

8-2006

## Sigallate Sand

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### Recommended Citation

Marshall Flaherty, K. (2006). Sigallate Sand. *Spiritan Magazine*, 30 (3). Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-tc/vol30/iss3/4>

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# Sigillate Sand\*

*Adulteress in John \*:1-11*

Thundercloud  
sandals  
shuffle in dust.  
Fists  
clutch rocks, ready  
to pelt them.

Woman at the wall:

She stirs and cowers,  
curve of her spine  
drawing head to heart.

Around her  
gathers darkness?

half ring of thighs, jeers,  
ape-knuckle fists, thick  
and taut, press forward. She  
shields her eyes.  
Waits for the crush.  
Waits for stone-blow to her temple.

Anahata,  
burning within her.

Open:  
she turns,  
salt in her eyes,  
beyond the crowd  
alone  
she sees  
one man kneeling in the light.  
No stone in hand.

Who?

What is he thinking  
as he traces  
in the sand? What  
are these spiral symbols,

invocations,  
ancient pictographs  
\*angel writings?

how can one fingerpath in the earth  
quiet a mob of flint faces  
and flexed muscles?

This  
this is how rocks drop to earth.

— Katie Marshall Flaherty