

Spit and dust

by [Charles R. Strietelmeier](#) in the [June 16, 2021](#) issue

Spit in the face,  
dust on the head—  
we dread  
such tokens of disgrace  
and our mortality.  
But when love blends  
the two, the clay  
in your hands  
is why  
we live. Mud in the eye  
is how we see.