

*Discussion Draft (R1)*

# **Third Tier**

Overview of

## **Defining the Leading Edge of Human Development**

Andrew Cohen/Ken Wilber

WIE October-December 2007 p84-92

Gary Vollbracht

8/6/08

**Cincinnati/Dayton Ken Wilber Group**

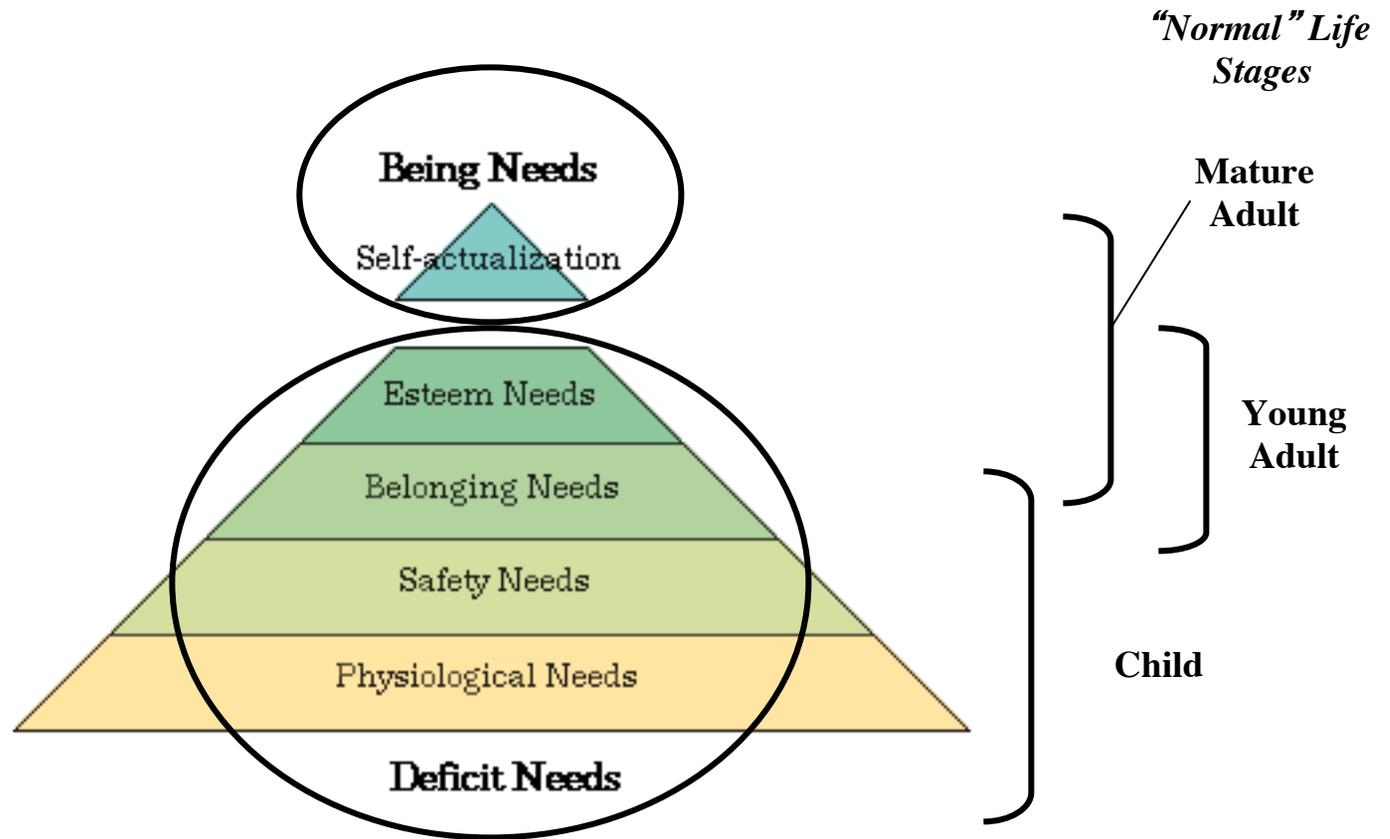
# Summary

- Review of Consciousness Frameworks, Tier 2 Stages, States
- Tier 3 Features
- Note! This Presentation is a Draft Only -- For Participation, Discussion/Clarification Throughout

