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Panning

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

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Abstract

The poem "Panning" was written on the 3rd of July 2018 during a summer poetry tutorial at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. The poet portrays a woman as the natural landscape who has been exploited by a man she trusted. The persona is the river with very little gold flakes and the selfish lover does not have the patience to sieve them, so he takes a less cumbersome path and explodes her escarpment base to get what he wants. But in the end, even he loses out on her, because the fish and gold shavings are strewn "far and wide" and he is left with nothing.

Panning

by

Anum Sattar

All that concerned him were the small flakes
which would take too long to sieve

and rather than preserve the alluvial placer
the selfish miner exploded the escarpment base

releasing the slurry into the rushing water,
so that all the migrating salmon were killed

the golden shavings on their sides
strewn far and wide...

Anum Sattar explains:

The poem “Panning” was written on the 3rd of July 2018 during a summer poetry tutorial at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. The poet portrays a woman as the natural landscape who has been exploited by a man she trusted. The persona is the river with very little gold flakes and the selfish lover does not have the patience to sieve them, so he takes a less cumbersome path and explodes her escarpment base to get what he wants. But in the end, even he loses out on her, because the fish and gold shavings are strewn “far and wide” and he is left with nothing.