

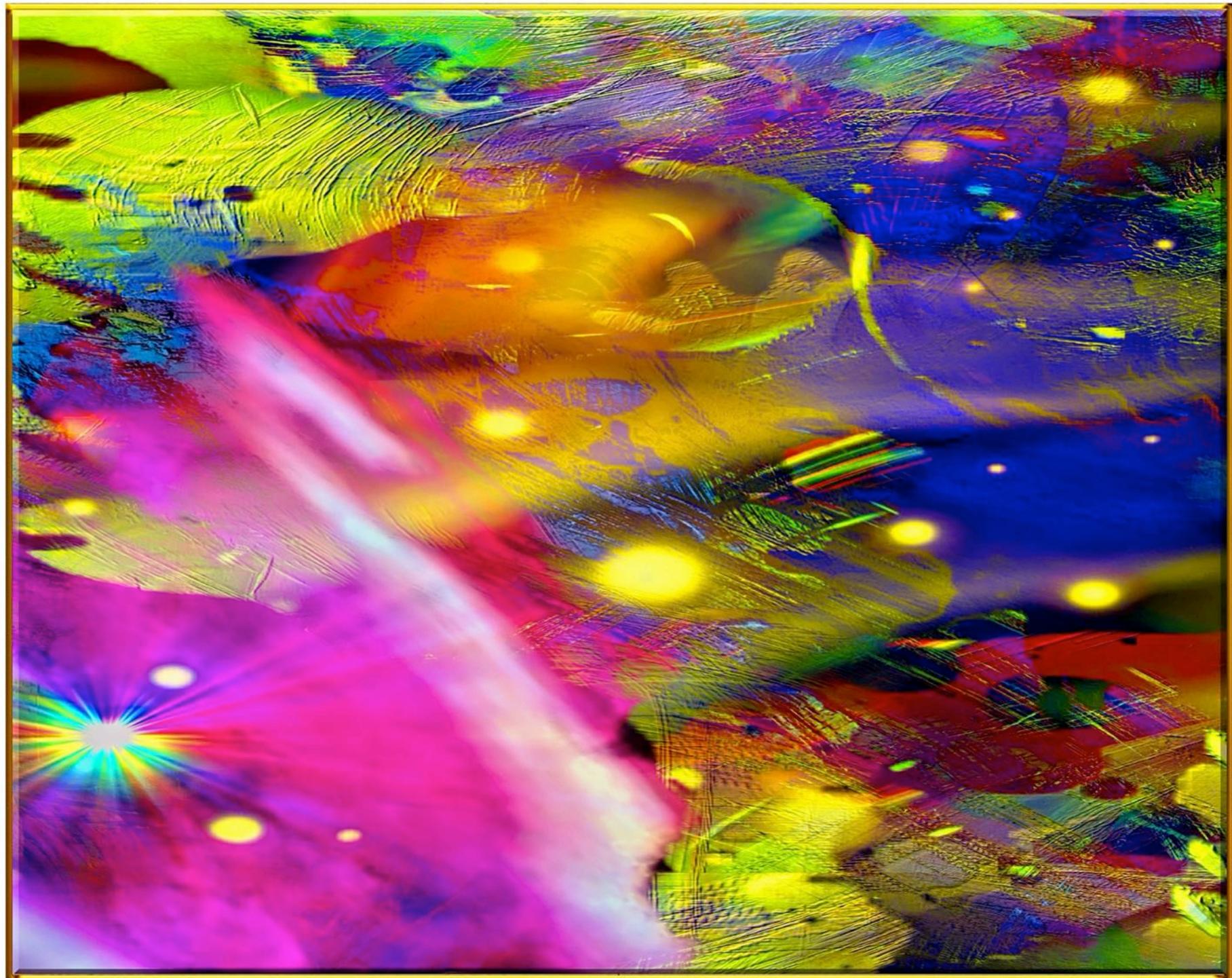
# Color Symbols— The Lore and Legends Of the Colors

