

Newtonday

December 25th, 2010



Isaac Newton
(1642 – 1727)¹

¹ According to the Julian Calendar then in use in England, Isaac Newton was born on December 25th, 1642. Thus, he was born on what is commonly called “Christmas Day”. If the Clavian (or Gregorian) Calendar had been in use, his birthdate would have been January 4th, 1643. But the calendar was *not* in use at the time in England. The so-called “Gregorian Calendar” was actually created by the astronomer Christopher Calvius, but imposed by Pope Gregory XIII. It should be referred to as the “Clavian Calendar”.

If I have seen farther than others,
it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.

Letter to Robert Hooke dated February 5, 1676

Isaac Newton is the most important person in history, hence the reason for
Newtonday.

He has that importance because he created the epistemological system for
determining that knowledge is *right* or not right. So that we—Homo sapiens—can
know if the knowledge we create—or existing knowledge—is useful or not useful.
Most people believe Newton's most important creation was his laws of motion
and of optics. But it was the *system* he employed for creating and corroborating the
knowledge that was truly important. This system—the Scientific Method—was
then used by others to create the knowledge and technologies that created what is
known as the Industrial Revolution. A true renaissance of knowledge.

We can therefore say that Newton is responsible for our modern technological
world. If Einstein, Faraday, Hertz, Maxwell, Ørsted, Pasteur, Semmelweis, Thomas
Watson and all of the other great creators had not employed the Scientific Method
the modern world would not exist. We would be mired in a world of ignorance,
mysticism, and superstition such as existed before and at the time of Newton.

Thus, if there is anything you like about modern technology, you should be
grateful for the work of Newton. And perhaps celebrate Newtonday.

Galambos conceived the idea of Newtonday. As—I believe—both a way to
honor Newton for his achievements and a way to restore honor to an abused and
misused word, *profit*. With Galambos' beautiful and elegant definition of "*Any
moral increase in happiness*", the statement of wishing a person a *Profitable New-
tonday* is the best possible way to end one year and start a new one. A wish that
individuals may have many moral increases in happiness in the coming year. This
is the reason for often-hated word "profit" in the greeting.

Profit can mean anything from earning money for doing a job to enjoying a
sunset, a smile on your child's face to hearing the sounds of some beautiful
music.

*Wishing you a Profitable
Newtonday*