# Maslow



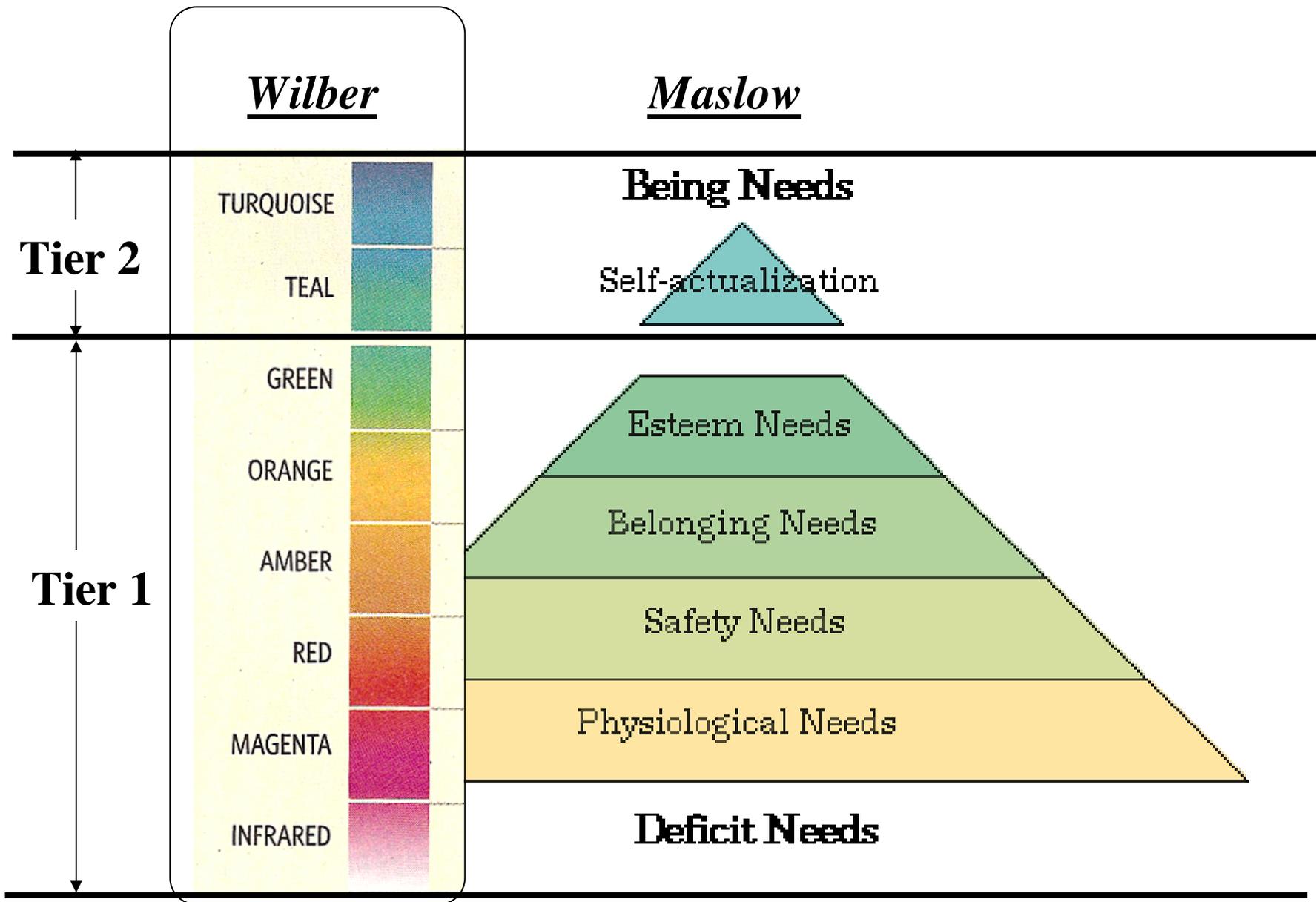
ABRAHAM MASLOW  
1908-1970



Source: <http://www.ship.edu/~cgboeree/maslow.html> -- nice 10-page summary of Maslow's Theory

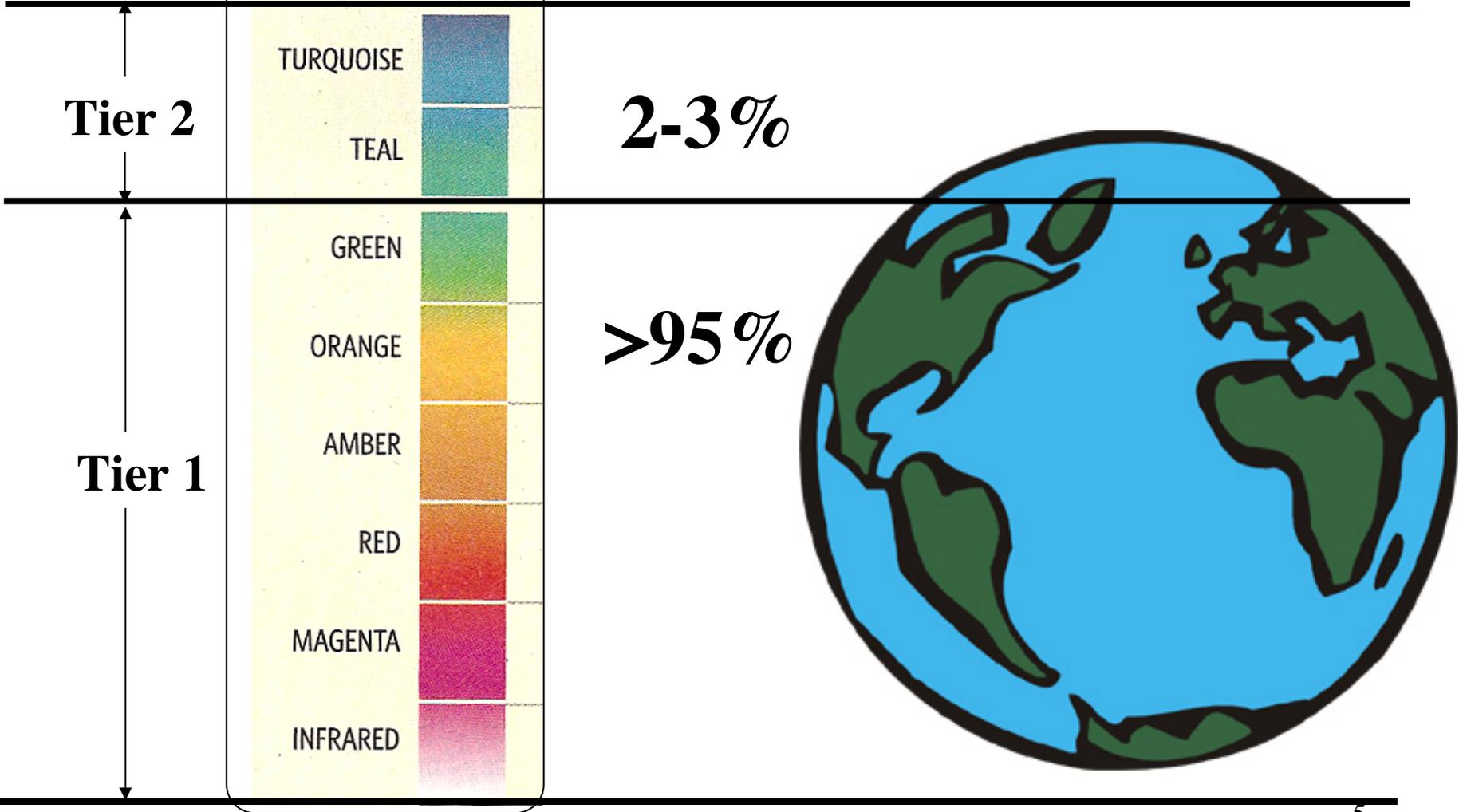
**Tiers1 & 2**

	<u><i>Wilber</i></u>	<u><i>Beck</i></u> <i>(Spiral Dynamics)</i> <i>(Graves)</i>	<u><i>Values</i></u>
<b>Tier 2</b>	TURQUOISE	<b>Turquoise</b> (Global View/Systemic)	<b>Elegance</b> (World is an elegantly balanced system of interlocking forces)
	TEAL	<b>Yellow</b> (Flex Flow/Systemic)	<b>Chaos</b> (World is Chaotic Organism forged by differences and change)
<b>Tier 1</b>	GREEN	<b>Green</b> (Human Bond/Relativistic)	<b>Equality, Interdependence</b>
	ORANGE	<b>Orange</b> (Strive Drive/Multiplistic)	<b>Reason, Independence</b>
	AMBER	<b>Blue</b> (Truth Force/Absolutistic)	<b>One Right Way, One Truth</b>
	RED	<b>Red</b> (Power Gods/Egocentric)	<b>Power</b> (strongest rule, make it happen)
	MAGENTA	<b>Purple</b> (Kin Spirits/Magic-Animistic)	<b>Magic</b> (gods make it all happen)
	INFRARED	<b>Beige</b> (Survival)	<b>Survival</b> (I/We have to make it happen)

