

December 7, 2019

慷他人之慨

by

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On November 27, 2019, James Koo wrote:

"The 2019 reunion has concluded. ... A quick survey on the Yangtse River cruise ship, participants unanimously voted for no refunds.

WT Pang consulted several other classes at the Alumni Day functions, and found other classes also experienced many cancelations and they all will not refund for cancelations.

The reunion committee plans no refunds for cancellations after the deadline.

Surplus, if any, after making up the shortages of certain functions, will be used as part of donation to the school."

It sounds quite righteous to screw those who canceled the trip late, after the deadline. However, I would like to point out that this a typical case of "taxation without representation". What authority did the Yangtse River cruise participants have, to vote on such a matter? Anyone asked those who canceled the trip to participate? This vote was groundless and was just an excuse to divert funds to the donation pool - an attempt to reach the unrealizable target.

Donation, by definition, is voluntary. Alumni who made it big in life don't contribute their fair share but force those who can't afford it to surrender their cancellation fee, sounds like extortion more so than donation!

He who is not willing to dig deep shouldn't pledge such a high target to our school; he who didn't have high confidence to raise the funds shouldn't accept to run such a task; yet, they both did, so as to gain prestige (有面子) in the alumni circle. However, they are unwilling to dig deeper into their pockets to fulfill their quota; rather, they resort to 慷他人之慨.

Refund or no refund, such hypocrisy needs to be exposed.