

Petrichor

by [Kathleen Brewin Lewis](#) in the [December 9, 2015](#) issue

Two geologists made this word  
from the Greek, *petros* for stone,  
and *ichor*, for the liquid that flows  
through the veins of the gods.  
They wanted to name the scent  
of parched earth after fresh rain:  
The reconstituted redolence  
of salted silt marbled  
with terracotta. This old,  
dry world brought back  
to loamy life—another name  
for mercy.