High Energy Radiation from Black Holes
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To Bea and Priya
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“The black holes of nature are the most perfect macroscopic objects there are in the universe: the only elements in their construction are our concepts of space and time. And since the general theory of relativity provides only a single unique family of solutions for their descriptions, they are the simplest objects as well.”

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, *The Mathematical Theory of Black Holes*

“Anyone who fights with monsters should take care that he does not in the process become a monster. And if you gaze for long into the abyss, the abyss gazes back into you.”

Friedrich Nietzsche, Aphorism 146, *Beyond Good and Evil* (tr. M. Faber)

“angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the machinery of night,”

Allen Ginsberg, *Howl*
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