

KYOTO?

An attempt to discern Japan's ancient capital

What's this place –
Kyoto, Japan?

Is it a place where
Shinto shrines bow to obscurity
and old temples
stretch between valleys and peaks
or place where cracked concrete structures
sprawl like gigantic fungi
as polyester litter blows in the breeze?

Which Kyoto has more reality –
the one where busloads of tourists
with cameras in hand
stopping at select destinations
thinking "This is Japan"
or one where
homeless people
shiver at night
hoping their tiny flasks of wine
will give them the strength
to transcend suffering
for a time?

Bhāraté: Stereotypical images often differ from 'reality'.

Chariya: The word 'reality' makes me cringe, but the superficial images we have of most places belie their incongruous complexities.

Daiki: (nodding)Kyoto is certainly a strange cocktail of ancient artefacts and post-modern absurdities.

- T Newfields

Begun: 2005 in Kyoto, Japan ≙ Finished: 2017 in Izu Kogen, Japan

