

## WITH ONLY TWO WORDS

As the swarming crowds were in awe of the Trevi Fountain,  
I was completely mesmerised by such utter perfection.  
Fixated on this spectacular sight  
many times, I visited both by day and night.  
Lonely and exhausted on an extremely hot day,  
my burning feet automatically led the way  
to return to this very special place yet again  
seeking solace for tourism burnout and numbing brain.  
Searching desperately for a seating space,  
hoping at least someone would show some grace!  
Noticing rapid waving movements to the left of a bend,  
saw a solemn Japanese family of four on the end.  
They squashed up together, beckoned me to share.  
Very thankfully, I stumbled all the way over there.  
Feeling faint but now able to breath more easily,  
smiled at my generous 'hosts' now sitting peacefully.  
How to express thanks before they go? What Japanese do I know?  
Slowly the words eventually came, "Domo Arigato".  
Mouths gaped in complete surprise!  
With joyful giggles, delighted smiles, shining eyes,  
they showed me such a wonderful response,  
perhaps this had only happened to them just once.  
With us all bowing heads and prayer hands together,  
This polite exchange I will remember forever.  
Phyl Rosa

PS. Domo Arigato is a way of saying "thank you very much" in Japanese.

