

Cosmic Gall

**NEUTRINOS, they are very small.
They have no charge and have no mass
And do not interact at all.
The earth is just a silly ball
To them, through which they simply pass,
Like dustmaids down a drafty hall
Or photons through a sheet of glass.
They snub the most exquisite gas,
Ignore the most substantial wall,
Cold shoulder steel and sounding brass,
Insult the stallion in his stall,
And scorning barriers of class,
Infiltrate you and me! Like tall
and painless guillotines, they fall
Down through our heads into the grass.
At night, they enter at Nepal
and pierce the lover and his lass
From underneath the bed-you call
It wonderful; I call it crass.**

- *Telephone Poles and Other Poems*, John Updike, Knopf, 1960

“Em Dezembro de 1960, a revista The New Yorker publicou um poema de John Updike denominado Cosmic Gall, uma homenagem dedicada ao neutrino, partícula descoberta anos antes. O belíssimo portal de divulgação científica [Symmetry](#), associado à revista com o mesmo nome e que pretende demonstrar a importância da física de partículas no nosso quotidiano, analisou o referido poema, fazendo desse exercício um exemplar serviço de divulgação científica. Está [aqui!](#)”

Fonte: <http://dererummundi.blogspot.com/2011/03/updike-poesia-e-ciencia.html>