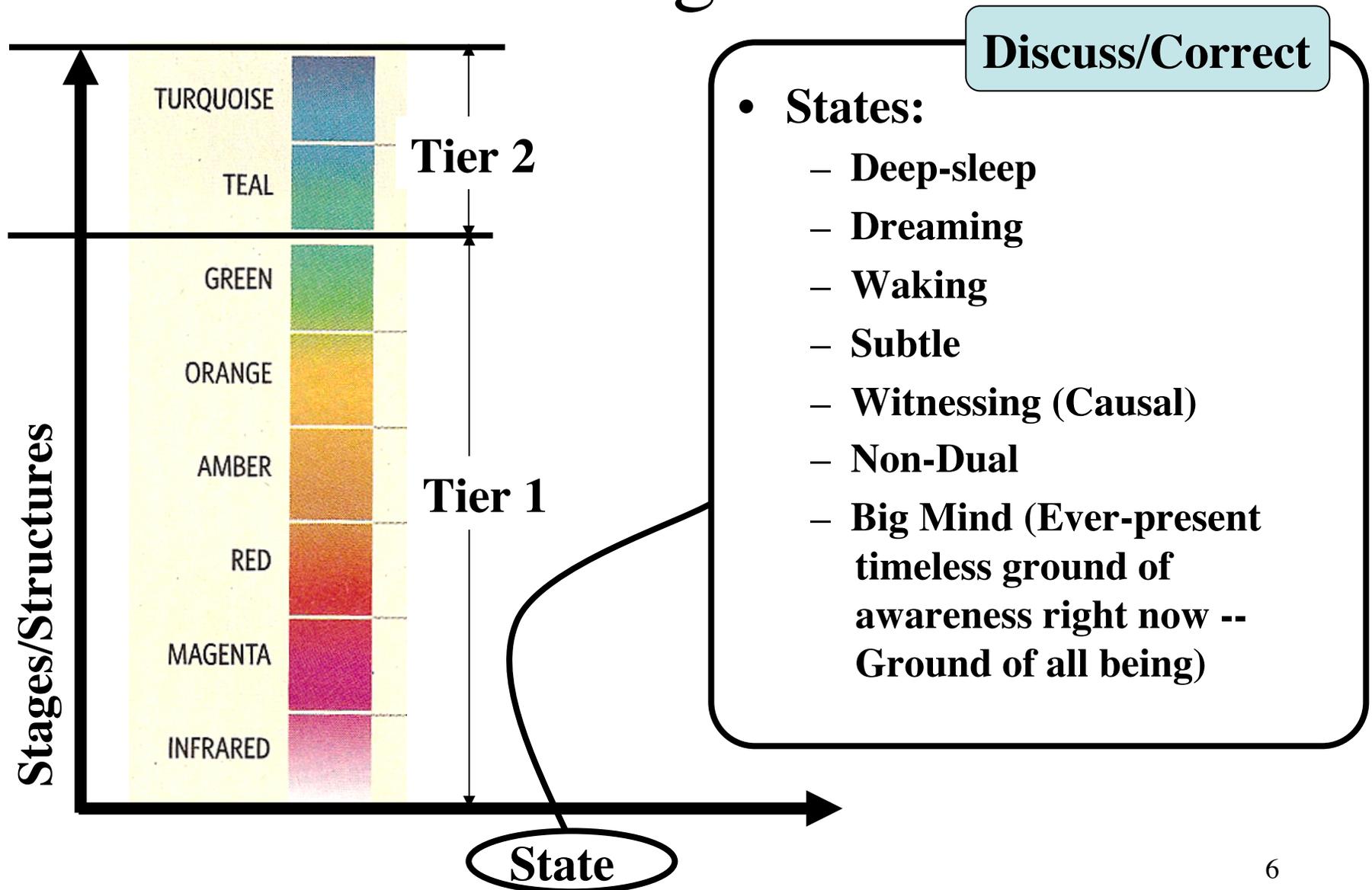


# Population Distribution

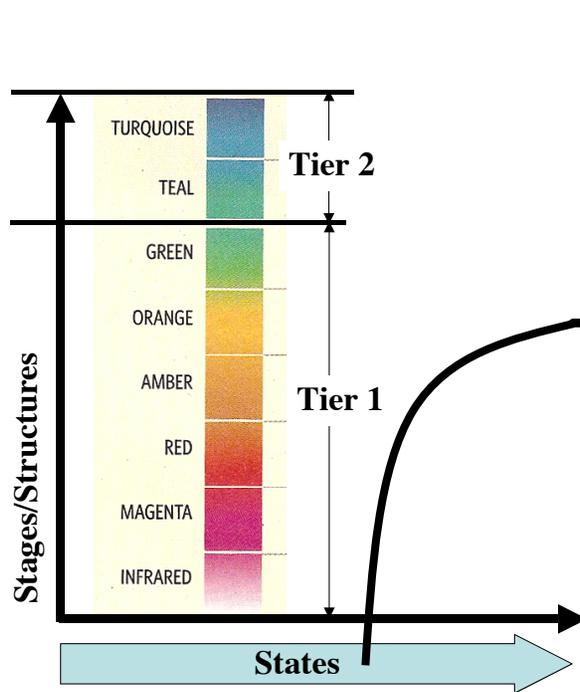
Wilber



# States and Stages/Structures



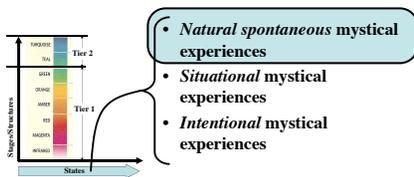
# More on Higher *States* of Consciousness (Not in article!)



- *Natural spontaneous* mystical experiences
- *Situational* mystical experiences
- *Intentional* mystical experiences

# Natural Spontaneous Mystical Experiences

More on Higher States of Consciousness

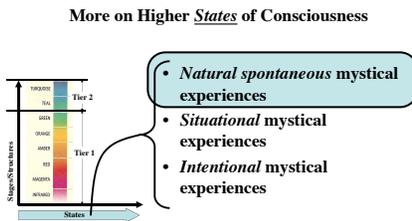


- Religious Experiences or Mystical Experiences
  - 40% of the population has had such experiences.
- Examples...
  - **Eckhart Tolle**
  - **Joe Perez** (recorded in *Soulfully Gay*)

“One night, after a full day of avoiding my work, I entered an unusual state of mind. I would describe the experience as **trancelike**, except that I was **completely rational and lucid the whole time**. I felt **perfect bliss and happiness**, but even the word ‘**feel**’ seems **inadequate**. It was more like **being Bliss**, a state of being much stronger than a mere sensation or emotion. ... A **state of euphoria** seemed to **permeate my entire body** from head to toe. Not even that description seems right, for the **joy was not located inside my body as opposed to outside it**. **It simply was.**” (Note -- even this powerful experience left him and made little lasting impression on him!)

