

Idiom by Lon Yan

拳打腳踢

quan2 da3 jiao3 ti1

Students should respect their teachers. Such reverence (尊敬) is expressed by the idiom “尊師重道” (*zun1 shi1 chong2 dao4*).

“尊” (*zun1*) is “to respect,” “to venerate,” “to honor;” “師” (*shi1*) “teacher,” “master,” “重” (*chong2*) “heavy,” “important,” “to place importance on,” and “道” (*dao4*) “a road,” “a doctrine,” “direction.” “尊重” (*zun1 chong2*) is “to respect,” “to value,” “deference.”

“尊師重道” (*zun1 shi1 chong2 dao4*) means “to honor the teacher and respect his or her teachings.”

Most students are “尊師重道” (*zun1 shi1 chong2 dao4*), but some local students have displayed irreverence (不尊重) to their teachers over some controversial issues these days.

Hopefully, they would not sink to the level of some of their counterparts in the mainland

who, instead of “尊師重道” (*zun1 shi1 chong2 dao4*), “拳打腳踢” (*quan2 da3 jiao3 ti1*) their teachers.

“拳” (*quan2*) is “a fist,” “打” (*da3*) “to hit,” “to attack,” “腳” (*jiao3*) “a foot,” and “踢” (*ti1*) “to kick.” “拳打腳踢” (*quan2 da3 jiao3 ti1*) is “to punch and kick,” “to beat up,” which was what one teacher suffered in the hands of his students recently. This followed a fatal knife attack on a Hunan teacher because he dared to assign holiday homework.

“拳打腳踢” (*quan2 da3 jiao3 ti1*) a teacher is not only disrespect but a criminal offence. No wonder teaching has been rated by some as the second most dangerous profession after doctors in the mainland.

Terms containing the character “拳” (*quan2*) include:

拳頭 (*quan2 tou2*) – a fist

拳擊 (*quan2 ji1*) – to hit with the fist; boxing

拳賽 (*quan2 sai4*) – a boxing match

拳王 (*quan2 wang2*) – boxing champion