

# 14. To be a shodan

John Allen

English traditional

Who would a shodan be, Come to the congress.  
 Play in good company Making good progress.  
 Learn all your tesuji And use them constantly  
 You'll soon be on your way to be a shodan.

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Now that I'm thirteen kyu  
 Groups seem so fragile.  
 No matter what I do  
 White's far too agile.  
 I'll keep them all joined up,  
 He can't get in to cut.  
 Ah so! His group's gone phut,  
 I've beaten a shodan.

Two kyu or stronger now,  
 One thing I'll ask you:  
 How comes it's always me  
 Plays in his moyo?  
 While my group struggles free  
 He's making territory.  
 Oh hell! Who wants to be  
 A bloody shodan?

Now that I've reached five kyu,  
 Things seem no better.  
 In spite of learning nakade,  
 Snap-back and geta.  
 Though I am on my guard,  
 Bad habits I can't discard,  
 It all seems far too hard  
 To be a shodan.

One kyu, it's all there now  
 Try not to panic.  
 Keep calm and see it through  
 That's really magic.  
 I'd no idea that he  
 Was just as bad as me.  
 Oh joy! At last I'll be  
 Another shodan.