

The Messenger

Volume 2008
Issue 1 *The Messenger*, 2008

Article 3

2008

Papilio Glaucas

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Recommended Citation

Smith, Emily (2008) "Papilio Glaucas," *The Messenger*: Vol. 2008: Iss. 1, Article 3.
Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger/vol2008/iss1/3>

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PAPILIO GLAUCAS

Emily Smith



Under my father's descending hand,

The tiger swallowtail must think
I am over.

I have strayed into the apse
Of a bloodthirsty cathedral

This is the toothy tiger mouth
From which I will never come out.

A single note peals
From the velvet proboscis,

Unrolling a minute rebel yell

Small enough to tiptoe
Into a useless left ear

Threading on tiptoe through
plum jungle ruins

And fluttering down the incalculable dark
Of the Ho Chi Minh trail.