

# 殃及池魚

*yang1 ji2 chi2 yu2*

An “angry” Patrick Tse Yin (謝賢) shoved fellow veteran actor Kenneth Tsang Kong (曾江) at a press conference promoting their new television program.

Neither was hurt, but fellow actor Bowie Wu Fung (胡楓) who happened to be sitting between the two had his glasses damaged.

The “scuffle” (扭打) was said to be a publicity stunt (宣傳手法). In any event, Wu had nothing to do with the alleged problems between Tse and Tsang. That he should suffer damage may be said to be a case of “殃及池魚” (*yang1 ji2 chi2 yu2*).

“殃” (*yang1*) is “a calamity,” “及” (*ji2*) means “to reach,” “to attain,” “池” (*chi2*) is “a pond,” “a pool,” and “魚” (*yu2*) is “fish.” Literally, 殃及池魚 (*yang1 ji2 chi2 yu2*) is “calamity reaches pond fish.”

## Idiom by Lon Yan

The idiom came from the sentence “城門失火，殃及池魚。” “城門失火” (*cheng2 men2 shi1 huo3*) means the city gate catches fire. As everyone is getting water from the moat (pond) to fight the fire, the moat dries up and the fish in it die.

The idiom “殃及池魚” (*yang1 ji2 chi2 yu2*) therefore, means innocent people getting hurt.

When your friend argues with someone and you get punched in the face in the ensuing melee, it is a case of “殃及池魚” (*yang1 ji2 chi2 yu2*). You, an innocent bystander, have become collateral damage, or the “fish” in the idiom “殃及池魚” (*yang1 ji2 chi2 yu2*).

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

打魚 (*da3 yu2*) - to fish

魚塘 (*yu2 tang2*) - fishpond

鹹魚 (*xian2 yu2*) - salted fish

魚雷 (*yu2 lei2*) - a torpedo