



But now the moment, bold, belongs to Vader,  
Who in stalking gait proclaims to him :  
"I have been waiting all these many years  
For your return, O Obi-Wan. We meet  
Again at last," the Sith asserts, and steps  
Into the light, his blade a lunge away.  
Remarked they'd come full circle, as he now  
Was Master, formerly had student been.  
But Ben dismisses mastery of evil.  
Leaps and lunges with his cobalt blade  
Upon his former student, to undo  
The ill unfolded from his traitor deeds. ...  
Now blades shall speak the rest, and how they slash!  
The flashing fireworks of fire clash  
About them, showered with the slicing light,  
The color of their combat, crash and sparks,  
The tesla-arcs of spitting lightning blades  
Bestow upon each other in their friction!  
Crackling hum and whistling, screaming whine --  
One could behold the thunder's storm in strikes  
Of rainbow light -- the ruby 'gainst the blue --  
About them there -- the tear and rip of wrath's  
Explosion in the glaring, burning blades!  
The spin of samurai in martial dance,  
A minuet of death hypnotic, glare  
Of circling suns to sever one the other.  
Looking grim to face this monster once  
His former friend, Ben is bemused and still  
Within, a thousand meditations grew --  
In-gathering his precious peace to peak  
And turning fight to meditation, breathes,  
Conserving strength for final feats, which shall  
A newer hope now strengthen, which shall rise  
From what he now prepares, a sacrifice  
That Vader ill-suspects at all...

# PHOENIX RISING

STAR WARS IN IAMBIC PENTAMETER  
JOHN LANDAU



John Landau is a Hollywood-born poet and musician who has written such books as "Hibiscus", "Arrest This Night!", and "Stolen From Cupid's Quiver", all available from Lulu.com, and is presently working on a new collection of poetry, "Sylph of Moonlit Pomegranate". A Dartmouth alumn, whose day job includes helping people to heal from trauma, he has been a lifelong Star Wars fan, and has had great fun translating this on-screen myth into a more Miltonian register of around-the-campfire storytelling. He has hosted and participated in various open poetries, including the praised "Potluck Cafe", for over twenty years, and his style has ranged from Bukowskian and Beefheartian to florid and delicate romantic poetry. He believes in fairies, and his band Nightmare of the Elf can be listened to on iTunes. He can just as soon imagine a world without poetry as he can one without birdsong.