

Prabhu Guptara

Advice for a friend on his first visit to Macau

Senado Square you'll walk enjoyably around
But the Ruins of St Paul's and Lou Kau Mansion
Terrorise you with the vast
Desert-expanse of your own ignorance.
The Grand Lisboa's unimpressive
Compared to the Macau Tower
Bungee jump for your eyes.
For something authentic you need
Monte Fort, Coloane, A-Ma,
And the houses of Taipa.
I don't hold a candle to Camões;
Nor do theme parks and beaches
To Lou Lim Loc and giant pandas:
Cross the Portas de Cerco and imagine Nam Van
As it appeared to Jorge Alvares, while you da Cunha down Red Market.
Refreshed with some Venetian cha
You can gamble yourself broke – or to your dreams;
Ogle Guan Yin, and probe all eternity
Her relationship with Na Tcha and Guan Yu.