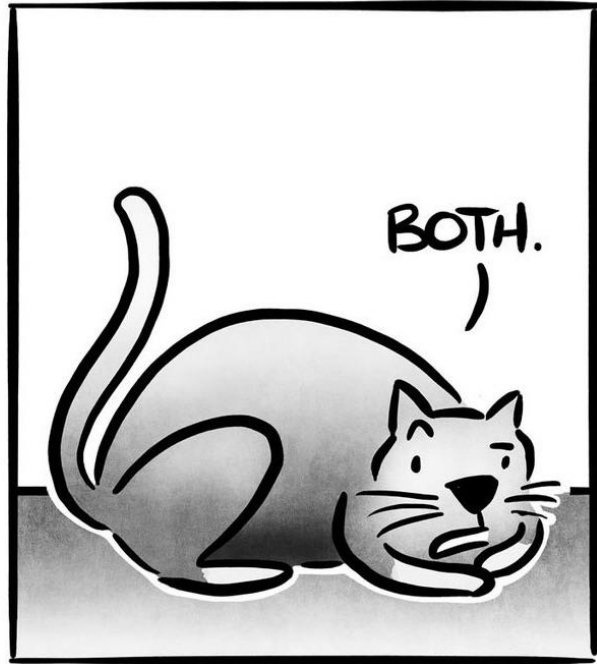


Shakespeare's Cat



Schrödinger's Cat



A scene in the movie *Oppenheimer* (2023), shows the famous physicist reading T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*. This image of science and literature is no coincidence. Max Planck, Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, Neils Bohr, Erwin Schrödinger, Werner Heisenberg, Robert Oppenheimer, and many other great physicists of the day all turned to the humanities to help them make sense of the strange, bizarre, even mystical implications of the new theories of physics emerging at the beginning of the 20th century. Similarly, many in the field of humanities (literature, art, music, philosophy) found inspiration in the radically different view of the universe evolving from these new scientific theories. Thus, there developed a dialectical relationship between the new physics and the humanities. We will discuss the theories of relativity and quantum mechanics from a philosophical perspective (and so no mathematics is required!) and in doing so explore why the new picture of reality emerging from theories led these scientists to find answers in the humanities and what answers those in the humanities were hoping to find in the new physics.