**The Four Stages of Listening**

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|  | **I**  ***Zugehörigkeit*:**  **Primordial attunement** | **II**  **Everyday Listening**  **(Jederman)** | **III**  **Skillfully developed listening** | **IV**  ***Hearkening*: listening as recollection** |
| **A** | Pre-ontological | Ontological everydayness | Ontical skillfulness developed | Ontological authenticity |
| **B** | Pre-egological | Ego-logical | Ego-logical maturity | Constellation of the Self (beyond ego) |
| **C** | Pre-personal | Personal and interpersonal | Personal and interpersonal | Transpersonal |
| **D** | Aesthetic immediacy  (conformity) | Ethical mediation (individuation) |  | Religious immediacy |
| **E** | Stage I  Infancy | Stages II-VII: childhood to adulthood | Stages VII-VIII: existential maturity | Stage VIII: mature wisdom |
| **F** |  | Pre-conventional (stages 1-2), conventional (stages 3-4), post-conventional (stage 5) | Post-conventional (stage 6: ‘Universal ethical principles’) |  |
|  |  |  | Communicatively achieved understanding (stage 7 in Habermas) |  |
| **G** | Unstable, very fluid,  Minimal complexity | *das Gestell* | Skillfully developed Gestalt attunements | *das Geviert*: gathering of the Fourfold |

**Axis A:** Describes our hearing as an experience in relation to the Question of Being.

**Axis B:** Outlines the emergence of the ego and, in stage IV, its transformation, or sublimation, within the constellation of a Self. In distinction from the ego, the Self does not reductively and exclusively identify itself within the structure of subject and object.

**Axis C:** Outlines the structural development of the personality, beginning with a stage that we will be calling ‘pre-personal,’ taking a term from Merleau-Ponty’s *Phenomenology of Perception*.

**Axis D:** Attempts to map Kierkegaard’s three stages of existence on to our four-stage process of self-development. This mapping, like the mappings on axis E and axis F, are only rough approximations, suggestive homologies.

**Axis E:** Attempts to correlate our schema with Erik Erikson’s.

**Axis F:** Attempts to correlate our scheme with one proposed by Lawrence Kohlberg. (As Carol Gilligan and others have pointed out, however, there are serious problems with Kohlberg’s hierarchical and cognitivist model. We cannot examine these problems here, but I want it understood that my correlations do not imply an endorsement of his model in regard to these problems.)

**Axis G:** Attempts to correlate, with each of the four stages, a quite distinctive organization (Gestaltung) of the sonorous energies constitutive of our auditory situations. To each stage of self-development, there corresponds (co-responds) a different type of Gestalt character. For the (historical) character of the Gestalt always echoes the (historically shaped) character of the one who is listening.