

Idiom by Lon Yan

神憎鬼厭

shen2 zeng1 gui3 yan4

Some might have hoped that Donald Trump's obnoxious antics were just theatrics staged to get him elected, and that he would start behaving more like a president after he moved into the White House.

But no, they guy actually starts to deliver on his campaign promises, gleefully implementing racist immigration policies and building a wall on the US-Mexican border, ignoring the project's vile implications and the fact that illegal immigrants can dig tunnels.

So the world continues to hate him, and he hates the world back. The depth of people's loathing can be seen in protests everywhere, the latest at the opening of a Trump hotel in Vancouver, where people actually took time off skiing (a much more meaningful endeavor) to express their anger.

People who are hated so much can be

called “神憎鬼厭” (*shen2 zeng1 gui3 yan4*).

“神” (*shen2*) “God,” “a deity,” “憎” (*zeng1*) “to dislike,” “to detest,” “鬼” (*gui3*) “ghost” and “厭” (*yan4*) “to detest,” “to be bored or fed up with.” “神憎鬼厭” (*shen2 zeng1 gui3 yan4*), literally, is “deities hate, ghosts detest,” “hated by god and detested by the devil.”

The idiom means “hated by all,” “hated and detested by everyone,” “loathsome.” It is used to describe people or conducts that are despicable.

The Cantonese expression “乞人憎” (*qi3 ren2 zeng1*) means “arousing hatred in people.” And people who are “神憎鬼厭” (*shen2 zeng1 gui3 yan4*) are on a wholly different level of despicability, as they invoke also the hatred of those in heaven and hell as well.

And for instructions on achieving that level of despicability, watch Trump.

Terms containing the character “憎” (*zeng1*) include:

可憎 (*ke3 zeng1*) – abominable; hateful; detestable

憎恨 (*zeng1 hen4*) – hate intensely; abhor

憎嫌 (*zeng1 xian2*) – scorn; dislike

憎惡 (*zeng1 e4*) – detest, loathe