

羞與為伍

xiu1 yu3 wei2 wu3

Few would dispute that US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has made some very outrageous remarks, which have come under fire for being crude, racist and sexist.

Some of his words are just plain dumb, like suggesting that we need global warming because it was “freezing and snowing in New York!” or juvenile, like boasting that “my IQ is one of the highest,” and adding “Please don't feel so stupid or insecure; it's not your fault.”

He got himself and his campaign into trouble again with remarks that were interpreted as suggesting opponent Hillary Clinton be assassinated for supporting gun control.

Trump may or may not win the election, but surely, many would feel “羞與為伍” (*xiu1 yu3 wei2 wu3*) with people like him.

“羞” (*xiu1*) is “to feel ashamed,” “shame,” “與” (*yu3*) “with,” “為伍” (*wei2 wu3*) means “to associate with,”

Idiom by Lon Yan

“to mix with,” “to keep company with.” Literally, “羞與為伍” (*xiu1 yu3 wei2 wu3*) is “be ashamed to associate with,” which is what the idiom means.

Another version of the idiom is “恥與為伍” (*chi3 yu3 wei2 wu3*.) The character “恥” (*chi3*) also means “shame”, so “羞與為伍” (*xiu1 yu3 wei2 wu3*) and “恥與為伍” (*chi3 yu3 wei2 wu3*) are interchangeable. “羞恥” (*xiu1 chi3*), as a term, means “shame”, “the feeling of shame.”

When people do something disgraceful, like cheating old people out of money, you could say you are “羞與為伍” (*xiu1 yu3 wei2 wu3*) with them. You can also call them “不知羞恥” (*bu4 zhi1 xiu1 chi3*) – shameless!

Terms containing the character “羞” (*xiu1*) include:

羞辱 (*xiu1 ru3*) – to humiliate; to insult

害羞 (*hai4 xiu1*) – shy; bashful

羞愧 (*xiu1 kui4*) – ashamed; abashed

羞怯 (*xiu1 qie4*) – mousy; sheepish