Narrative Poetry

I was going to start: The first
of Mioko’s five children
was the only one born in Kyoto... But I stopped and thought:
this is narrative; and today
you can’t do narrative.
Even if you wrote like Milton
or Homer or Dante
not likely you’d be feted
in a five-star Hilton;
you’d more likely end up
teaching English Lit in
someplace like Ypsilante.
‘O, Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour,’
is Wordsworth’s hundred plus-year-old plea.
And I alter (with moderate anglophobic glower):
we all have need of thee.

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