

## Sojourn To China's Capital

Beijing has an excitement  
In spite of moroseness to its  
pollution-blind, weather-wise people  
like they know something.

New long rows of willows  
bind bicycle paths and  
automobile boulevards to  
surging modern buildings  
replicating the Empire State  
and World Trade Centers.

As a tourist  
Beijing is a mystery.

Homeless people are  
not too common in sight.  
Old town *hutong*  
is lacking in preservation  
compared to the city  
rolled off in runway of new airports  
and high speed trains.

A first impression kept me wondering  
where is this vast population  
with 1.5 children allowed per family?  
How do they exist?

In Tiananmen Square only a few  
non-resistant tourists flash photos,  
obligates us to view Mao and the later massacre.

The Forbidden City is no longer forbidden  
with throngs of Chinese seeking a link  
to their royal past and trinkets being sold at its  
gates. Emperors had their way,  
now the people have theirs.

The Temple of Heaven  
grinned at me  
and Wei, our guide,  
spoke with reverence of the Temple's era  
in current atheist belief.

Will Beijing take its place  
with other leading partners  
in an Olympic world of peace,  
or return to earlier warring errors?