

Captain Pele  
By Ian Hawkes

O Cerberus, manned by the shades of a crew,  
Once built from the timbers of Stygian glade,  
Sail on to the fate Freyja harbors for you!

Hark over the frothing of crisp waves it flew  
And seen, oh great heed to this warning was paid:  
O Cerberus, manned by the shades of a crew!

But scarcely a hope did it give that poor few  
As Captain Pele raised these words with his blade:  
Sail on to the fate Freyja harbors for you!

Like ants on a carcass with swarmed life anew  
they cling to the flanks of the craft, cannon-flayed.  
O Cerberus, manned by the shades of a crew!

Oh come, weeping Iris and gold lock undo  
from crowns of the fallen and with this the braid  
Sail on to the fate Freyja harbors for you.

For Captain Pele Charon stopped in that queue  
and now he must too send more seamen unpaid!  
O Cerberus, manned by the shades of a crew,  
Sail on to the fate Freyja harbors for you!

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First Prize Winner of the 2011 Friends Baxter Memorial Library Writing Contest ~ High School  
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