

# 強詞奪理

*qiang2 ci2 duo2 li3*

A truck driver won the Mark Six third prize but failed to collect the prize money of HK\$47,000 within the 60-day time limit. When he asked for the money one month after the deadline had passed, he was denied payment.

The man took the Jockey Club to the Small Claims Tribunal, and was told to just go home. He appealed to the High Court and argued that not paying him was a violation of the Basic Law provision that everyone is equal before the law.

He told the court when a street hawker had his tools of trade seized, it was to punish him for breaking the law.

Since he had not broken any law, there was no reason money that was his should be seized. Further, anyone should have the freedom to decide when to pick up Mark Six prize money.

It is doubtful if anyone can follow the logic of such

## Idiom by Lon Yan

arguments. So the disgruntled man was told to go home again. But he threatened to take the case to higher courts. Well, one can only wish him good luck! The idiom that comes to mind is “強詞奪理” (*qiang2 ci2 duo2 li3*).

“強” (*qiang2*) is “strained,” “unconvincing,” “詞” (*ci2*) “words,” “statement,” “奪” (*duo2*) “to take away by force,” “to seize” and “理” “reason,” “logic.” Literally, “強詞奪理” (*qiang2 ci2 duo2 li3*) is “utter unconvincing words to seize reason.”

It means “to use lame arguments,” “to resort to sophistry (詭辯),” “to reason fallaciously (謬誤地),” “to argue irrationally.”

### Terms containing the character “奪” (*duo2*) include:

爭奪 (*zheng1 duo2*) – to fight for; to scramble for

搶奪 (*qiang3 duo2*) – to snatch; to seize

奪得 (*duo2 de2*) – to achieve by force

奪標 (*duo2 biao1*) – to win the first prize