

in truth we cannot otherwise conceive of life, or indeed of any other durable mechanism. For my part I do not doubt that these postulates are quite as true of the world of our senses as are the fundamental laws of matter and energy, space and time.

Obviously these few conclusions can make no claim to completeness. Fully to describe life, the discovery of many other fundamental characteristics is necessary, including such as are related to inheritance, variation, evolution, consciousness, and a host of other things. But in the formation and logical development of such ideas there is danger of fallacy at every step, and since the present list will suffice for the present purpose, further considerations of this sort are best dispensed with. This subject should not be put aside, however, without clear emphasis that the postulates which have been adopted above are extremely meager. The only motives for abandoning further search are the economy and the security which are thus insured, and the very great difficulty of extending the list. Any one who is familiar with similar efforts to elucidate the essential characteristics of life, such as that of Wallace,¹ cannot, I fear, fail to perceive the extreme limitations

¹ A. R. Wallace, "Man's Place in the Universe." New