# Natural Spontaneous Mystical Experiences

- Examples...
  - **Eckhart Tolle**
  - **Joe Perez**
  - **Albert Hoffman** (experienced as a child, recorded in *LSD, My Problem Child*)

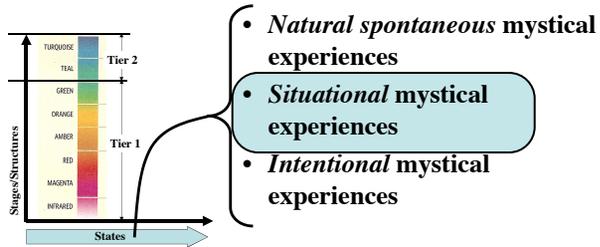


“I can point to the exact spot where it occurred, on a forest path on Martinsberg above Baden, Switzerland. As I strolled through the freshly greened woods filled with birdsong and lit up by the morning sun, all at once **everything appeared in an uncommonly clear light**. Was this something I had simply failed to notice before? Was I suddenly discovering the spring forest as it actually looked? **It shone with the most beautiful radiance, speaking to the heart, as though it wanted to encompass me in its majesty. I was filled with an indescribable sensation of joy, oneness, and blissful security.**”

Albert Hoffman went on to become a research chemist, and, intrigued by the plant world since early childhood, chose to specialize in research on the constituents of medicinal plants. In 1943, age 37, he discovered the psychedelic affects of LSD. This was five years after he had discovered LSD at age 32, but he had done nothing with it. He recognized the experiences with LSD as sometimes identical to those of his early childhood in the forest. The rest is history. His life was rich, and Stanislav Grof, who knew him, said Hofmann exuded his **“passionate apotheosis of the beauty and mystery of creation.”** Hoffman died in 2008, active, at the age of 102.

# *Situational* Mystical Experiences

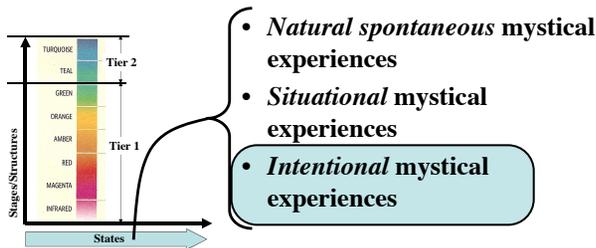
More on Higher *States* of Consciousness



- **Natural Childbirth**
  - Mother and child
- **Near-Death Experiences (NDE)**
- **Pain and Trauma**
- **Out-of-body experiences**
- **Sex**
- **Sports (individual, team)**
- **Art, Literature, Music, Science**
  - Creating
  - Performing
  - Enjoying
- **Etc.**

