

Abstinence

“The frequency of the warnings and the continued abstinence of Mr. B with respect to Hiroshima had made its citizens jittery;”

The fact or practice of restraining oneself from indulging in something, typically alcohol.

Convivial

“At fifty, he was healthy, convivial, and calm, and he was pleased to pass the evenings drinking whiskey with friends, always sensibly and for the sake of conversation.

(Of a person) cheerful and friendly; jovial.

Debris

“Timbers fell around her as she landed, and a shower of tiles pommelled her; everything became dark, for she was buried. The debris did not cover her deeply.”

Scattered pieces of waste or remains.

Diocese

“This morning, a Monday, the only worshippers were Mr. Takemoto, a theological student living in the mission house; Mr. Fukai, the secretary of the diocese...”

A district under the pastoral care of a bishop in the Christian Church.

Evacuate

“Mr. Kiyoshi Tanimoto, pastor of the Hiroshima Methodist Church... prepared to unload a handcart full of things he had evacuated from town in fear of the massive B-29 raid

Remove (someone) from a place of danger to a safer place.

Hedonistic

“Dr. Masakazu Fujii, being prosperous, hedonistic, and, at the time, not too busy, had been allowing himself the luxury of sleeping until nine or nine-thirty...”

Engaged in the pursuit of pleasure; sensually self-indulgent.

Incendiary

“The prefectural government... had begun to press with threats and warnings for the completion of wide fire lanes... to localize any fires started by an incendiary raid.

(Of a device or attack) designed to cause fires.

Incessant

“According to Japanese custom, when a person falls sick and goes to a hospital, one or more members of his family go... to offer incessant familial sympathy...”

(Of something regarded as unpleasant) continuing without pause or interruption.

Intermittent

“He said that she should remain at home unless an urgent warning—a series of intermittent blasts of the siren—was sounded.”

Occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady.

Notorious

“Mr. Tanaka... a man famous in Hiroshima for his showy philanthropies and notorious for his personal tyrannies, had been telling people that Tanimoto shouldn't be trusted

Famous or well known, typically for some bad quality or deed.

Parish

“The effort of moving the piano the day before, a sleepless night... the cares of his parish—all combined to make him feel hardly adequate to the new day's work.”

(In the Christian Church) an administrative district typically having its own church and a priest.

Parsonage

“He was alone in the parsonage, because for some time his wife had been commuting with their year-old baby to spend nights with a friend in Ushida, a suburb to the north

A church house provided for a member of the clergy.

Perish

“If he had had to wait a few minutes for the streetcar, as often happened, he would have been close to the center at the time of the explosion and would... have perished.”

Suffer death, typically in a violent, sudden, or untimely way.

Philanthropy

“Mr. Tanaka... a man famous in Hiroshima for his showy philanthropies and notorious for his personal tyrannies, had been telling people that Tanimoto shouldn't be trusted

The desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by a generous donation.

Pommel

“Timbers fell around her as she landed, and a shower of tiles pommelled her; everything became dark, for she was buried.”

Hit repeatedly.

Prominence

“The prominence of the frontal bones just above his eyebrows and the smallness of his mustache, mouth, and chin give him a strange, old-young look...”

The state of being important, famous, or noticeable.

Proprietor

“Dr. Fujii was the proprietor of a peculiarly Japanese institution, a private, single-doctor hospital.”

The owner of a business, or a holder of property.

Prosperous

“Isawa had been a not particularly prosperous tailor, and his only capital was a Sankoku sewing machine.”

Successful in material terms; flourishing financially.

Reconnaissance

“(The Japanese radar operators, detecting only three planes, supposed that they comprised a reconnaissance.)”

Military observation of a region to locate an enemy or ascertain strategic features.

Rendezvous

“Hiroshima had been getting such warnings almost every night for weeks, for at that time the B-29s were using Lake Biwa, northeast of Hiroshima, as a rendezvous point

A meeting at an agreed time and place, typically between two people.

Repugnant

“Satisfied that nothing would happen, he went in and breakfasted with the other Fathers on substitute coffee and ration bread which... was especially repugnant to him

Extremely distasteful; unacceptable.

Tyranny

“Mr. Tanaka... a man famous in Hiroshima for his showy philanthropies and notorious for his personal tyrannies, had been telling people that Tanimoto shouldn't be trusted

Cruel and oppressive government or rule.

Volition

“Each of them counts... items of chance or volition—a step taken in time, a decision to go indoors, catching one streetcar instead of the next—that spared him.”

The faculty or power of using one's will.

Xenophobic

“The Japanese wartime diet had not sustained him, and he felt the strain of being a foreigner in an increasingly xenophobic Japan;”

Having or showing a dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries.