

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 受寵若驚

*shou4 chong3 ruo4 jing1*

Old cardboards and boxes fell off a cart as an elderly man was pushing it along Tin Kwong Road.

A traffic policeman who happened to pass by on a motorcycle stopped and helped the man pick up the cardboards and reloaded it onto the cart.

His good deed was captured on video by a passerby, who posted it on the internet, and attracted applause from thousands of netizens, who said Hong Kong needs more people like the policemen.

The media managed to track down the policeman, who said modestly that anyone would have done the same. He worried about the safety of the old man, so he blocked traffic with his motorcycle and offered assistance. He was happy when he saw that the old man was happy.

Asked about getting praised, he said he was just “受寵若驚” (*shou4 chong3 ruo4 jing1*).

“受” (*shou4*) is “to receive,” “to accept,” “寵” (*chong3*) “to love,” “to pamper,” “to spoil,” “受寵” (*shou4 chong3*) means “to receive favor from a superior.” “若” (*ruo4*) is “as if,” “seem,” “like,” and “驚” (*shou4 chong3 ruo4 jing1*) “be frightened,” “be startled.”

“受寵若驚” (*shou4 chong3 ruo4 jing1*) is a humble expression that means “to be overwhelmed by an unexpected favor,” “to feel extremely flattered.”

Another idiom that contains the character “寵” (*chong3*) is “恃寵生驕” (*shi4 chong3 sheng1 jiao1*), which is about an attitude that is the opposite of being humble.

“恃寵生驕” (*shi4 chong3 sheng1 jiao1*) describes people who become arrogant, proud and disrespectful because he or she was spoiled.

### Terms containing the character “寵” (*chong3*) include:

寵愛 (*chong3 ai4*) – to dote on; to love dearly

寵幸 (*chong3 xing4*) – to show special favor to a lady or minister

寵壞 (*chong3 huai4*) – spoil (a child etc)

寵物 (*chong3 wu4*) – a pet