

# A Porcelain Mask

by [Michael Shindler](#) (October 2022)



*The West*, Matthew Wong, 2017

A porcelain mask lying in the dust  
At the bottom of a great canyon  
Looked up

At immensities in the wind.

And there was an eastern gust  
That fell in the face of the sun  
In worship  
Until the air had thinned.

But the mask in the dust  
Kept looking  
Well past nightfall,  
Even, into the sweep  
Of the Milky Way.

### [Table of Contents](#)

Michael Shindler is a writer living in Washington, DC. His work has appeared in publications including *The American Conservative*, *The American Spectator*, *National Review Online*, *New English Review*, *University Bookman*, and *Providence*. Follow him on Twitter [@MichaelShindler](#).

Follow NER on Twitter [@NERIconoclast](#)