

# Standing on the shoulders of ~~giants~~ IDIOTS

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Sir Isaac Newton is famous for claiming that his scientific discoveries were made possible ‘by standing on the shoulders of giants’. But he’s also famous for jabbing himself in the eye with a needle. Dr Nick Werren explains how an argument on medieval Twitter shaped the physics of light and accidentally resulted in hundreds of miles of French countryside disappearing into thin air.



FIG. 1. An idiot standing on a hill (Nick Werren).