美夢成真

For those who have a penchant for raucous fun, having 50 bikini-clad pole dancers at their party must feel like “美夢成真” (mei3 meng4 cheng2 zhen1).

“美” (mei3) is “beautiful,” “very satisfactory,” “夢” (meng4) “a dream,” “成” (cheng2) “to become” and “真” (zhen1) “real,” “true.” “美夢” (mei3 meng4) is “fond dream,” and “成真” (cheng2 zhen1) means “coming true.” Literally, “美夢成真” (mei3 meng4 cheng2 zhen1) is “fond dream comes true,” which is what it means: “a dream comes true.”

Another version of the expression is “夢想成真” (meng4 xiang3 cheng2 zhen1). “夢想” is “a dream,” “to dream,” and “夢想成真” (meng4 xiang3 cheng2 zhen1) also means “a dream come true.”

Just such a party actually did take place - in the form of a parade of 200 vehicles stretching for kilometers on the streets of Chiayi Taiwan, for the benefit of a councillor, but nominally only, as the councillor could not be personally present to enjoy the show – the party was his funeral.

The head-turning, jaw-dropping, eyebrow-raising, pedestrians-stopping and traffic-jamming performance was literally a case of “夢想成真” (meng4 xiang3 cheng2 zhen1) – the brother, who organized it, explained: “He (the deceased) told us he wanted this through a dream two days before the funeral.”

When a student gets accepted to her dream school, it is “美夢成真” (mei3 meng4 cheng2 zhen1) or “夢想成真” (meng4 xiang3 cheng2 zhen1), so is a man’s dream girl finally agrees to marry him.

Terms containing the character “美” (mei3) include:

美麗 (mei3 li4) – beautiful; pretty
美味 (mei3 wei4) – delicious
美化 (mei3 hua4) – to beautify; to embellish
美食 (mei3 shi2) – fine food; delicacy