

A B R A H A M P A I S

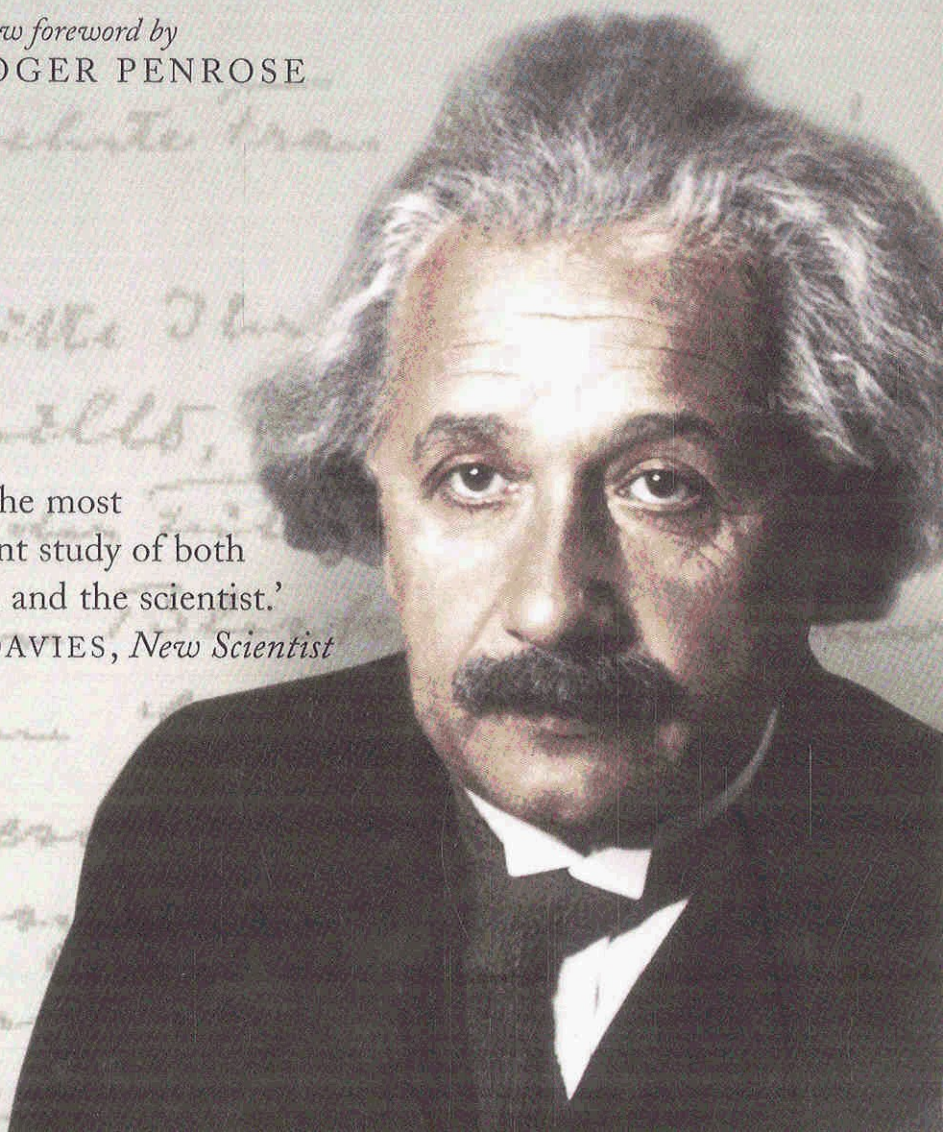
SUBTLE *is*
the LORD

The science and the life of
ALBERT EINSTEIN

With a new foreword by
SIR ROGER PENROSE

'By far the most
important study of both
the man and the scientist.'

PAUL DAVIES, *New Scientist*



Contents

(Entries in italics are almost entirely biographical)

I INTRODUCTORY

1. <i>Purpose and plan</i>	5
2. Relativity theory and quantum theory	26
(a) Orderly transitions and revolutionary periods	26
(b) A time capsule	31
3. <i>Portrait of the physicist as a young man</i>	35
An addendum on Einstein biographies	48

II STATISTICAL PHYSICS

4. Entropy and probability	55
(a) Einstein's contributions at a glance	55
(b) Maxwell and Boltzmann	60
(c) Preludes to 1905	65
(d) Einstein and Boltzmann's principle	70
5. The reality of molecules	79
(a) About the nineteenth century, briefly	79
1. Chemistry. 2. Kinetic theory. 3. The end of indivisibility.	
4. The end of invisibility	
(b) The pots of Pfeffer and the laws of van't Hoff	86
(c) The doctoral thesis	88
(d) Eleven days later: Brownian motion	93
1. Another bit of nineteenth century history. 2. The overdetermination of N .	
3. Einstein's first paper on Brownian motion. 4. Diffusion as a Markov process.	
5. The later papers	
(e) Einstein and Smoluchowski; critical opalescence	100

III RELATIVITY, THE SPECIAL THEORY

6. 'Subtle is the Lord . . . '	111
(a) The Michelson-Morley experiment	111
(b) The precursors	119
1. What Einstein knew. 2. Voigt. 3. FitzGerald. 4. Lorentz. 5. Larmor.	
6. Poincaré.	
(c) Poincaré in 1905	128
(d) Einstein before 1905	130
1. The Pavia essay. 2. The Aarau question. 3. The ETH student.	
4. The Winterthur letter. 5. The Bern lecture. 6. The Kyoto address.	
7. Summary.	
7. The new kinematics	138
(a) June 1905: special relativity defined, Lorentz transformations derived	138
1. Relativity's aesthetic origins. 2. The new postulates.	
3. From the postulates to the Lorentz transformations. 4. Applications.	
5. Relativity theory and quantum theory. 6. 'I could have said that more simply.'	
(b) September 1905; about $E = mc^2$	148
(c) Early responses	149
(d) Einstein and the special theory after 1905	153
(e) Electromagnetic mass: the first century	155
8. The edge of history	163
1. A new way of thinking. 2. Einstein and the literature.	
3. Lorentz and the aether. 4. Poincaré and the third hypothesis.	
5. Whittaker and the history of relativity. 6. Lorentz and Poincaré.	
7. Lorentz and Einstein. 8. Poincaré and Einstein. 9. Coda: the Michelson-Morley experiment.	

