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HIERARCHICAL THERMODYNAMICS IS THE DRIVING FORCE OF LIFE

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Life and aging of living beings are complex spontaneous phenomena take place against the background of non-spontaneous processes which are initiated by the environment.

Modern hierarchical thermodynamics explains these phenomena and makes some predictions. The evolution and aging of living beings are associated with directed and random processes. Directed spontaneous processes take place within the quasi-closed living systems. Random (non-directed) processes are initiated by the environment and proceed also in these systems. In general, spontaneous evolutionary processes in living systems occur against a background of periodic and / or unpredictable changes in the environment, which (changes) are however compatible with life. When the role of non-spontaneous (non-directed) processes is relatively small, the tendency of the spontaneous processes directed by the second law is manifested. This tendency is manifested in the long stages of biological evolution in the absence of revolutionary changes in the environment (volcanic eruptions, the fall of meteorites and similar phenomena). The presented considerations are applicable to phylogenies and ontogeny.

The simultaneous participation of predictable spontaneous and unpredictable non-spontaneous processes in evolution makes it difficult to understand evolutionary transformations from the standpoint of general evolutionary biology and leads to ideas about intelligent design for explaining the origin of life and its evolution.

Many scientists believe that the general laws of nature explain the origin of life, its evolution. The general laws of nature include conservation laws, the second law of thermodynamics, and also the statistical law. In addition, the general laws include the law of temporary hierarchies and some others. We are not a loan, why these laws exist in nature and determine the development of our universe. At this stage of understanding our world, some people come to the idea about the Creator. Some scientists consider that the Creator to be the very nature. The author thinks that the origin of life, its evolution and aging of living beings do not require the intervention of intellectual design, since in this case, general laws of nature are sufficient to explain these phenomena.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS FAIRTRADE PRINCIPLES AND ENVIRONMENTAL VIEWS AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF A RURAL SWEDISH TOWN

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This paper evaluates associations between values and preference for the Fairtrade concept and compares the ecocentric and anthropocentric views of Nature. The intention of Fairtrade product labelling is to increase consumers' awareness of products that have a presumably more positive influence on workers' lives in developing countries. The ecocentric view assumes that Nature has an intrinsic value and should be preserved regardless of economic implications. The anthropocentric view, on the other hand, assumes Nature has value only because of the material, physical, or other benefits Nature provides humans. All respondents in the study were residents of Gestad, a small town in a sparsely populated area of Sweden. Among the main results of the study was that self-transcendence values (e.g., universalism and benevolence) were positively correlated with a preference for Fairtrade and ecocentrism, and negatively correlated with anthropocentrism. Conservation values (e.g., tradition and conformity) were positively correlated with anthropocentrism, and negatively correlated with a preference for Fairtrade. Another result was that women were more positive than men towards Fairtrade and ecocentrism.