

# 同歸於盡

*tong2 gui1 yu2 jin4*

A man in Jiangxi (江西) drove his car onto the pavement and mowed down more than 20 people, most of them students. Four or five of them died, and a few others were seriously injured.

The man then stabbed himself in the stomach with a knife. He did not die and was arrested.

The tragedy was no accident. The man was reported to be a gambler who had lost everything. He was apparently trying to kill and injure as many as possible before taking his own life. His intention was “同歸於盡” (*tong2 gui1 yu2 jin4*) with his innocent victims.

“同” (*tong2*) is “together,” “歸” (*gui1*) “to go back to,” “於” (*yu2*) “in,” “at,” and “盡” (*jin4*) “to come to an end.” Literally, “同歸於盡” (*tong2 gui1 yu2 jin4*) is “together returning to an end.” It means “to perish together,” “to end in common ruin,” “to die together.”

## Idiom by Lon Yan

“同歸於盡” (*tong2 gui1 yu2 jin4*) is a drastic move by those who are desperate, but it is not uncommon.

It is an act perpetrated by suicide bombers. This is also something soldiers do in a hopeless situation - take down as many of their enemy as possible before dying.

Japanese kamikaze pilots who flew their bomb-loaded planes into Allied naval vessels are prime examples of the act of “同歸於盡” (*tong2 gui1 yu2 jin4*). “同歸於盡” (*tong2 gui1 yu2 jin4*) is also often the tragic ending to love affairs that go wrong.

### Terms containing the character “盡” (*jin4*) include:

盡力 (*jin4 li4*) - to try one's best

盡快 (*jin3 kuai4*) - as soon as possible

盡頭 (*jin4 tou2*) - the end of the road

盡責 (*jin4 ze2*) - to do one's duty