

Tips for Visiting China

Kuo Zhang

绿帽子 (lv mao zi):

Never ever wear a green cap in China
unless you want to broadcast:
my beloved is having an affair.

吃豆腐 (chi dou fu):

There's nothing wrong with eating tofu.
But DO NOT say: I love eating YOUR tofu.
(I'd like to make sexual advances to you.)

送钟 (song zhong):

If you want to see apprehension and anger,
give someone a clock as a present.
(I'll see you die and attend upon your funeral.)

寿衣 (shou yi):

You know why I must mention this?
An American lady wears a traditional shroud
to attend a Chinese party.



Kuo Zhang is a PhD student in the World Language Education program at the University of Georgia. Her research interests are cross-cultural communication, second language poetry writing, teaching Chinese as a foreign language, and arts-based inquiries in language teaching and learning. She also serves as one of the judges for the 2015 SHA Ethnographic Poetry Competition. She can be reached at kuoz0901@uga.edu.