

Action-At-A-Distance

*Regarding Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation,*

*and the premise of a FORCE that is exerted without any TOUCH,*

*one early critic observed:*

. . . It is inconceivable that inanimate brute matter should, without mediation of something else which is not matter, operate on and affect other matter without mutual contact.

. . . That gravity should be innate, inherent and essential to matter,

so that one body may act upon another at-a-distance, through a vacuum, without the mediation of anything else by and through which their action may be conveyed from one to another,

is to me so great an absurdity that I believe no man, who has in philosophical matters a competent faculty of thinking, can ever fall into it.

*(excerpted: a letter of critique to Lord Richard Bentley, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, 25 Feb. 1693).*