

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.