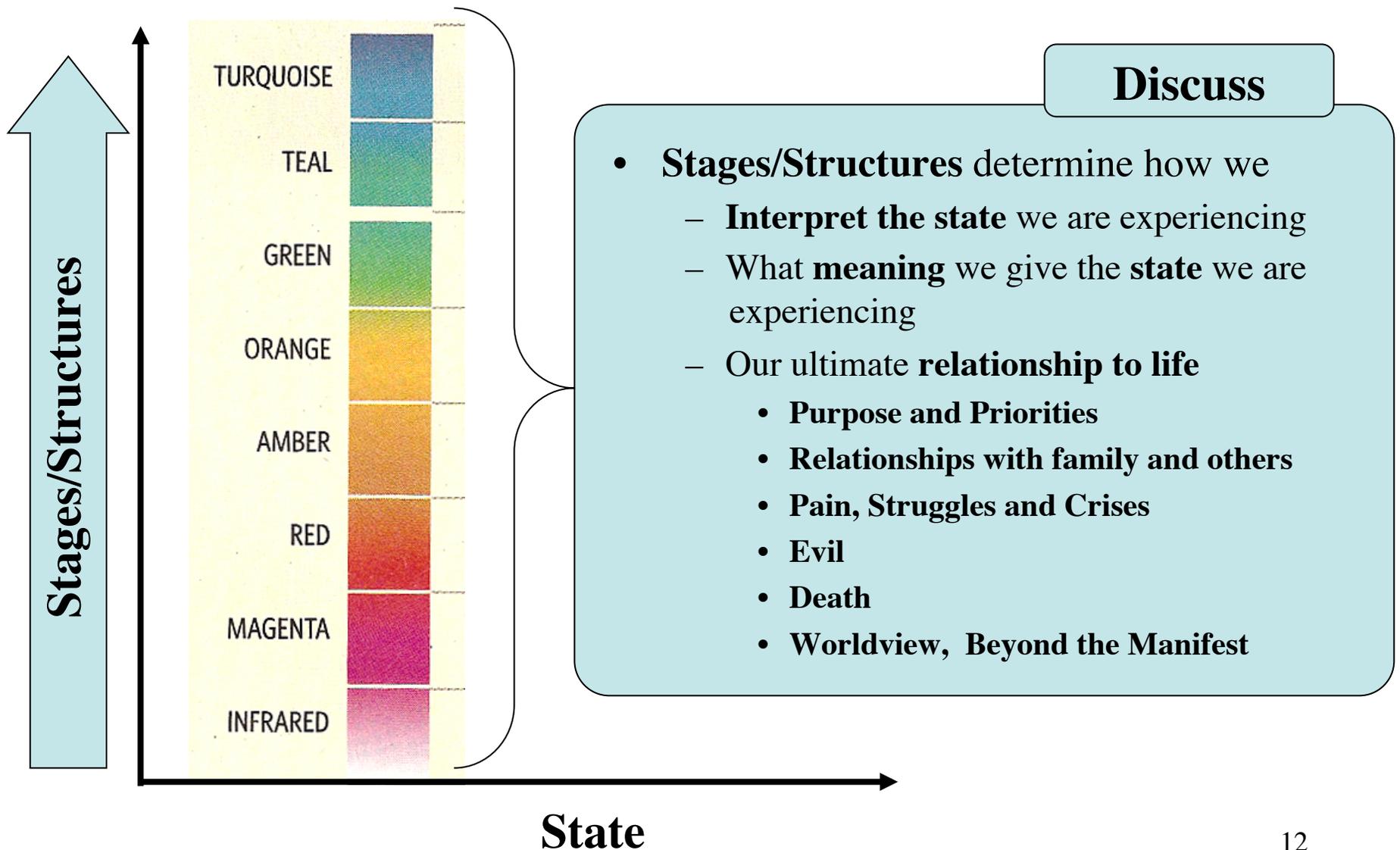
# *Intentional* Mystical Experiences

More on Higher States of Consciousness

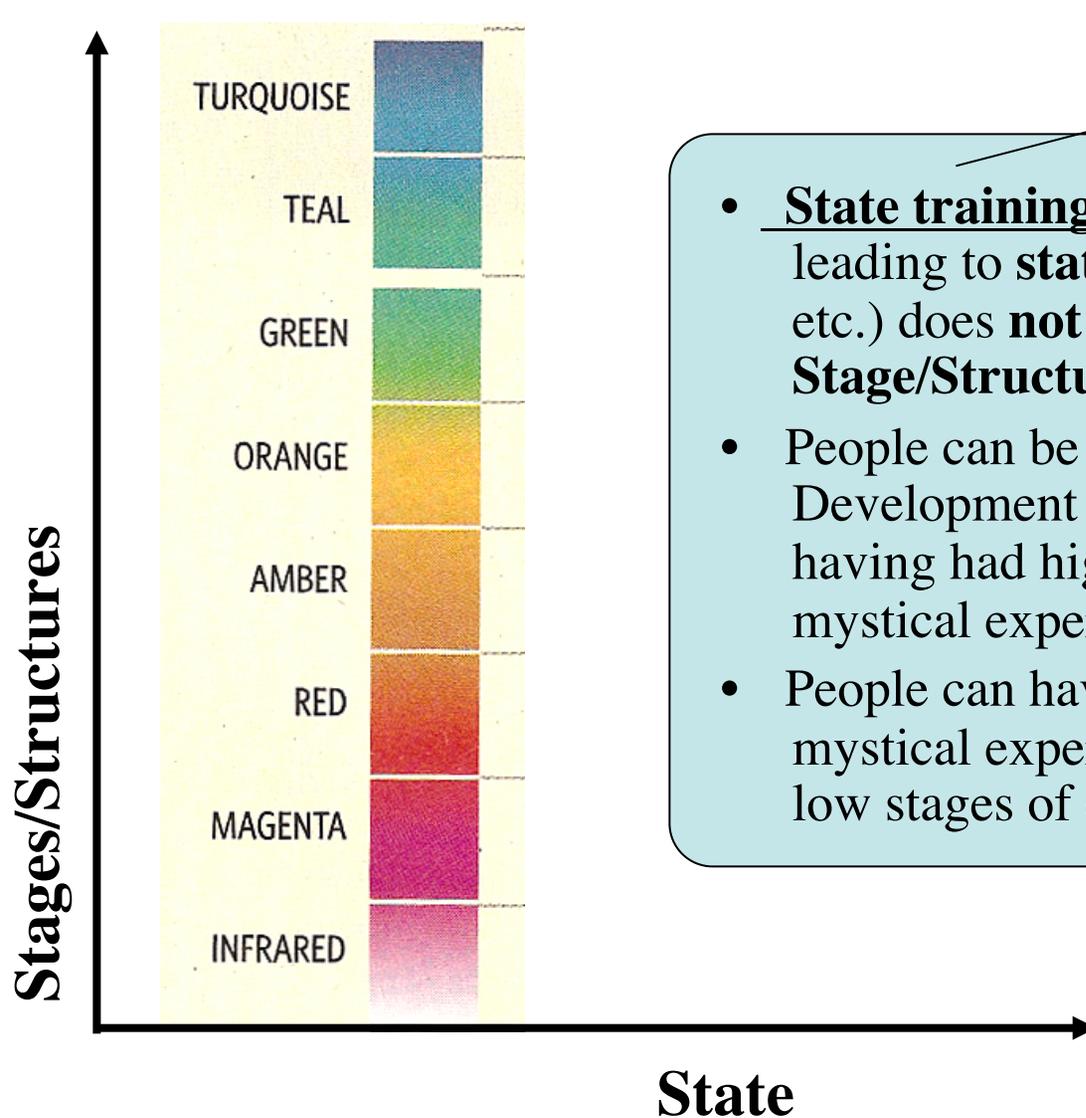


- **Meditation**
- **Holotropic Breathwork & Rebirthing**
- **Gestalt Emotional Processing**
- **Primal Therapy, Encounter Groups**
- **Psychodrama and Hellinger Family/System Constellation**
- **Body Work**
  - **Core Energetics/Bioenergetics**
  - **Yoga**
  - **Massage**
  - **Marshal Arts**
  - **Strength Training**
- **Tantra practices** (transcendent sexuality, Breathwork, Kundalini yoga, etc.)
- **Psychedelic substances**
  - **LSD, etc.**
  - **Ayahuasca and others substances used by shamans in religious and healing rituals**

# States and Stages/Structures



# States and Stages/Structures

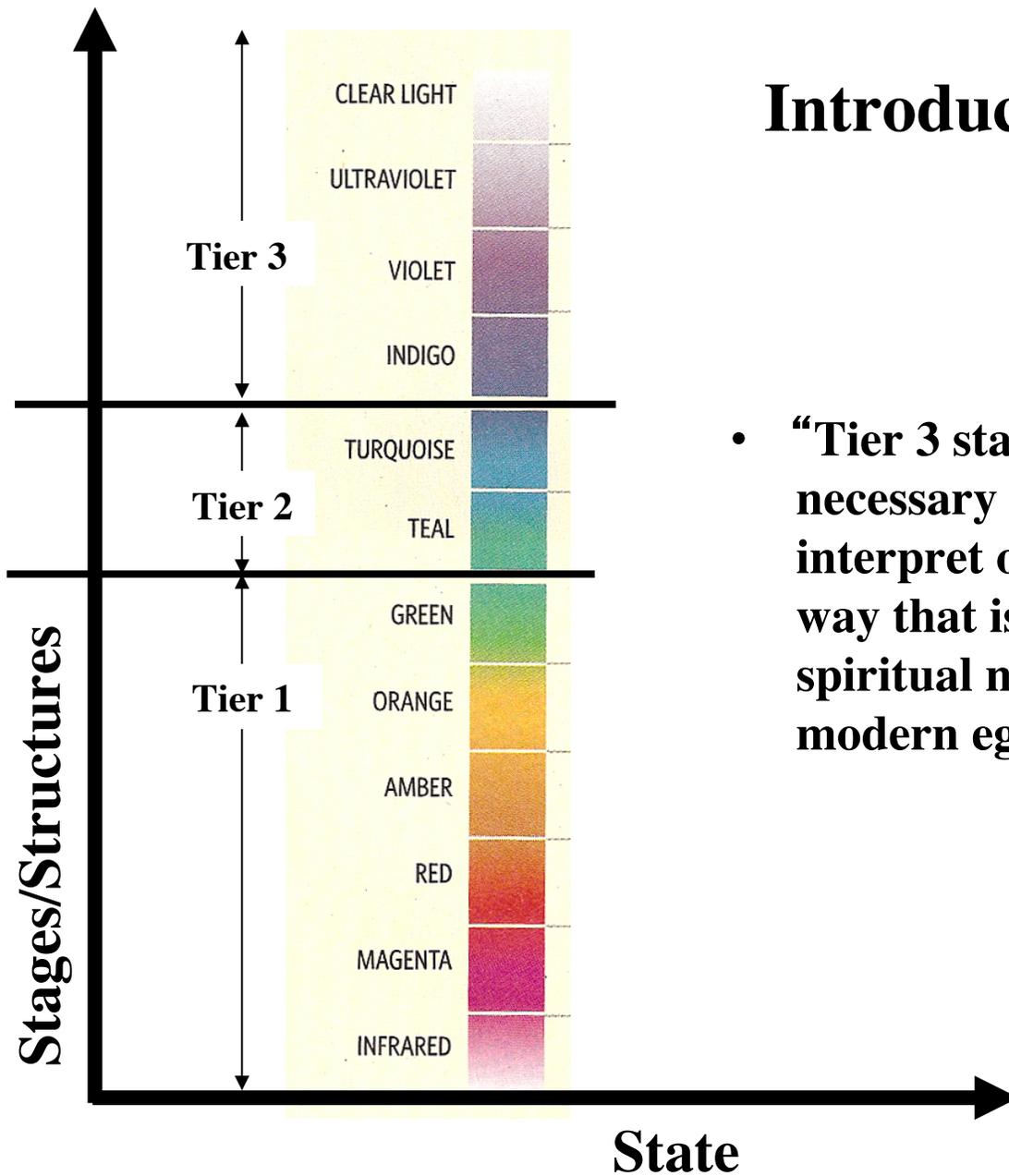


Discuss

- State training (intentional practices leading to **state-awakening**) (meditation, etc.) does **not** automatically lead to **Stage/Structure Development**
- People can be at high Stages of Development (even second tier) without having had higher state awakening or mystical experiences.
- People can have high state awakening or mystical experience while at relatively low stages of development.

