

## 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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