



## *Little Door to the Eighteenth of December*

Today it's time for an unusual door: an urban legend from Hongkong.

We write the year 1989, 8 years before Hongkong would end to be a British colony. In December that year, the Chiu Yong Kee cha chaan teng in Tai Po Tin took a phone order for four people's worth of food, to be delivered to a unit in Hei Sau Gardens located in western Tai Po Tin. Once on the fourth floor, the delivery man knocked on the door. It opened, but only a small crack, and the food was asked to be left outside. The delivery man placed it in front of the doors, took the money and left.

However, when the owner of the restaurant counted the money that evening, he noticed that there was "hell money" (joss paper burned by Chinese people to help their loved ones in the afterlife). After it happened again on the next day, the owner was convinced that it was a prank so he decided to deliver it the next time himself. As he had predicted, around the same hour the same order came in with the same address. He drove to the place and experienced the same thing: the door only opened slightly, a hand reached out with money and he saw that it was the legal currency. Still, he kept it separate from the rest of the restaurant's money. What must be, must be. On the next day, it was joss paper again.

Consequently, the owner – still terrified - called the police and told them about these weird occurrences. The police arrived at the unit in Hei Sau Gardens and when no one opened the door they forced their way in. As they entered, they noticed a stench in the air and then saw four dead bodies sitting at a table. They have died while playing mahjong.

Despite being dead for a week, finger prints were found on the "hell money" from two individuals and neighbours noted that they were disturbed by the sounds of mahjong coming from the apartment. Furthermore, an autopsy revealed that food was found in the corpses that had only been digested recently. Authorities were baffled by these findings.

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Maybe this urban legend was inspired by a similar story that is said to have occurred in 1953. <https://chinesefolktales.blogspot.com/2014/06/a-haunting-in-hong-kong-case-from-1953.html>