POT

shamshad khan



WHAT HAPPENS? A speaker addresses a museum pot, questions its removal and imagines returning it home.

BIG IDEA **Addressing a displaced object becomes a way to question the authority of museums and recover the human relationships behind display.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

“fragile”

Adjective

Physical delicacy can serve as a reason for preventing movement.

“looter’s”

Possessive noun

A possible history of violence disrupts neutral language about acquisition.

“loved”

Verb

Use is recast as a relationship of care rather than simply possession.

“growl”

Imperative

The request for a response exposes the object’s silence and the speaker’s longing.

FORM

Free verse with irregular spacing, questions and repeated address; the unresponsive object prevents a completed dialogue.

CONTEXT

Dedicated to a Nigerian pot in Manchester Museum, the poem questions provenance, empire and return.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Name Journeys: displaced cultural history. A Portable Paradise: recovering a sense of home.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Questions about arrival

SUSPICIOUS AND PROBING

The speaker tests explanations that make the pot’s displacement seem accidental or legitimate.

Making and use

AFFECTIONATE

Imagined touch and daily usefulness restore a human history obscured by exhibition.

Return and silence

HOPEFUL, THEN UNRESOLVED

The speaker’s own experience of return becomes an invitation the pot cannot answer.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.

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