# Discussion Slide

- **What is the relationship between State Experiences of Consciousness and Stage of Consciousness?**
  - **Do you agree with the article that through Tier 2 that state experiences of consciousness and stage of consciousness are unrelated?**
  - **Others have said that mystical experiences (state experiences) have had a profound impact on their worldview. Does this play into stage of development?**
- **We've discussed *state training*. What would a *stage development program* involve?**
  - **12-Step Program?**
  - **Spiritual Paths that blend spiritual, psychological, and state training practices?**
  - **Transpersonal Psychotherapy?**
  - **Etc.**

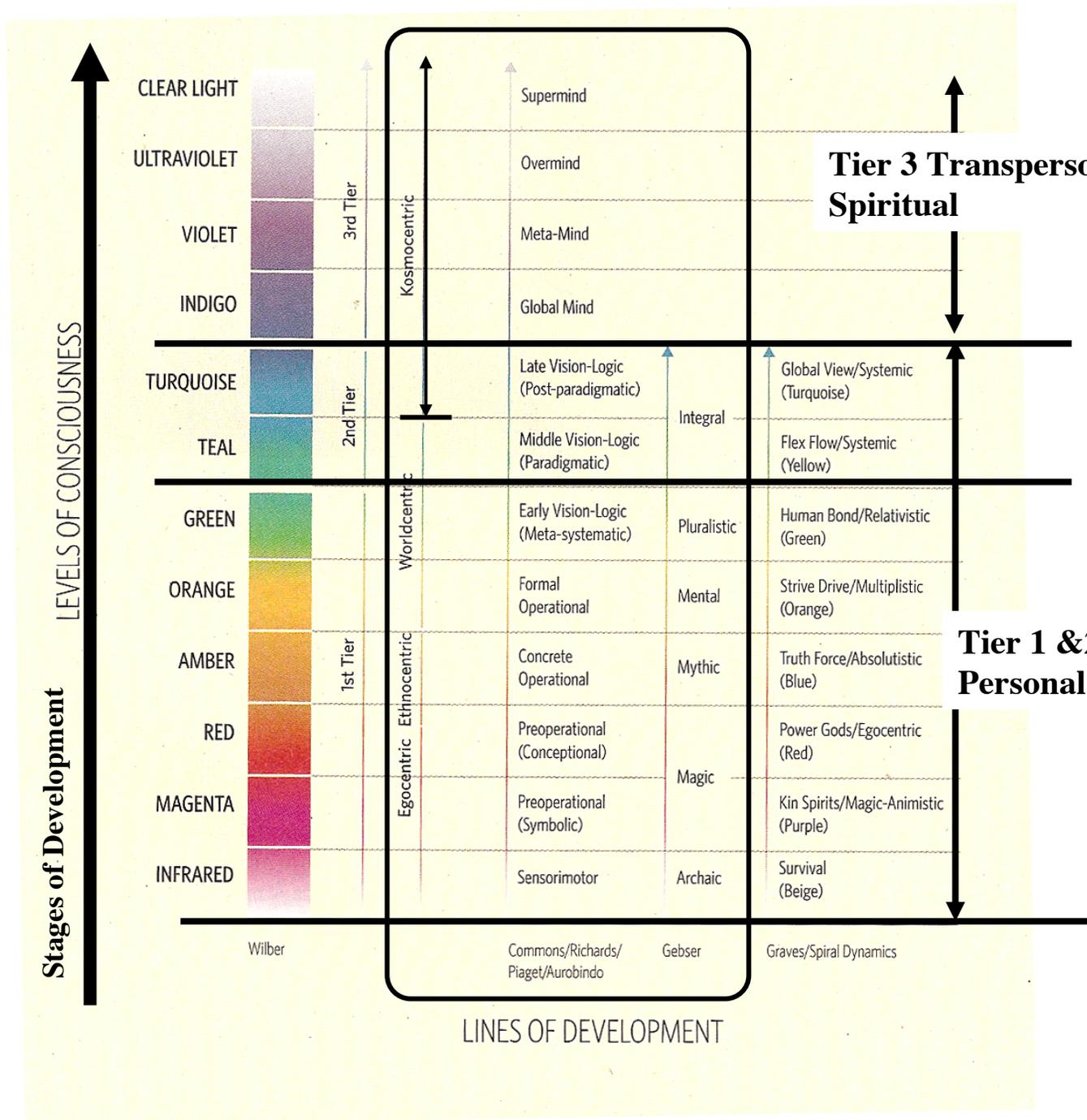


## Introduction to Third Tier

- “Tier 3 stages of development are necessary to ensure we consistently interpret our state experiences in a way that is free from the relentless spiritual narcissism of the post modern ego.”

**Discuss**

# Expanding The Stage of Development Chart



# Cohen on Third Tier



Discuss

- Beyond Cognitive -- there is a *precognitive knowing* of the fact that a **conditioned self is an evolving self.**
- **Deep intuitive knowing** of freedom from form, from creation, from manifestation -- a *knowing that I am already free from this life process.*
- Simultaneously *awakened to the evolutionary impulse* or authentic self, to *Eros*, and therefore has *discovered an ecstatic and passionate sense of care for the future of that process.*
- Recognition that “**there is only One**” means *I am and always have been that One, and therefore the responsibility to create the future is on my shoulders alone.* -- I am **not** here for **me** or for **my liberation** but *to create the future.* (Kosmocentric Orientation)
- I find my own liberation as an incarnate sentient being through *giving myself to that unimaginable task.*

# More of Cohen on Third Tier



Discuss

- [Those in Third Tier would now see that] their **personal responses to life** would begin to **reflect the awakening of a higher**
  - **Moral**
  - **Ethical,**
  - **Philosophical, and**
  - **Spiritual orientation****over** anything that was **personal** or **cultural** or eve **ethically** driven.
- Such an individual would really be a **very different kind of human being** because their self would be expressing the **liberated, committed passion of the evolutionary impulse.**

# Wilber on Third Tier



**Discuss**

- We do have to **awaken our own fundamental potentials**, and part of that means **awakening capacities to push into potentials that have not yet been created**.
- [At Indigo] is the emerging sense of a **transpersonal witness** as the individual identity, a sense of **I AM-ness**. ... recognizing that the individual's *power of intentionality* is part of that which *co-creates the universe*.
- Unlike at Tier 2 where people **THINK** about these things as a conceptual identity, a **THOUGHT** identity, **here it is a FELT identity -- I am that**.
- Once you step into third tier, *kaboom* -- you're stepping into the **transpersonal**.
- Here there is an **assumed responsibility for this evolutionary impulse**.
- **It's as if people live Eros**.

