

***The Golem's Soul***

It would break the legend's clean line  
to say how the rabbi  
stumbled in his incantation,  
how an angel dropped  
a weightless package from the Almighty  
and an essence entered the simulacrum  
meant to be a man of clay  
and nothing else,

that spark wearing stolid flesh  
long enough to see a self in the mirror,  
soften a thick tongue into saying /

until the confected flesh, a fabricated man  
proved too coarse a sieve.

Likewise passing through walls  
among rooms of the synagogue  
barred to tourists, the mislaid spirit  
finds this corner of Prague, centuries later,  
alien as the rest of the world.

**JD Smith** has published two collections, *Settling for Beauty* (2005) and *The Hypothetical Landscape* (1999), and is circulating two other collections and a chapbook manuscript. In 2007 he was awarded a Fellowship in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts of the United States. His first children's book, *The Best Mariachi in the World*, was published in October 2008.