"A cat is enclosed in a steel chamber, together with the following infernal machine (which one must secure against the cat's direct reach): in the tube of a Geigercounter there is a tiny amount of radioactive material, so small that although one of its atoms might decay in the course of an hour, it is just as probable that none will. If decay occurs the counter tube fires and, by means of a relay, sets a little hammer into motion that shatters a small bottle of prussic acid. When the entire system has been left alone for an hour one would say that the cat is still alive provided no atom has decayed in the meantime. The first atomic decay would have poisoned it. The ψ-function of the total system would yield an expression for all this in which, in equal measure, the living and the dead cat are (s.v.v.) blended or smeared out.

The characteristic of these examples is that an indefiniteness originally limited to atomic dimensions gets transformed into gross macroscopic indefiniteness, which can then be reduced by direct observation. This prevents us from continuing naively to give credence to a 'fuzzy model' as a picture of reality.

In itself this is nothing unclear or contradictory. There is a difference between a blurred or out-of-focus picture and a photograph of clouds and patches of fog."

— Erwin Schrödinger

[John Trimmer, "The present situation in quantum mechanics: A translation of Schrödinger's 'Cat Paradox' paper", *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 1980; 124: 323–338.]