

The Chinese Sayings Podcast

Tomorrow Never Knows

塞翁失马焉知非福

S6E07

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Qiānlǐ Sòng É'máo	千里送鹅毛	A swan feather from a thousand miles away, a saying featured in Season 1 that's used to describe a small insignificant gift that has a great deal of meaning behind it.
Sài wēng shī m ǎ , yān zhī fēi fú	塞翁失马焉知非福	A blessing in disguise
Sài	赛	a place of strategic importance, a fortification or the frontiers of the Chinese empire that was always prone to attacks from nomadic tribesmen
Wēng	翁	an old man but used in a courteous or respectful manner
Lǚ Wēng	吕翁	Old Man Lü featured as a character in the Golden Millet Dream
Huáng Liáng Měi Mèng	黄粱美梦	The Golden Millet Dream, featured in Season 5
Shī	失	To lose
mǎ	马	Horse
Yān	焉	a pronoun used in classical Chinesemeaning here or thisAnd in rhetorical questions it means how
Zhī	知	To know
Fēi	非	Wrong, error; run counter to
Fú	福	Good fortune
Western Hàn Dynasty	西汉	The first part of the Han Dynasty that ran 206 BC to Wang Mang's usurpation in 8 AD (also called the Former Han)
Huáinánzǐ, Rénjiān Xùn	淮南子: 人间训	The Duke of Huáinán: Lessons from The People, The Huáinánzǐ was a work containing a bunch of scholarly debates carried out at the residence of the Prince of Huáinán that sought to argue the best possible ways to order society
Huà bù kě jí shēn bù kě cè yě	化不可及深不可测也	The changes of life are innumerable and their depths are beyond human prediction.
chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese Saying or idiom