



京都花街

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初々しさの残る舞妓から「襟替え」を経て“芸妓”に。文字通り「芸」で身を立てる「妓(女性)」となった一人の女性は、舞や唄、三味線、茶道など数多くの芸事を身に付け、花街で生きていく。春秋の「を(お)どり」では華麗な伎芸で人々を魅了し、「お座敷」では豊かな教養をもって夢のようなひとときを生み出す。その優美な姿に隠された努力の跡を想像すれば、美しさと力強さを兼ね備えた芸妓の姿がより眩しく見えるに違いない。

A young maiko becomes a geiko during a turning point ceremony called “Erikae.” Geiko literally means a full-fledged lady who makes her living from “the skills of entertaining” when written in Chinese characters. As it says, a geiko must determine to live with her skills of dance, singing, shamisen, tea ceremony and many other. On the stage during their special show held in spring and autumn, geiko enchant audiences with their graceful dance and performance while on the more intimate Ozashiki occasions, they entertain guests with their knowledge and hospitality. How much time and effort has been spent to become a geiko is invisible, however, it is not difficult to imagine that the process was not an easy one to have gone through. Only through such a significant effort can she achieve her beauty and eloquence as a professional geiko.