

# SPIRITUAL TOURISTS:

On the commodification of the unconventional

They come to India seeking the exotic  
but forgetting the commonplace.

They come here lusting for revelations  
only to discover heaven varies little  
from place to place.

Searching for the unattainable  
sometimes they find  
what should not be attained.

India is a vast garbage dump  
bringing many worlds before your eyes —  
jewels of wisdom with crass deception!  
beauty making you thankful to live  
along with suffering in every guise.

**An-Yi:** What are people really looking for when they visit India?

**Chariya:** (chuckling) I don't think most people are conscious of what they are looking for.

**Bhāraté:** At any rate, India is often packaged as a tourist commodity. And sometimes even "enlightenment" itself is sold as if it were a trinket.

**Daiki:** (shaking his head) Hmm... to me, this defies all logical comprehension.

- T Newfields

Begin: 1996 in Nagoya, Japan ≙ Finished: 2019 in Yokohama, Japan

