

ISSN 0976-8165

The Criterion



The Criterion

An International Journal in English

Bi-Monthly Refereed & Indexed Open Access eJournal

October 2013 Vol. 4 Issue-V

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Vishwanath Bite

Managing Editor

Madhuri Bite

www.the-criterion.com
criterionejournal@gmail.com

Envy's Child

J. D. Isip

It wasn't that they didn't care—
 they were angels, caring
 was their means—just
staying on, weeping and gawking
over a muted reflection
seemed insincere
 like praying he had lived...

They took flight, a glory
 on the wing like his father
 who had descended holding
sunlight in his hair, at his hands and his feet
and her by the trance of him
revealed, like the son
 here in and of the cold earth

He was no Christ, but his coming
 was told in his father's eye
 on the free-willed vessels
which he watched like scurry mice
unaware of the hunger
 that spreads, swoops, seizes
 and squeezes out life

She bore the first winged human
 dying in an empty embrace
 of his imagined father
who she waited for, and prayed
that he would return the sun
that came with him, blinding her
 with the white holy heat
...

And as the last seraphim lifted
 above the broken body
 cupped in his own young wings
a serpent heaved heavily forward, eyeing
vacant heaven, and resting at the feet
of the winged Halfling
 pausing to remember...

Her kind he had shamed; his
 kind shamed him here
 to crawl, creep and cry
cradled, now, at the chest of his own
fallen image, his only son
too human for heaven,
 too angel for the earth

That sent up its sons against
 “The Demon” they called him

and let fly their weapons
proficient at cutting down heaven's
questionable, misunderstood, half-
winged creatures—

To bring them back to earth.