

## An Ode to the Queen – *Danaus gilippus*

"A Monarch!" They eagerly misplace,  
Her gentle poise unflinching.  
Robed in orange, woven with black lace,  
Speckled in white unfleeting.  
Crowned in diadem of gleaming stars,  
She cries, "Hear her Majesty!



Grace rarer than orange sapphires,  
I am most of Royalty!  
No less than kingly Monarchs to reign,  
Or viceroys, heroic soldiers slain!  
May the Monarch travel in Godspeed,  
I linger to be with thee!  
Hither now to mine great banquet hall,  
In misty-jeweled goblets where  
Gold ambrosia will fill your hunger!  
Hither now to mine melodic ball,  
Waltz in grandeur, or tarry yonder  
Away as kindled souls were.  
I will pardon your ignorance whole,  
But hear ye, I'm no damsel!  
I rule fairly, my fortitude seen,  
Know ye well, I am the Queen!