

Idiom by Lon Yan

美夢成真

mei3 meng4 cheng2 zhen1

For those who have a penchant for raucous fun, having 50 bikini-clad pole dancers at their party must feel like “美夢成真” (*mei3 meng4 cheng2 zhen1*).

“美” (*mei3*) is “beautiful,” “very satisfactory,” “夢” (*meng4*) “a dream,” “成” (*cheng2*) “to become” and “真” (*zhen1*) “real,” “true.” “美夢” (*mei3 meng4*) is “fond dream,” and “成真” (*cheng2 zhen1*) means “coming true.” Literally, “美夢成真” (*mei3 meng4 cheng2 zhen1*) is “fond dream comes true,” which is what it means: “a dream comes true.”

Another version of the expression is “夢想成真” (*meng4 xiang3 cheng2 zhen1*). “夢想” is “a dream,” “to dream,” and “夢想成真” (*meng4 xiang3 cheng2 zhen1*) also means “a dream come true.”

Just such a party actually did take place

- in the form of a parade of 200 vehicles stretching for kilometers on the streets of Chiayi Taiwan, for the benefit of a councillor, but nominally only, as the councillor could not be personally present to enjoy the show – the party was his funeral.

The head-turning, jaw-dropping, eyebrow-raising, pedestrians-stopping and traffic-jamming performance was literally a case of “夢想成真” (*meng4 xiang3 cheng2 zhen1*) – the brother, who organized it, explained: “He (the deceased) told us he wanted this through a dream two days before the funeral.”

When a student gets accepted to her dream school, it is “美夢成真” (*mei3 meng4 cheng2 zhen1*) or “夢想成真” (*meng4 xiang3 cheng2 zhen1*), so is a man’s dream girl finally agrees to marry him.

Terms containing the character “美” (*mei3*) include:

美麗 (*mei3 li4*) – beautiful; pretty

美味 (*mei3 wei4*) – delicious

美化 (*mei3 hua4*) – to beautify; to embellish

美食 (*mei3 shi2*) – fine food; delicacy