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Off the Coast of Carthage

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Off the Coast of Carthage

Just past the sparks, she sees his ships depart
through the rising smoke, Aeneas fades away –
sent by Mercury. He shatters her heart,
the broken queen left begging him to stay.
How strong she had been when she fled from Tyre
and her murderous brother's greed and hate...
One more memory upon the pyre
fueling the flames she will not abate –
In her course toward fiery destruction,
she unsheathes her lover's blade, giving in
to Aeneas' final thrusting motion
as he sails away to begin again...
As she once bravely did so long ago,
victim of his love, smoldering Dido.

J.D. Isip's academic writings, poetry, plays, and short stories have appeared in a number of collections and publications. He teaches American Literature, Composition, and Rhetoric courses for Texas A&M University-Commerce. He is the Editor-in-Chief for the literary journals *The Mayo Review* and *Ishaan Literary Review*.