

# Antitheism — Philosophical Naturalism

“There is a second meaning of naturalism, which is as a generalized description of the universe. According to the naturalists, nature is best accounted for by reference to material principles, i.e., by mass and energy and physical-chemical properties as encountered in diverse contexts of inquiry. This is a non-reductive naturalism, for although nature is physical-chemical at root, we need to deal with natural processes on various levels of observation and complexity: electrons and molecules, cells and organisms, flowers and trees, psychological cognition and perception, social institutions, and culture....”

— Paul Kurtz, Darwin Re-Crucified: Why Are So Many Afraid of Naturalism? *Free Inquiry* (Spring 1998), 17.