

**DISCOVER JAPAN:**  
**An attempt to fathom the spirit of Nippon**

Through whirling pinball machines  
and furnaces burning clay to bizen-yaki  
Nippon speaks.

Through stinking diesel pipes  
and rank computer chip dyes  
Nippon screams.

Through stumbling sumo giants  
and hushed remarks of Sumitomo clients  
Nippon sleeps.

To discover Japan  
discard notions of beauty or monstrosity  
and at the center of a fading cherry leaf  
realize all things in this world are brief.

**An-Yi:** Are these the images of Japan you would choose?

**Chariya:** No. I'd include the bloody shores of Taiji Bay as well as the corridors of power in Kasumigaseki.

**Bhāraté:** Really? I'd choose far more ordinary scenes such as the deserted shutter-streets of Gifu City.

**- T Newfields**

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