Idiom by Lon Yan

厚 顏 無 恥

hou4 yan2 wu2 chi3

A tycoon's feud with his former lover is in the news almost every day, catching as much if not more attention than Donald Trump and feuds among local politicians.

The drama, which is still unfolding, is over his considerable assets, or how not to let them fall into the "wrong" hands. Full page ads were taken out to declare termination of relation with the former lover, whom the tycoon accused of being "money-crazy" and "having skin thicker than a dinosaur".

Dinosaurs haven't walked the Earth for at least 65 million years, so this tycoon couldn't have touch the skin of one. But those running around in Jurassic Park certainly looked to have very thick skin, so his analogy was probably valid.

When accusing someone of having thick skin, the idiom to use is "厚顏無恥" (*hou4 yan2 wu2 chi3*). "厚" (*hou4*) is "thick," "deep," "顏" (*yan2*) "face," "color," "無" (*wu2*) is "nil," "without" and "恥" (*chi3*) "shame," "humiliation." Literally, "厚顏無恥" (*hou4 yan2 wu2 chi3*) is "thick face no shame."

"厚顏" (*hou4 yan2*) as a term means "thick-skinned," "brazen," "cheeky." "無恥" (*wu2 chi3*) is also a term, meaning "shameless," "unblushing," "to be devoid of shame." "厚顏無恥" (*hou4 yan2 wu2 chi3*) simply means "shameless."

Politicians often accused each other of "厚顏無恥" (*hou4 yan2 wu2 chi3*), which must be true, as least regarding the "厚顏" (*hou4 yan2*) part, as you cannot be too sensitive to criticisms to survive political life.

Terms containing the character "厚" (*hou4*) include:

敦厚 (*dun1 hou4*) – **honest and sincere; good-natured**

仁厚 (*ren2 hou4*) – **kind-hearted**

厚度 (*hou4 du4*) – **thickness; depth**

厚此薄彼 (*hou4 ci3 bo2 bi3*) – **to favor one more than another**