In the period November 2017 – February 2018, on the website Geloof&Wetenschap (Faith and Science) the opinion article: 'Het feilloze verstand van de naturalist' (The faultless intelligence of the naturalist) was discussed. https://www.geloofenwetenschap.nl/index.php/opinie/item/865-het-feilloze-verstand-van-denaturalist#!/ccomment-comment=29404. Below 12 conclusions that were drawn during the discussion.

12 CONCLUSIONS FROM THE DISCUSSION OF 'THE FAULTLESS INTELLIGENCE OF THE NATURALIST'.

- 1. The pre-Victorian alchemist belief of naturalists that (organic) molecules have a spontaneous self-organizing ability by which simple molecules join together in increasingly complex structures with an increasingly higher energy level, has been refuted long ago by empirical science. Molecules have a spontaneously disintegrating capacity. Natural physical processes are decay processes. In order to run processes in the opposite direction, factories are needed.
- 2. If (organic) molecules actually had a spontaneous self-organizing capacity and would merge into ever more complex structures with an increasingly higher energy level, energy would become available free and the chemical industry could close. Naturalists are unable to draw this logical conclusion ('proof from contradiction'), because their pre-Victorian alchemist faith prevents them from thinking logically.
- 3. The pre-Victorian alchemist faith of naturalists is unshakeable and immune to refutation, for example by the experiments of Miller (1953) and Otto (2018), which show that for the production of an ever increasing amount of amino acids, respectively synthetic fibers, a (primitive) factory must be built.
- 4. A theory that is contradicted by the laws of nature, by logic or by observations (see conclusions 1, 2 and 3 respectively) must be rejected. Naturalists, however, put their pre-Victorian alchemist beliefs above the laws of nature, logic and the playing rules of empirical science.
- 5. In contrast to natural physical processes (lightning, weather and wind, oxidation, crystallization, explosions, cooling, equalization of pressure and density, etc.) natural biological processes are often self-organizing, because cells are actually fully automated biochemical nano-factories, which are controlled by a program of several gigabytes in size.
- 6. Predefining what must be proven ("Natural physical processes can produce cells containing DNA") as proof ("The presence on earth of cells containing DNA proves that natural physical processes are capable of producing cells containing DNA"), is a circular argument and is not allowed according to Logic. Unfortunately, naturalists ignore the laws of Logic.
- 7. Empirical science can only make statements about the domain where observations can be made by measuring instruments. About domains that cannot be measured (*'the transcendent'*) empirical science cannot make any statements.
- 8. Naturalists try to use empirical science as a trustworthy banner on their faith, but in fact they are enemies of science, who do not care about the rules, reliability and integrity of science.

- 9. A scientific theory must be refutable and therefore be testable. To the question "Where does living nature and DNA come from?" scientists cannot come up with the theory "created by a god, or a pink elephant", because a god or a pink elephant cannot be dragged into a laboratory to test its creative qualities.
- 10. To the question "Where does living nature and DNA come from?" scientists have to say: "We do not know yet". Not knowing something is completely normal in every branch of science, and is the drive of every scientist.
- 11. Based on their pre-Victorian alchemists belief, which is demonstrably false (see conclusions 1 to 6), naturalists have created a fantasy world in which natural processes (= decay processes) can repair, build and innovate. According to naturalists 'apples do not fall down, but upwards'!
- 12. Empirical science is one of the most precious products of our civilization. Naturalists, however, find their pre-Victorian alchemist faith more precious than the findings and laws of empirical science, and defend a fantasy world that is diametrically opposed to the real world and empirical science. By this, naturalists hinder the progress of science and drive our civilization back to the Dark (Middle) Ages.

February 2018 Dr. Ir. W.M. de Jong