



7-1-1981

## Phoenix

Karen Mikkelsen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq>



Part of the [Mormon Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Mikkelsen, Karen (1981) "Phoenix," *BYU Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 21 : Iss. 3 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol21/iss3/9>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *BYU Studies Quarterly* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

# Phoenix

by Karen Mikkelsen

Out from the rubble of imagined dreams,  
Conversations with myself, unheard,  
And fragmented hopes from flabby trust  
In fitful human strength, I salvage,  
Fragilely, the smashed ceramic sherds  
Of misplaced faith, sift the dust  
For remnants of a base to build, not cage  
Upon, but temple dedicate to Him.

And from the ashes of a soul quenched  
By searing conscience-fires I finally rise,  
The humbled child, a sorrowing penitent.  
And wanton winds which once me, buffeting,  
Broke, now upswelling skyward wing  
And song. A golden surge delivering  
to God: the Phoenix flies.

---

Karen Mikkelsen is a poet residing in New Haven, Connecticut.