A wild boar was seen struggling in the sea 800 meters off Tseung Kwan O. It had apparently overestimated its aquatic skills and was about to drown. Windsurfers and others practicing dragon boat racing nearby pulled the 50-kilogram animal to safety.

During the process, the boar bit one of its rescuers on the wrist. Fortunately, only slight injuries were caused, but this act of “恩將仇報” (en1 jiang1 chou2 bao4) would not be held against it. The boar was taken away by agriculture and fisheries staff and was due to be released after a health check.

“恩” (en1) is “kindness,” “a big favor,” “將” (jiang1) is “to use,” “仇” (chou2) is “enmity,” and “報” (bao4) means “recompense,” “requisite,” “repay.” Literally, “恩將仇報” (en1 jiang1 chou2 bao4) is “to requisite kindness with enmity.” It means to return kindness with ingratitude, “to reciprocate generosity with animosity.”

It has the same meaning as the English expression “to bite the hand that feeds you,” or, in the case of the drowning boar, “the hand that rescues it.”

The characters “仇報” (chou2 bao4) in the idiom, if reversed in order, become “報仇” (bao4 chou2), which is to take revenge. Saying “I will definitely “報仇” (bao4 chou2)” is a warning that you will take revenge.

The character “仇” (chou2) is also a Chinese surname. A famous local person who has this surname is Chow Chee Keong (仇志強), a star football goalkeeper who earned himself the nickname “Asian Stainless Steel Gate” (亞洲鋼門).

Terms containing the character “仇” (chou2) include:

仇人 (chou2 ren2) – a personal enemy
仇視 (chou2 shi4) – to be hostile to
仇怨 (chou2 yuan4) – hatred, hostility
世仇 (shi4 chou2) – a feud between families