

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 劫後餘生

*jie2 hou4 yu2 sheng1*

Thirty-nine dogs took a road trip in a four-van convoy from the US to Canada recently.

They weren't on a luxury package tour, but were survivors of Hurricane Harvey which wreaked havoc in Houston.

Their owners have either lost their homes, or are in no condition to continue to take care of them.

The dogs were taken to Toronto by a not-for-profit organization that goes to areas affected by natural disasters to help find homes for dogs that have “劫後餘生” (*jie2 hou4 yu2 sheng1*).

“劫” (*jie2*) “a calamity” “後” (*hou4*) “after,” “afterwards,” “餘” (*yu2*) “spare,” “remaining,” and “生” (*sheng1*) “to live,” “life,” “living.” Literally, “劫後餘生” (*jie2 hou4 yu2 sheng1*) is “after the calamity, renewed life.”

The idiom means “to survive a disaster,” “to

outlive a calamity,” “having a new lease of life.”

“劫後餘生” (*jie2 hou4 yu2 sheng1*) is usually used to describe human survivors of a disaster, be it a natural one, such as an earthquake, a tsunami, or a hurricane, or one caused by people, like a terrorist attack.

To use the idiom, the situation from which one have survived must be serious, but not necessarily the tragic kind that involves potential loss of life.

So, employees who did not get sacked in a massive layoff exercise might have the feeling of “劫後餘生” (*jie2 hou4 yu2 sheng1*), with the “劫” (*jie2*) being the threat of losing the job.

As for the dogs, they are living temporarily at an animal shelter awaiting adoption. It was reported that many applications have been received.

### Terms containing the character “餘” (*yu2*) include:

餘錢 (*yu2 qian2*) – spare money; surplus funds

多餘 (*duo1 yu2*) – surplus; redundant; superfluous

餘震 (*yu2 zhen4*) – the aftershock of an earthquake

餘裕 (*yu2 yu4*) – enough and to spare