IV RELATIVITY, THE GENERAL THEORY

9. 'The happiest thought of my life'	177
10. Herr Professor Einstein	184
(a) <i>From Bern to Zürich</i>	184
(b) Three and a half years of silence	187
11. The Prague papers	192
(a) <i>From Zürich to Prague</i>	192
(b) 1911. The bending of light is detectable	194
(c) 1912. Einstein in no man's land	201

12. The Einstein–Grossmann collaboration	208
(a) <i>From Prague to Zürich</i>	208
(b) From scalar to tensor	210
(c) The collaboration	216
(d) The stumbling block	221
(e) The aftermath	223
13. Field theories of gravitation: the first fifty years	228
(a) Einstein in Vienna	228
(b) The Einstein–Fokker paper	236
14. The field equations of gravitation	239
(a) <i>From Zürich to Berlin</i>	239
(b) Interlude. Rotation by magnetization	245
(c) The final steps	250
1. The crisis. 2. November the fourth. 3. November the eleventh.	
4. November the eighteenth. 5. November the twenty-fifth.	
(d) Einstein and Hilbert	257
15. The new dynamics	266
(a) From 1915 to 1980	266
(b) The three successes	271
(c) Energy and momentum conservation; the Bianchi identities	274
(d) Gravitational waves	278
(e) Cosmology.	281
(f) Singularities; the problem of motion	288
(g) What else was new at GR9?	291
V THE LATER JOURNEY	
16. <i>'The suddenly famous Doctor Einstein'</i>	299
(a) <i>Illness. Remarriage. Death of Mother</i>	299
(b) <i>Einstein canonized</i>	303
(c) <i>The birth of the legend</i>	306
(d) <i>Einstein and Germany</i>	312
(e) <i>The later writings</i>	318
1. <i>The man of culture.</i> 2. <i>The man of science.</i>	
17. Unified Field Theory	325
(a) Particles and fields around 1920	325
(b) Another decade of gestation	328

(c) The fifth dimension	329
1. Kaluza and Oskar Klein. 2. Einstein and the Kaluza-Klein theory.	
3. Addenda. 4. Two options.	
(d) Relativity and post-Riemannian differential geometry	336
(e) The later journey: a scientific chronology	341
(f) A postscript to unification, a prelude to quantum theory	350

VI THE QUANTUM THEORY

18. Preliminaries	357
(a) An outline of Einstein's contributions	357
(b) Particle physics: the first fifty years	359
(c) The quantum theory: lines of influence	361
19. The light quantum,	364
(a) From Kirchhoff to Plank	364
(b) Einstein on Planck: 1905. The Rayleigh-Einstein-Jeans law.	372
(c) The light-quantum hypothesis and the heuristic principle	376
(d) Einstein on Planck: 1906	378
(e) The photo-electric effect: the second coming of h	379
1. 1887: Hertz. 2. 1888: Hallwachs. 3. 1899: J.J. Thomson. 4. 1902: Lenard. 5. 1905: Einstein. 6. 1915: Millikan; the Duane-Hunt limit.	
(f) Reactions to the light-quantum hypothesis	382
1. Einstein's caution. 2. Electromagnetism: free fields and interactions. 3. The impact of experiment.	
20. Einstein and specific heats	389
(a) Specific heats in the nineteenth century	389
(b) Einstein	394
(c) Nernst: Solvay I	397
21. The photon	402
(a) The fusion of particles and waves and Einstein's destiny	402
(b) Spontaneous and induced radiative transitions	405
(c) The completion of the particle picture	407
1. The light-quantum and the photon. 2. Momentum fluctuations: 1909. 3. Momentum fluctuations: 1916.	
(d) Earliest Unbehagen about chance	410
(e) An aside: quantum conditions for non-separable classical motion	412
(f) The Compton effect	412

22. Interlude: The BKS proposal	416
23. A loss of identity: the birth of quantum statistics	423
(a) From Boltzmann to Dirac	423
(b) Bose	425
(c) Einstein	428
(d) Postscript on Bose–Einstein condensation	432
24. Einstein as a transitional figure: the birth of wave mechanics	435
(a) From Einstein to de Broglie	435
(b) From de Broglie to Einstein	436
(c) From de Broglie and Einstein to Schroedinger	438
25. Einstein's response to the new dynamics	440
(a) 1925–1931. The debate begins	440
(b) <i>Einstein in Princeton</i>	449
(c) Einstein on objective reality	454
26. Einstein's vision	460
(a) Einstein, Newton and success	460
(b) Relativity theory and quantum theory	462
(c) 'Überkausalität'	464

VII JOURNEY'S END

27. <i>The final decade</i>	473
28. <i>Epilogue</i>	479

VIII APPENDICES

29. <i>Of tensors and a hearing aid and many other things: Einstein's collaborators</i>	483
30. <i>How Einstein got the Nobel prize</i>	502

31. <i>Einstein's proposals for the Nobel prize</i>	513
32. <i>An Einstein chronology</i>	520
Name Index	531
Subject Index	539