

# 一世一代

utter indifference;  
talking to a wall; in one  
ear and out the other

ぼしとらふら

いっせいちだい

once in a lifetime

よしゆくこ  
四字熟語

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Level

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Coneko Press

花鳥風月

up and down

いちにちをいかに

じゅうにんといろ

to each his own;  
different strokes for  
different folks

上  
下  
一  
心

一

上

一

上

一

the beauties of nature

からよふふけつ

しょうかいっしん

coming together as one  
regardless of social  
status

十人十色

士  
山  
士  
無

short-lived rule;  
governments and power  
are fleeting

みせんやません

うみせんやません

sly old dog; old fox

三  
日  
天  
下

馬車道

life-and-death matter;  
an emergency or crisis  
where survival is  
threatened

ききゆうそんぼう

いちごいちえ

once in a lifetime  
encounter

(Note: This is actually  
used as the Japanese  
title of Forrest Gump)

一期一会

# 来信来疑

いちもんいっとう

answering question by  
question; exchange of  
questions and answers

はつぽうびん

everyone's friend

(Caution! typically  
meant in a derogatory  
way; imagine someone  
who is nice to your face  
and mean behind your  
back)

# 以心伝心



half in doubt;  
half-convinced;  
dubious; incredulous

はんしはんしはんし

いしんでんしん

tacit understanding;  
telepathy;  
communicating without  
speaking

一  
問  
一  
答

全知全能

ぜんちぜんのう

omniscient and  
omnipotent

しちてんはつき

fall seven times, get up  
eight

(Note: this is a  
condensed version of a  
proverb and can also  
be read the same as the  
proverb ななころびや  
おき)

七転八起



危  
急  
存  
亡

an infinite variety of;  
being extremely varied  
and wide-ranging

せんぱんてつ

しんきいてん

changing one's  
attitude; turning over a  
new leaf

心  
機  
一  
転

疑心暗鬼

free and unbiased; fair  
and just; calling a  
spade a spade

ㄈㄣˊ ㄗㄞˊ ㄅㄞˊ ㄅㄞˊ

たいぎめいぶん

just cause; good reason

自業自得

是非々々

jumping at shadows;  
once you suspect one  
thing, everything will  
look suspicious

きんあんき

じごうじとく

you reap what you sow;  
paying for one's  
mistakes

大義名分

因果応報

diversity; a great  
variety of

たしゆたよう

いんがおうほう

retribution; just  
desserts

多種多様

千差万別

singing one's own  
praises

じがじさん

きそうてんがい

fantastic; bizarre;  
incredible

奇想天外

針小棒大

discontent and  
grievance

ふいふいふん

あんちゅうもさく

groping in the dark;  
exploring new avenues  
without having any  
clues

前途多難

不平不穩

exaggeration; making a  
mountain out of a  
molehill

しんしょうぼうだい

ぜんとたなん

having many difficulties  
in store; grim prospects

暗中模索

適材適所

moving about in  
confusion; going every  
which way

うおっやう

ときざいてきしよ

the right person in the  
right place

右往左往



眞面目

being gifted with both  
intelligence and beauty

せいしよくけいず

きゅうたいいぜん

remaining unchanged  
(from the old state of  
things)

旧態依然

暗  
中  
飛  
躍

two sides of the same  
coin

ひょろひょろ

りんきおうへん

resourcefulness; playing  
it by ear

油  
断  
大  
敵

体  
一  
策  
策

behind-the-scenes  
maneuvering

あんちゆうひやく

ゆだんたいてき

unpreparedness is one's  
greatest enemy

臨  
機  
応  
変

敵前逃亡

unimportant details

しよふふふふふ

てきぜんとうぼう

desertion in the face of  
the enemy; deserting  
under enemy fire

枝葉末節

才色兼備

round-up (e.g. of  
criminals); wholesale  
arrest; catching the  
whole herd with one  
throw

いちもうだじん

ききいっぱつ

by a hair's breadth; in  
the nick of time; close  
call

危機一髪

亭  
奴  
心  
京  
涼

in a reserved manner;  
treating a friend as a  
stranger; unduly  
distant; formal

たにんきょうき

ぜんしんぜんれい

complete devotion;  
body and soul

支  
離  
滅  
裂

他人行儀

human emotions (joy,  
anger, pathos, and  
humor)

キトあいらく

しりめつれつ

illogical; inconsistent;  
disjointed

全身全霊

斬新奇抜

unrivaled; peerless

てんかむそう

ざんしんきばつ

novel; unconventional;  
cutting-edge

天下無双



一  
網  
打  
尽

perfect beauty with no  
trace of artifice;  
flawless

てんまいほう

しんしゅつきぼつ

appearing in  
unexpected places and  
at unexpected  
moments; elusive;  
phantom

神  
出  
鬼  
没

佳入尊

unaffected and sincere,  
with fortitude and  
vigor

しつこくけん

ざんぎやくむどう

inhumanity; atrocity

有頂天外

眞実剛健

the good die young

いぢんはくめい

うちょうてんがい

beside oneself with joy;  
in an ecstasy of delight

残虐無道

疾風迅雷

survival of the fittest

いふしよふふふふ

しつぷうじんらい

with lightning speed

優勝劣敗

天衣無縫

ひがいもうそう

persecution complex;  
paranoia



Another little book by  
Coneko Press

被害妄想

all things in nature; the whole creation

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溫厚篤実

森羅万象

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おんこうとくじつ

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having a gentle and  
sincere personality

smooth sailing

じゆんぷうまんぱん

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順風満帆