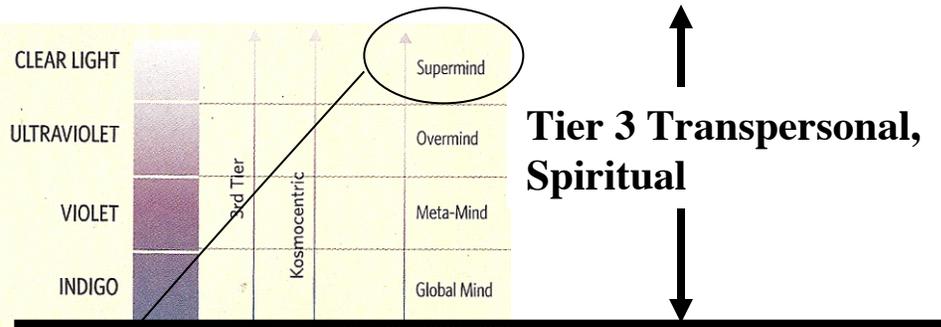
# More Wilber on Third Tier



Discuss

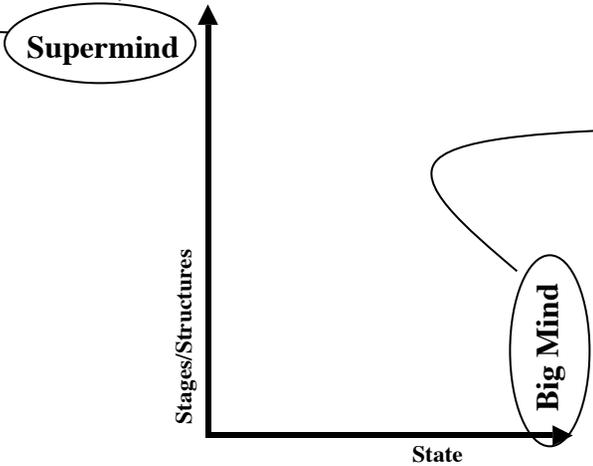
- They **act out of superabundance**. There is a sense of overflowing to it.
- There is a **felt necessity to create out of an almost ethical or moral view**.
- Three main **stages** in third tier **objectify** the higher **state experiences**
  - **Global Mind** (Indigo) objectifies the **subtle** state
  - **Meta-Mind** (Violet) objectifies the **causal** state
  - **Overmind** (Ultraviolet) objectifies the **non-dual** state

# And More Wilber on Third Tier



Discuss

- [Unlike for Tier 1 and Tier 2, in Tier 3] You have to have some sort of **state training** and **state realization** to **allow wakefulness** to be able to **move into subtle states** of consciousness and **not lose track** of its own **I AM-ness**, or its own ground.



- “I use Aurobindo’s term “*Supermind*” to describe the *highest structure in third tier*, the **end limit of vertical growth.**”
- “And the *end limit of horizontal or state growth* I call *Big Mind.*”
- “**Third Tier** is where you really do have to start **consciously making the ‘ground of ALL being’** part of the **‘ground of YOUR being.’**”

# Cohen: Look for **Evidence** of Third Tier



Discuss

- “The individual in Third Tier would begin to **respond to life and life situations** in a way that **showed that their egoic or narcissistic conditioned responses were being contained** within this higher perspective to such a degree that they are **obviously a transformed man or woman.**”
- “They have **crossed** what I call the **fifty-one-percent threshold**, which means that **the evolutionary impulse -- the authentic self and its Kosmocentric orientation** -- has become the **dominant part of the self**, which makes **ALL the difference.**”

# Cohen: Third Tier -- Urge to Create the Future



Discuss

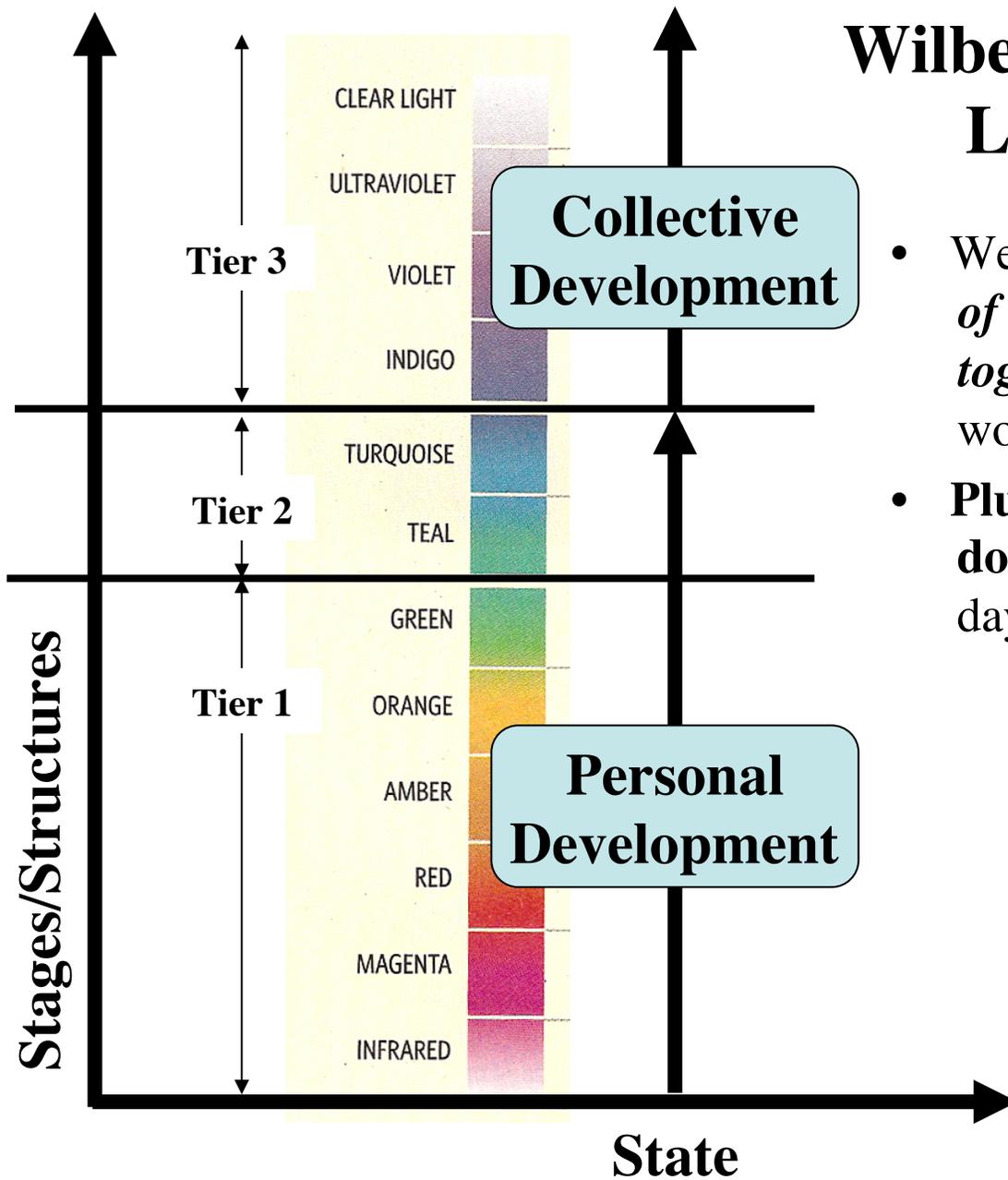
- The **urge to create the future** supersedes or **becomes a stronger impulse** than the **impulse to merely liberate the self** or **to transcend the world**.
- We realize that we *need to work with other individuals* in order to **create this future** because *we can't do it alone*.
- The **only way** human beings will actually be able to work together to authentically create a future that expresses a truly Kosmocentric perspective **is if the individuals have actually reached this third-tier level of development themselves**.
- What happens when we reach this level is that **our capacity to create becomes truly chaordic** -- which means **we are willing to live in a context of chaos** that, unless there was a little bit of enlightenment, would be personally unbearable.

