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The Joker

Richard Mattas

It wasn't supposed to work out this way.
My destiny was writ in the stars.
The steps in my ascension were planned long before today,
And my path was broad and far.

I could barely walk when my schools were decided.
To my nose the grindstone was put,
By age three a tutor was provided,
And by age four I knew about square-roots.

And so it went from grade school through college.
My chores included the proper activities and sports
Besides the acquisition of knowledge.
I was also a wiz on the courts.

The purpose of all this was to enter a suitable vocation
Making my parents proud.
I would marry someone of equal station
And our children the tape would be rewound.

But along the way the joker strayed.
From that day everything was to change.
I should have been dismayed
With every right to complain.

Except that a life lesson was given
I never learned in school.
For it is not logic or plans that lead to heaven
But it is the joker who rules.