

Abel

by [Scott Dalgarno](#) in the [May 19, 2021](#) issue

More precisely, the Hebrew is *Havel*: a breath. His life, as short and ephemeral as an exhale. Don't ask if he was a boy scout, or if some lass from God-knows-where had her sky blue eyes on him; he was rubbed out, bumped off, smoked.

His brother, like David after Uriah, tried to Houdini himself out of blame, thinking murder happened in a vacuum—both thinking their victims wouldn't be missed any more than the sheep they kept.

Havel's blood *cries from the ground* because he cannot.

*Havel.*

Say it.

Breathe it, as if it was your last.

He's the mute black canary of the Hebrew Testament; a blood red flag; a hushed warning that *Genesis* will not end well.