou2 jiu4 hen4*).

“新” (*xin1*) is “new;” “仇” (*chou2*) “hatred;” “animosity;” “舊” (*jiu4*) “old;” and “恨” (*hen4*) “to hate;” “to regret.” Literally, “新仇舊恨” (*xin1 chou2 jiu4 hen4*) is “new hatred, old animosity;” “hatred new and old.” It means “new hatred piled on old;” “old scores and new.”

When people have “新仇舊恨” (*xin1 chou2 jiu4 hen4*) decide to settle their scores once and for all, they will take steps to “報仇雪恨” (*bao4 chou2 xue3 hen4*) - to take revenge and wipe out a grudge.

Terms containing the character “仇” (*chou2*) include:

仇恨 (*chou2 hen4*) – hatred; to hate

仇人 (*chou2 ren2*) – an enemy, especially a personal one

復仇 (*fu4 chou2*) – to revenge

仇家 (*chou2 jia1*) – foe