

*When rockets are up,  
Who cares where they come down,  
It's not my department  
Says Wernher von Braun*

Tom Lehrer, *Wernher von Braun*

from the album *That Was The Year That Was* (1965)

*Nature and Nature's laws lay hid in night: God said, Let Newton be! and all was light.*

Alexander Pope, epitaph for Newton (1727)

(suggested by Physics 123 student Abubakar Sheik)

*Nullius in verba* (translation from Latin: *Take nobody's word for it.*)

The motto of England's Royal Society, founded in 1660.

*Those who have taken upon them to lay down the law of nature as a thing already searched out and understood, whether they have spoken in simple assurance or professional affectation, have therein done philosophy and the sciences great injury.*

Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum* (1620)

*Hope is a good breakfast, but it is a bad supper.*

Francis Bacon, Apophthegms (1624)

*Autoritätsdusel ist der größte Feind der Wahrheit.*

*Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.*

Albert Einstein

Letter to Jost Winteler (1901), quoted in *The Private Lives of Albert Einstein* by Roger Highfield and Paul Carter (1993), p. 79.

*Es ist das schönste Los einer physikalischen Theorie, wenn sie selbst zur Aufstellung einer umfassenden Theorie den Weg weist, in welcher sie als Grenzfall weiterlebt.*

*No fairer destiny could be allotted to any physical theory, than that it should of itself point out the way to the introduction of a more comprehensive theory, in which it lives on as a limiting case.*

Albert Einstein

*Über die spezielle und die allgemeine Relativitätstheorie*, (1920)  
*Relativity: The Special and General Theory* (1920) pp. 90-91,  
translated Robert W. Lawson.