The basic unit of the Chinese language is the zi (字), i.e. a Chinese word. Each zi has a written form (called a character, made up of strokes), a sound (made up of consonant and vowel) and a meaning (or multiple meanings). When we speak or write Chinese, we string zi together to form terms, phrases and sentences.

This week: Words about the crime

Pictogram 奸 shows three 女 (nu = woman)! 女性 (nu xing = woman-sex = women) are victims of 強姦 (qiang jian = forced-rape), 迷姦 (mi jian = dope/drug-rape), 輪姦 (lun jian = wheel/take-turns-rape = raped consecutively by different men).

姦汚 (jian wu = rape-dirty) means rape (and smear/ruin victim’s purity/reputation). Bandits 姦淫擄掠 (jian yin lu lue = adultery-lust-kidnap-loot = rape, loot). Men with 恋童癖 (lian tong pi = love-child-obsession = pederasty) commit 雞姦 (ji jian = chicken-rape = sodomy) on boys.

通姦 (tong jian = link-adultery) = commit adultery. 捉姦在床 (zhuo jian zai chuang = catch-adultery-in-bed) describes 姦夫淫婦 (jian fu yin fu = adulterous-man-lustful-woman = adulterous couple) caught doing it in bed.

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