chimera
chimera
(noun) ky-MEE-ra

A completely unrealistic hope, idea or plan; an organism with at least two genetically distinct tissues, whether brought about by natural processes or intervention; an organism that has DNA sequences from more than one source. See the discussion below for further meanings.

When chimera is capitalized (and sometimes when it is not) it refers to a fabulous fire-breathing monster from Greek mythology, with a lion's head, a serpent's tail, and a goat's body. In a more generalized meaning it is any fanciful animal having parts of the body from various animals.

In latter times, Philip II of Spain adopted the heraldic device of Bellerophon attacking the chimera, saying it represented the heretical England which he, also, intended to destroy.


His whole life had been a flight and a pursuit—a vain endeavour to escape from the evil spirit that pursued him—and a chase of a chimera.

J. Sheridan Le Fanu, *The House by the Church-Yard.*

Scotland Yard, which seldom if ever chases chimera, sent down one Chief-Inspector Simpson, who was a man entirely without imagination and had been promoted for it.

Edgar Wallace, *Terror Keep.*