

# Cosmic Gall

by John Updike

*Telephone Poles and Other Poems*

1963

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.

# Cosmic Gall

by John Updike

*Telephone Poles and Other Poems*

1963 + 2010 Update!

Neutrinos, they are **very small**.  
They have **no charge** and ~~have no~~ **little** mass  
And ~~do not~~ **hardly** 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,  
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