

## Re: A few silly questions

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- *From:* "Wayne Dobson" <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 15 Feb 2007 20:33:04 GMT
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"David L. Burkhead" <dburkhead@xxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:sYydcnP5OMClmE7YnZ2dnUVZ\\_uMlnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](news:sYydcnP5OMClmE7YnZ2dnUVZ_uMlnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Androcles wrote:

Pity they didn't rip Saddam Hussein's head off too, you mean?  
Seems to me that the amount a rope or a neck stretches before it  
breaks decides the outcome, otherwise it's a bungee jump.  
I'd say the force involved was predictable or people wouldn't  
bungee jump.

How much the rope or neck stretches. How much soft tissues sag. How  
much the body rotates.

Within broad limits, predictable.

Yeah, that's what I said, predictable. Would you like some more salt for  
that wound, sir?

But not so predictable that even  
experienced executioners did not get the occasional hanging failure of

both

types—failure to break the neck or decapitation.

Staw man. I said that I didn't think that even experienced hangmen could be  
expected to achieve a zero failure rate. In any case, the argument was over  
what was the cause was of those few failures, not if a few failures were to  
be expected.

When we went around on this, the infinite force limit was

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brought up  
and Mr.  
Dobson said that of course that would require infinite energy  
(or  
words to  
that effect).

He's not Mr. Dobson, he's Dobby the House Elf. Be respectful  
of his chosen name.

Go read some of his posts in rec.martial-arts and then come talk to me  
about being respectful.

Oh, poor soul.

The force will not be infinite, the rope or the neck will break.

Had he said that, I would have had no problem with it. But that's not  
the argument he made. Instead, he was the one making the argument about  
infinite energy being required.

It was a throw-away comment, not even relevant and long ago recanted. But  
you continue to flog that dead horse, as you have little other than your  
pettiness to fall back on.

Which I disputed since, yes, you would have infinite force,  
but, since (by the initial stipulation of the condition), it  
would  
take  
place over zero distance.  $\infty * 0$ , undefined but  
possibly  
meaningful if considered as a limit.

I get the feeling that the person Dobby was arguing with feels at  
liberty to call anything Dobby says, wrong, regardless of its merits,

You get the feeling wrong.

Another strong argument.

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because the argumentative fuckheaded muggle brought infinity into the argument in the first place.

And, of course, everybody knows scientists and mathematicians \_never\_

use

infinity as one limit of an open interval.

And scientists don't use controlled experiments, as the results are too far removed from reality to be useful.

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AKA "Dobbie The House Elf"

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