

Appalachia

Volume 69
Number 1 *Winter/Spring 2018: Mount
Washington: Summit of Extremes*

Article 20

2018

In Yellowstone

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Recommended Citation

Azam, Sofiul (2018) "In Yellowstone," *Appalachia*: Vol. 69: No. 1, Article 20.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol69/iss1/20>

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In Yellowstone

I'd have backpacked there had I been that young.
I see its beauty from across the continents.
Also, I watch a thieving coyote
take an otter's catch of a cutthroat trout

fished through a little opening into the ice.
After the long hibernation a grizzly
or a black bear seizes the wolfpack's
kill of an elk in spring or early summer.

A bald eagle swoops down on a red fox's
meal of a vole or a shrew caught
after its repeated foxy jumps into the snow.
A mother osprey from its high perch looks on.

The bison herd grazes nonchalantly for the moment
if not getting warm near hot springs, geysers
or bubbling mudpots in mid-November.
Common loons swallow eggs of trout

from the lake's tributaries; trumpeter swans
also dip their necks underwater. Boreal
toads and spotted frogs struggle in bull snakes' jaws;
prairie rattlesnakes and garter snakes

do not simply flick out their forked tongues.
Bighorns fight for their right to smelly rumps
on the rugged mountain slopes;
both bull moose with their palmate antlers

and pronghorns fight during the rut.
After resting too long in their dens,
bobcats, lynxes and cougars yawn out,
about to roar for yet another fresh kill in days.

Sofiul Azam

SOFIUL AZAM is an assistant professor of English at Victoria University of Bangladesh and author of three poetry collections, including *Safe under Water* (Magnum Opus, 2014).