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## Last Flight

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# Last Flight

by D.M. Gordon

In a coastal cave streaked with rose  
and ash, just safe above the lanes  
of white-capped waves,  
I watch the long-tailed phoenix fly,  
something morbid in its silence,  
so determined, so immense that were there sun,  
the day would darken more,  
so near, I hear the whip of wings,  
the whistle of its tail—a feathered river jeweled  
with tangled lines and unsuccessful hooks.  
A flash and then it's gone.



*Illustration by Greg Martin*

