

Man fined 100 kowtows by god for peeking at women while throwing divination blocks

擲筊偷看美女 神罰叩首百次

關

公面前起色心，被罰叩首百次！雲林縣北港德義堂第五代傳人吳登興日前到嘉義縣新港鄉水仙宮擲筊，詢問藝陣未來發展時，巧見美女走過，眼睛不自覺地盯著對方看而恍神，結果竟抽到百中選一的籤王，「來意不誠，叩首一百拜」，吳登興只得當眾跪拜百次，好不尷尬。

創建於清乾隆四年的嘉義縣新港鄉水仙宮主祀水仙尊王，後殿供奉的關聖帝君過去是古笨港（區域涵蓋今雲林縣北港與嘉義縣新港）武館的精神指標，遇有大事無法決定，武館要人常到關聖帝君面前擲筊、抽籤請示。

吳登興近幾年來賣力教授龍鳳獅陣，在不少國小開班授課，對未來該如何進一步落實扎根，心裡沒譜，日前專程到水仙宮請示關聖帝君，正當吳登興一本正經地擲筊、拜託關公指示時，一名妙齡女郎突然從眼前走過，吳登興的眼睛不自覺地盯著對方，竟然看得出神。

隔了好一會兒，吳登興才回神，猛然想起神筊還握在手裡，趕忙對空連拋三次，都求得應筊，吳登興正慶幸求籤這麼順利，沒想到竟抽中「籤王」，「來意不誠，叩首一百拜」，雖然眾目睽睽，吳登興只得如搗蒜般連續叩首一百次。他說，到該廟幾次，還是頭一遭抽到懲罰籤。

水仙宮職員蘇木崑表示，一百支竹籤中，懲罰籤只有三支，分別是「來意不誠，另日再求」、「來意不誠，添香油錢」、「來意不誠，叩首一百拜」，信眾問事若心有旁騖，抽到的機率相當高，關聖帝君常依狀況予以「懲罰」，在三支懲罰籤中，最難堪的就是叩首百次。

(自由時報記者陳傑坤)



One hundred kowtows for thinking lewd thoughts when facing Guan Gong! When Wu Teng-hsing, the fifth generation caretaker of the Deyi Temple in Beigang, Yunlin County, visited the Shuixian Temple in Xingang, Jiayi County, to ask the gods about his future, a pretty woman walked past. Wu **inadvertently** took a peek as his mind wandered, with the result that he drew the one divination stick with the text "insincere intent, do 100 kowtows." An embarrassed Wu then had to do 100 kowtows, which left visitors to the temple **scratching their head**.

The temple to the Revered Narcissus King was built in the fourth year of the Qianlong Emperor, or 1739. The rear hall is dedicated to the Saintly Emperor Guan, who was the spiritual leader of the old Bengang martial arts hall. Whenever there was a problem taking a major decision, people would go to Emperor Guan to ask for direction by throwing divination blocks and drawing divination sticks.

In recent years, Wu has been working hard to pass on the dragon, phoenix and lion array. He has found disciples in many elementary schools, but he was uncertain on how to proceed to the next step. So a few days ago he went to the Narcissus King Temple to ask Emperor Guan for directions. Just when Wu solemnly threw the divination blocks and asked the Emperor for directions, a young woman suddenly walked past and Wu couldn't help following her with his eyes and becoming completely **engrossed**.

After a long while, Wu regained his senses and, realizing that he was still holding the divination blocks, hurriedly threw them to the ground three times and received his answer. Happy that things were going so smoothly, he was surprised when he drew the divination stick reading "insincere intent, do 100 kowtows." Despite all the curious onlookers, Wu had no choice but to do 100 consecutive kowtows, as if he were pounding garlic

with a pestle. He said this was the first time in dozens of visits that he had pulled a divination stick giving him a **punishment**.

Su Mu-kun, an attendant at the Narcissus King Temple, said that 100 divination sticks only contained three meting out punishment. These three are "insincere intent, ask again another day," "insincere intent, pay more for the incense," and "insincere intent, do 100 kowtows." If devotees let their mind wander while asking a question, there is a big chance they will pull one of these three divination sticks, and Emperor Guan often metes out punishment according to the situation. The stick requiring 100 kowtows is the severest of the three punishment sticks.

(LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY PERRY SVENSSON)

Wu Teng-hsing performs the 100 kowtows.

PHOTO: CHEN TSAN-KUN, LIBERTY TIMES
吳登興叩首百次。 照片：自由時報記者陳傑坤

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **inadvertently** /,ɪndə'vɜ:tntli/ adv.

不慎地 (bu2 shen4 de5)

例: Olive inadvertently ordered the most expensive pizza on the menu.

(奧莉芙不小心點了菜單上最貴的比薩。)

2. **engrossed** /ɪn'grɒst/ adj.

全神貫注的 (quan2 shen2 guan4 zhu4 de5)

例: All the students were engrossed in the lecture.

(全班學生都全神貫注聽講。)

3. **punishment** /'pʌnɪʃmənt/ n.

懲罰 (cheng2 fa2)

例: Sam is still waiting to find out his punishment for speeding.

(山姆還在等著看他會因為超速得到什麼刑罰。)

OUT LOUD 對話練習

Agnes: Have you seen Rachel recently?

Mickey: No, I haven't. What's she doing these days?

Agnes: She quit her job at the bank and now she's working at a burger stand.

Mickey: Why did she do that?

Agnes: I have no idea. I'm still **scratching my head** about it.

Mickey: It's weird, but at least she'll get some free burgers.

艾格尼絲：你最近有碰到瑞秋嗎？

米奇：沒有耶。她最近怎麼樣啦？

艾格尼絲：她辭了銀行的工作，現在在一個賣漢堡的攤子工作。

米奇：她為甚麼要這樣？

艾格尼絲：我不知道，我也搞不清楚狀況。

米奇：真怪，但至少她有免費的漢堡可吃！

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

scratching your head 一頭霧水

If somebody is **scratching their head**, they are thinking about a problem, or confused by something. In the article, the visitors to the temple were confused by the man kowtowing 100 times.

Examples: "Peter's decision to drop out of university two weeks before graduation left everyone **scratching their head**."

若某人「scratch their head」，意思就是他們在思考某問題或因某事而感到困惑。文章中提到，到廟裡參拜的信眾看到這名男子叩首一百拜時都一頭霧水。

例如：「彼得在畢業前兩週決定休學，讓大家感到一頭霧水」。