

A cat is penned up in a steel chamber, along with the following device (which must be secured against direct interference by the cat): in a Geiger counter there is a tiny bit of radioactive substance, so small, that perhaps in the course of the hour one of the atoms decays, but also, with equal probability, perhaps none; if it happens, the counter tube discharges and through a relay releases a hammer which shatters a small flask of hydrocyanic acid. If one has left this entire system to itself for an hour, one would say that the cat still lives if meanwhile no atom has decayed. The psi-function of the entire system would express this by having in it the living and dead cat (pardon the expression) mixed or smeared out in equal parts.

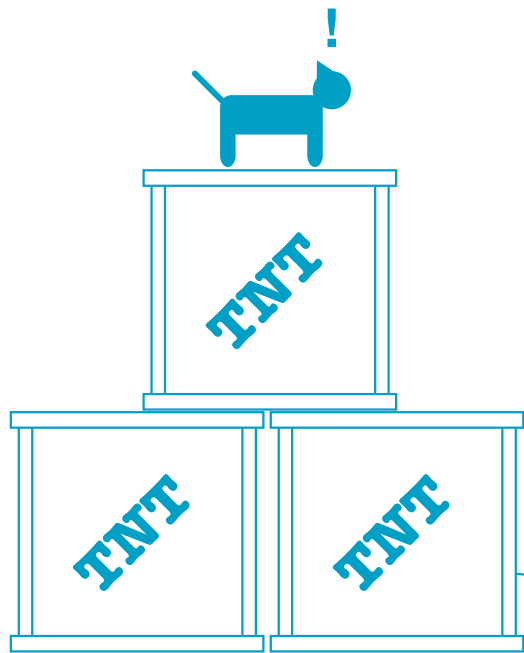
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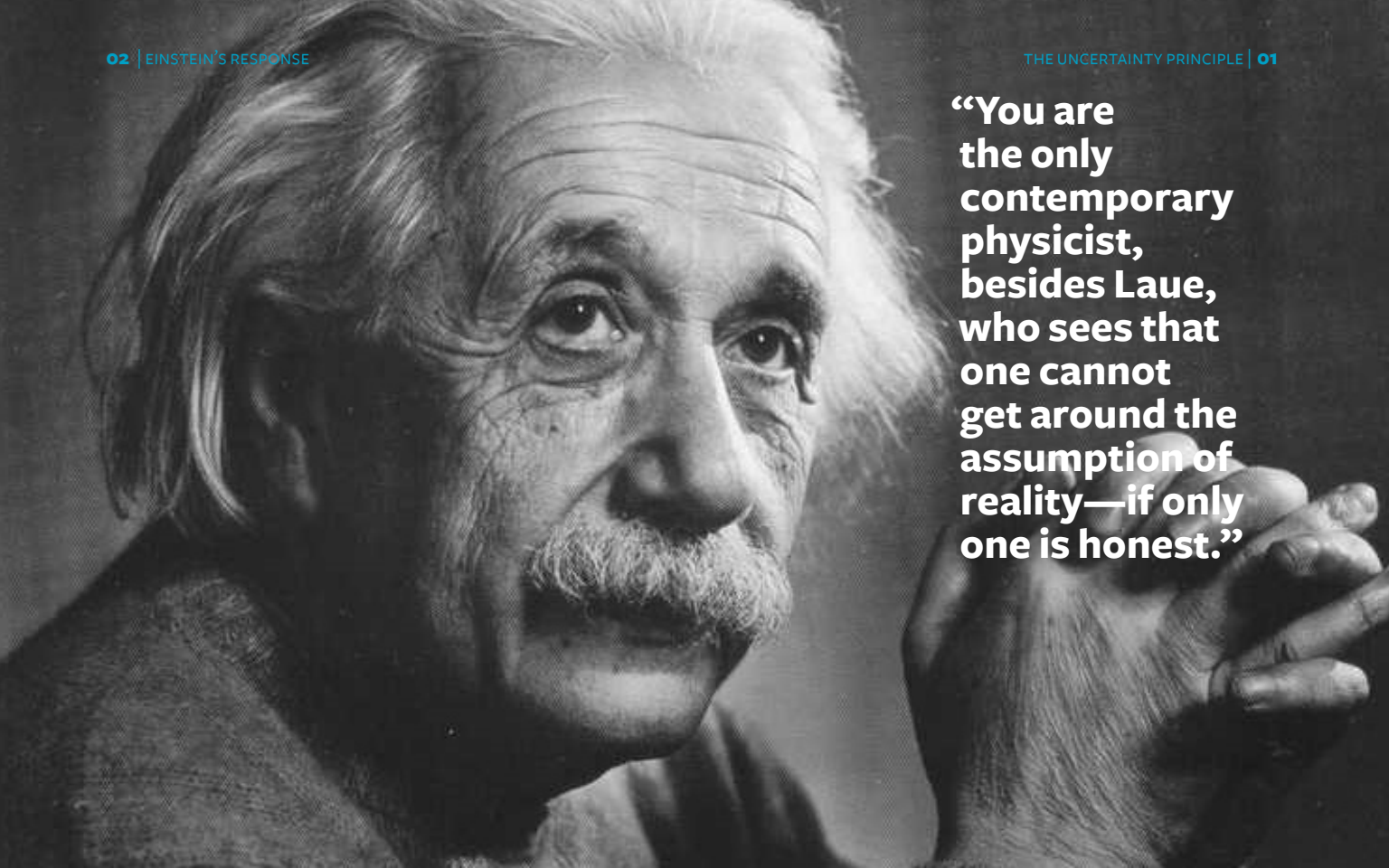
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While Schrodinger makes no mention of gunpowder, or indeed explosives of any kind, Einstein specifically references gunpowder as the “diabolical measure” to be used.



Einstein's contribution to the creation of the atomic bomb was very likely influenced a desire to blow up cats on a much grander scale.

A black and white portrait of Albert Einstein, showing his characteristic wild hair and mustache. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. His hands are visible in the lower right corner, resting on a surface.

**“You are
the only
contemporary
physicist,
besides Laue,
who sees that
one cannot
get around the
assumption of
reality—if only
one is honest.”**