There was a break-in at The Peak home of HSBC banker Peter Wong Tung-shun. The house was reported to be protected by a tight security system with high fences, numerous video cameras, sensors and patrolling guards. A *Sing Tao Daily* report called it “固若金湯” (*gu4 ruo4 jin1 tang1*).

“固” (*gu4*) is “firm,” “solid,” “若” (*ruo4*) means “as if,” “seem,” “金” (*jin1*) is “gold,” “metals,” “money,” and “湯” (*tang1*) is “soup,” “hot water,” or “boiling water.”

The term “金湯” (*jin1 tang1*) conjures up the image of a bowl of gold soup, but is actually short for “金城湯池” (*jin1 cheng2 tang1 chi2*), which means “a metal castle with a moat filled with boiling water.”

Literally, “固若金湯” (*gu4 ruo4 jin1 tang1*) is “solid as if it is a metal castle with a boiling water moat.” Such a castle is obviously hard to breach. So “固若金湯” (*gu4 ruo4 jin1 tang1*) means “impregnable” (攻不破的), “safe and stable as a strongly fortified city,” or “strongly fortified.”

The CCTV in the taipan’s house showed four burglars. But the footage was reported to be blurred and not very useful in identifying the burglars. Officers also found the loop fencing near the swimming pool had been loosened.

The masked burglars climbed a drainpipe, entered the second floor of the house through a window, and made off with valuables worth nearly HK$2.5 million.

The security system may have been designed to be “固若金湯” (*gu4 ruo4 jin1 tang1*), but as *The Standard* reported, it was apparently not as efficient as it should have been.

**Terms containing the character “固” (*gu4*) include:**

- 固執 (*gu4 zhi2*) – obstinate, stubborn
- 固體 (*gu4 ti3*) – a solid
- 固然 (*gu4 ran2*) – of course, no doubt
- 固定 (*gu4 ding4*) – fixed, steady