# Cohen: **Third Tier** -- Our Purpose for Living is to *Create the Future!*

Discuss



- The **only reason** those who have reached **Tier 3** are here is to *create the future*.
- AND they would **have to have reached Tier 3 in order to be able to work together** and create a context that could be an expression of what Ken Wilber would call **superintegral**.
- **Without reaching Third Tier**, sure we would be able to **talk about it**, we'd be able to be **inspired by the idea**, *BUT we wouldn't actually be able to pull it off*.
- Others have to see **objective evidence for all of this from us actually having pulled it off!**

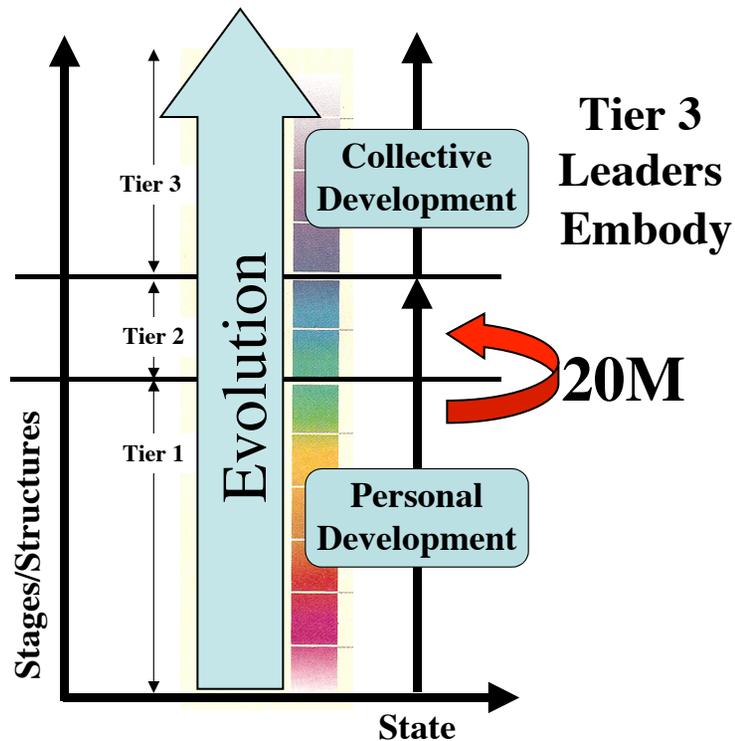


## Wilber: Third Tier Leadership

- We need to provide *higher types of leadership* in these *ways of togetherness* that are going to work
- **Pluralistic togetherness just doesn't work**; it's a mess for our day and age.

Discuss

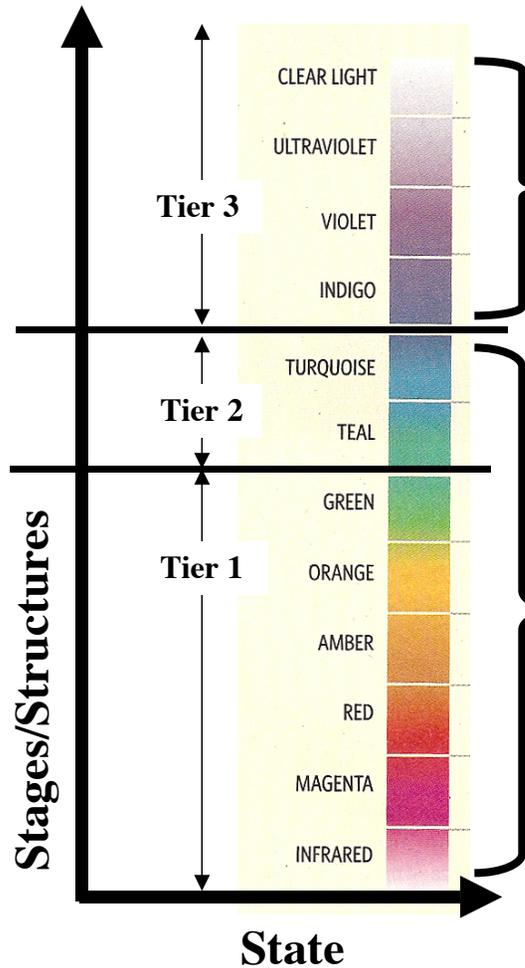
# Wilber: Where are We and What's Next?



## Discuss

- **55 Million Americans are at the Green level of development -- the leading edge for the mainstream.**
- **20 Million of these are ready to transform to Second Tier.**
- **Third Tier includes the pioneers who help define what the Second Tier is**
- **Third Tier is, therefore, the *leading edge of the leading edge* where we are actually starting to **embody that potential** in ways that **consciousness necessarily awakens.****

# Discussion Question: How would our relationship to Life be Different if We Were at Tier 3 vs. 1 or 2?



- **Stages/Structures** determine how we
  - **Interpret the state** we are experiencing
  - What **meaning** we give the **state** we are experiencing
  - Our ultimate **relationship to life**
    - **Purpose and Priorities**
    - **Relationships with family and others**
    - **Pain, Struggles and Crises**
    - **Evil**
    - **Death**
    - **Worldview, Beyond the Manifest**

See Slide 3