



South-african Huisgenoot

John Jaarsveld [REDACTED]

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To: tiangotlost@gmail.com

Hi Tian,
Here is a translation of the south-african piece.
All the best,

John Jaarsveld

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It is a cool summer with Zorro making his mark easily. With three strokes of his sword the Big "Z" appears. The masked miracle was here.

Chinese and Japanese characters are more impressive still. This is the reason that people like to choose these for a tattoo. But you'll hope that that the dude with the needle knows what the letters really mean...

Britney Spears thinks that her Chinese character means "Secretive". Well, it says "Strange" on her body. Haha.

The American Basketball-star Shawn Marion wanted his nickname, "The Matrix", in Chinese on his leg. Well, it says something like "demon feels moth-repelling balls". His mother would be proud.

David Beckham decided that he will have Victoria's name in Hindi on his arm. But it says Vihctoria now. Oops.

Think before you ink, because it even happens to the stars. Normal people often don't discover that their oriental pride doesn't make sense.

The TV-producer Mark Pilgrim did research before he chose his symbols.

"My Japanese symbols is my life-philosophy, expressed as a mathematical equation, and means "bosses live too bad", explains Mark. "And I did research and looked on websites to get the right translation. In Japanese my tattoo literally means "Good too Bad", but I translate this as "more fun in my life than problems".

Wrong ideas or symbols have become such a world-wide problem that Tian Tang, a Chinese student studying in America, keeps a blog "Hanzi Smatter" (www.hanzismatter.com), dedicated to "the misuse of Chinese Characters in Western Culture".

On his website are photos of messed-up tattoos' and many messages of people who wonder if theirs are right.

A girl thought that her delicate peace means "mamma" but it says "Merrie Rys".

"I am often shaking my head. I sometimes feel like a doctor viewing a body, and trying what killed it", Tang says in an interview with Hiragana Times.

Hollywood-actress Angelina Joliet has a few tabooed, including Thai-letters on her shoulder and the Charlize Theron brand on each foot.

Chinese and Japanese symbols are popular with us too.

I have a whole wall full of Chinese characters for a client to choose, Durban's tattooist Edwards van Body Art says. "Today I will do five."

Most people want somebody's name in Chinese or Japanese. He has the name of his wife, Renette, in symbols on his

body.

A general misconception is that the characters can be either Japanese or Chinese, but there is also Kanji, a popular choice. "Kanji is a blend of Chinese, Japanese and Korean, and is more than a century old." Dave says. "The symbols look better. A Japanese or Chinese will be able to read this.

To be sure that their clients are contending with their choice, Dave has a Chinese calligrapher who checks the symbols and translates.

The tattooist Kay Naido from Johannesburg advises people to do their own research to be sure that those characters have the right meaning. Google the words "Chinese Tattoos" and there you have!

Don't think that you with a single beautiful Japanese or Chinese Character say deep word like love or peace.

"Chinese is easy to speak, but difficult to write", Kevin Liu, a Johannesburgian journalist who works for a Chinese newspaper says. "In Chinese is often doesn't make sense to have only one tattoo. You often have to combine two or three characters.

An other problem: If that Chinese Character isn't written well, it has an other meaning. "Speak to a Chinese first, before making a tattoo", he advises.

This sounds wise to us.

Clint Brink, who does the role of Tino Abrahams in /Scandal, has on his left arm three Chinese characters, symbolizing music, love and truth. /

"You have to do research first" he says. It is made quickly. I believe if I will put it on your body for good, you have to know 100 percent sure what you are doing.

The Idols-producer and actor Colin Moss has a Japanese symbol on his back, a Zen-Buddhist symbol and a Japanese symbol on both sides of his stomach. It says Love and truth. He has also a colorful dragon on the whole left-side of his back. This is a traditional Japanese one and he had to lay under the needle for 5 or 6 hours.

The stars Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes have recently told the name of their daughter, Suri, means "Princes" in Hebrew and "red rose" in Persian.

Not according to linguists. The Hebrew name Sara means "princes", while "suri" is slang for "go away"

Good that Tom didn't tattoo that name on his body yet...
