A polar bear patted a sled dog lovingly on the head. This heart-warming scene in Manitoba, Canada, was captured on video by a tour guide and the clip went viral.

But an animal expert quoted by the media was not totally convinced about the intention of the bear and observed that such interspecies friendship was highly unusual.

Sure enough, follow-up reports revealed that conservation officers had to remove three polar bears from the same spot where the bear-pats-dog scene took place after a sled dog was snatched and eaten by bears just a few days ago.

We see what we want to see. Patting a dog is, of course, a gesture of affection from the human perspective. But the bear-eats-dog report makes you wonder if the dog-patting bear was not showing just as much affection for the dog as a gourmand massaging a fine piece of steak to tenderize it for the oven.

If so, the dog-patting bear was just showing “假仁假義” (jia3 ren2 jia3 yi4).

“假” (jia3) is “fake,” ‘false,” “仁” (ren2) “benevolence,” “kindness, “假” (jia3), again “fake,” “false” and “義” (yi4) “righteousness,” “justice.” Literally, “假仁假義” (jia3 ren2 jia3 yi4) is “fake kindness and fake righteousness,” “pretended benevolence and righteousness.”

The idiom means “to be a wolf in sheep’s clothing,” “to shed crocodile tears,” “hypocrisy.”

If a co-worker who stabbed you in the back comes over to say how sorry he is that you’ve gotten fired, you can tell him you won’t be fooled by such “假仁假義” (jia3 ren2 jia3 yi4).

Terms containing the character “假” (jia3) include:

假設 (jia3 she4) – to presume; to suppose
假裝 (jia3 zhuang1) – to pretend; to feint
假髮 (jia3 fa4) – a wig
作假 (zuo4 jia3) – to falsify; to cheat