

Idiom by Lon Yan

荒謬絕倫

huang1 miu4 jue2 lun2

Kim Jung-nam is still alive. In fact, more than one Kim Jung-nam is alive, that is, according to recent internet postings in the mainland.

One thing common among these Kim Jung-nams is that they all want money. One said the person who was assassinated at in Malaysia was, actually, a double, and that he, the real half-brother of the current North Korean leader, survived.

But he is in deep trouble, and could anyone be kind enough to deposit 2,000 yuan into his bank account as he needed the money to go home.

Another one asked for 5,000 yuan, promising to appoint the person who helps him commander-in-chief of his future army, navy and air force when he overthrows the current government and takes power.

Looking at such postings, one can only say “荒謬絕倫” (*huang1 miu4 jue2 lun2*)!

“荒謬” (*huang1 miu4*) means “absurd,”

“preposterous,” “ridiculous,” “foolish,” “irrational,” “absurdity,” and “絕倫” (*jue2 lun2*) “unsurpassed,” “unequaled,” “peerless,” “matchless.” Literally, “荒謬絕倫” (*huang1 miu4 jue2 lun2*) is “unsurpassed absurdity.”

The idiom means “absolutely ridiculous,” “preposterous,” “the height of folly.”

These posting were written in Chinese. And as a netizen pointed out, why would Kim Jung-nam, even if he is still alive, write in Chinese? Could he actually?

And others questioned even if the North Korean needs money, why would he ask for it in China’s currency instead of the won?

But you’d never know. Someone out there might actually fall for these urgent calls for help and send money. But of course, to respond to the messages would just be another case of “荒謬絕倫” (*huang1 miu4 jue2 lun2*)!

Terms containing the character “絕” (*jue2*) include:

絕對 (*jue2 dui4*) – absolute; absolutely

絕望 (*jue2 wang4*) – hopeless; despair

絕食 (*jue2 shi2*) – a hunger strike

絕交 (*jue2 jiao1*) – to cut off friendship