

Kant at the laundromat

by [Jerry Walls](#) in the [December 12, 2012](#) issue

Between the plate glass  
And the security bars  
Hung a red and gold sign:  
“Felíz Navidad.”

As my socks and dirty underwear  
Churned with my jeans  
I browsed a book  
On that “most famous” passage in Kant  
That lays open  
The deep gash between  
The world that is  
And  
The world that ought to be.

Above the rusty dryers  
Another sign:  
“Do not put babies in carts.”

Easy to imagine  
The ugly gash  
If one tumbled head first  
To the unforgiving floor below.

No more I suppose  
Ought a responsible mother  
Put a newborn in a manger.

Ironic then  
That we who say  
“Felíz Navidad”  
See beginning there  
The convergence of

The world that is  
With the world  
That ought to be