Idiom by Lon Yan

tang2 bi4 dang3 che1

dang3 che1) is “praying mantis arm block cart,”
“mantis trying to stop a cart.”
The idiom concerns an angry praying mantis that
runs into the middle of the road, and raises its
“arms” in a combat stance to challenge the cart.
The next scene should have seen people shaking
their heads as they scraped the insect off the
road. However, in the original story, its life is
spared as the rider of the cart admires the in-
ssect’s “courage.”

“螳臂擋車” (tang2 bi4 dang3 che1) means
“overestimating one’s own strength,” being fool-
hardy (有勇無謀; 愚勇的).

Terms containing the character “車” (che1) include:

車輛 (che1 liang4) – a vehicle
電車 (dian4 che1) – a tram
火車 (huo3 che1) – a train
車禍 (che1 huo4) – a traffic accident