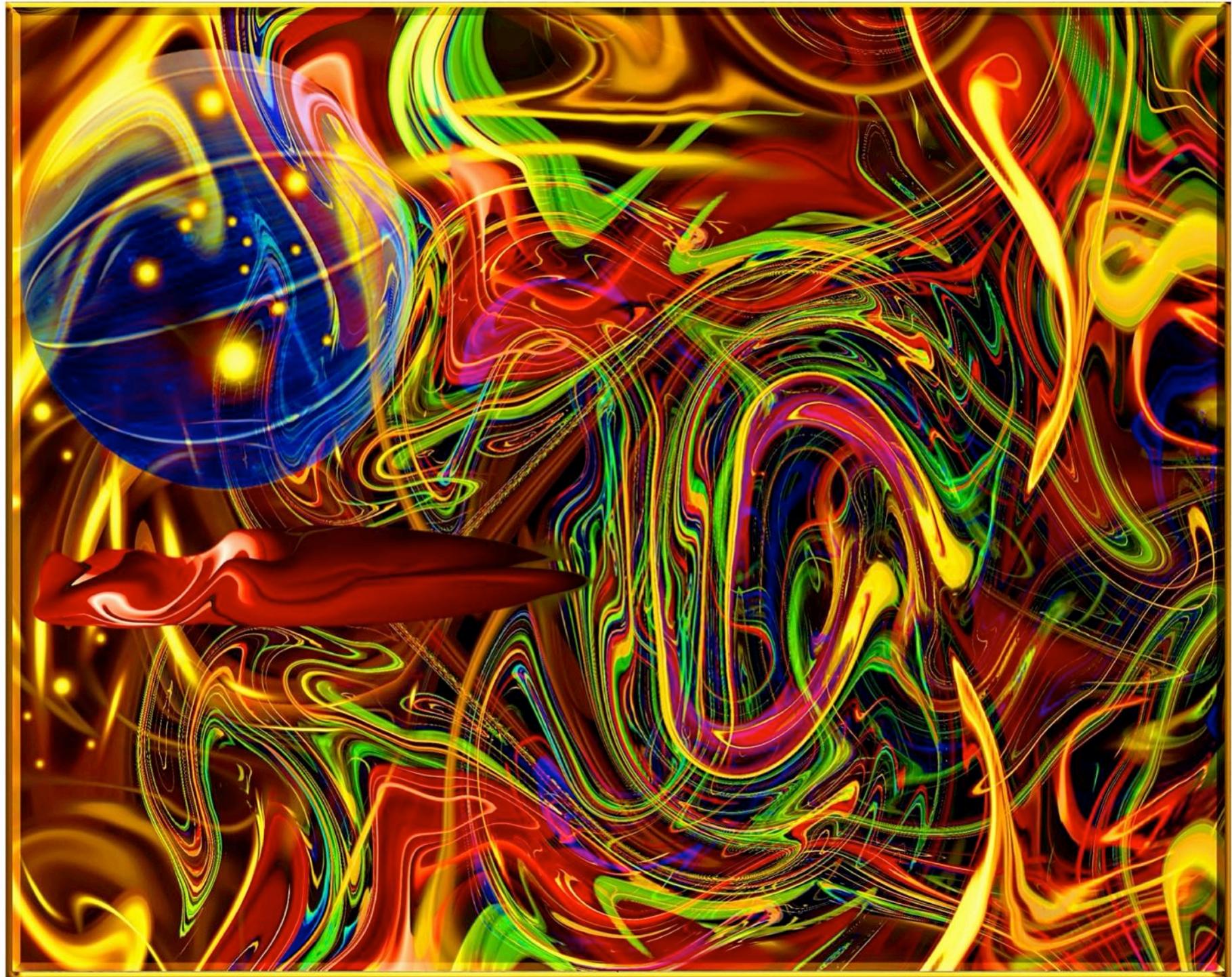


Austin P. Torney

Author of  
**Color Symbols**

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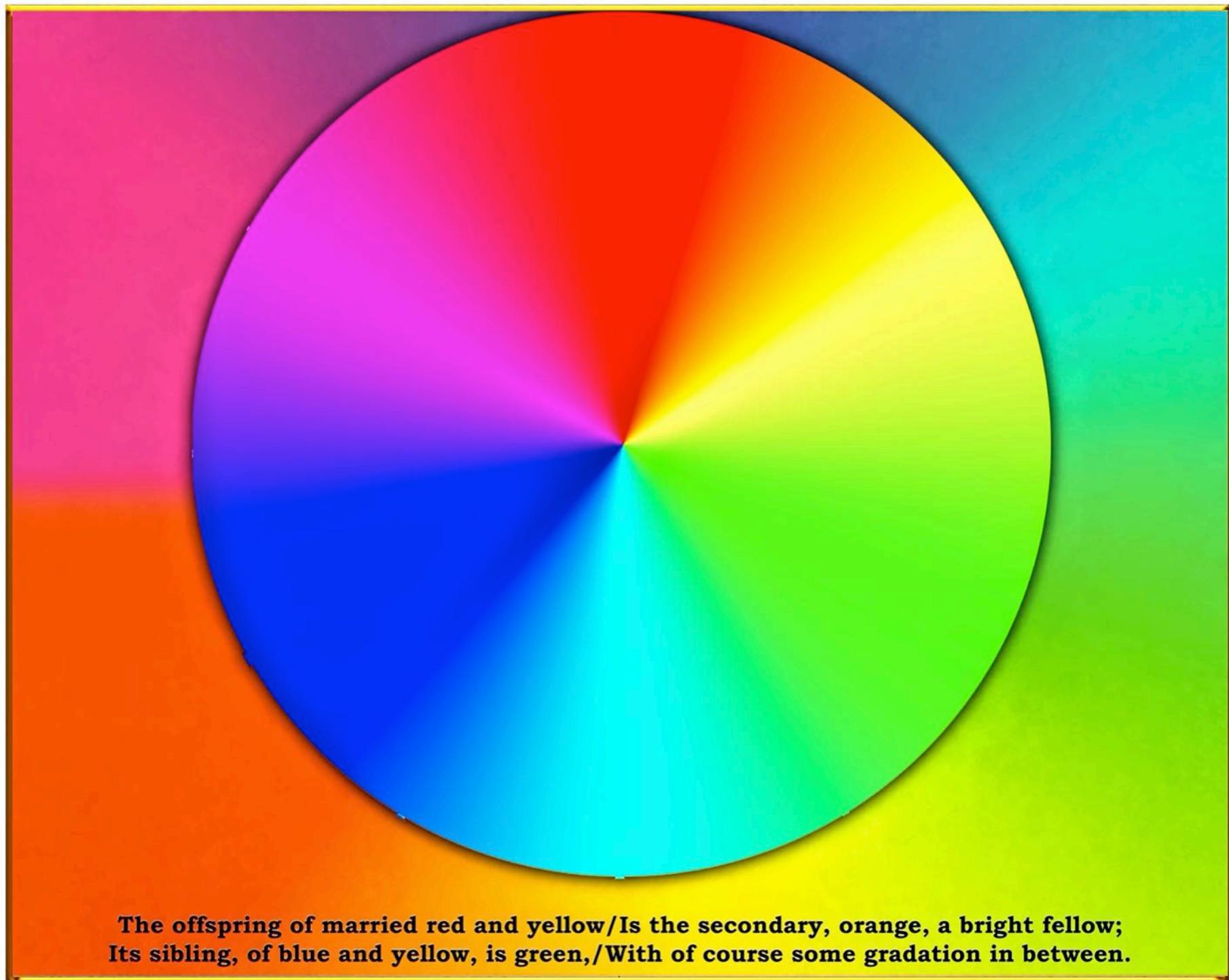
*In the nether world, I learned the lore and/Legends of the colors, of their uses  
In nature and emotions, the whatfor/Of their light's glowing activity:*



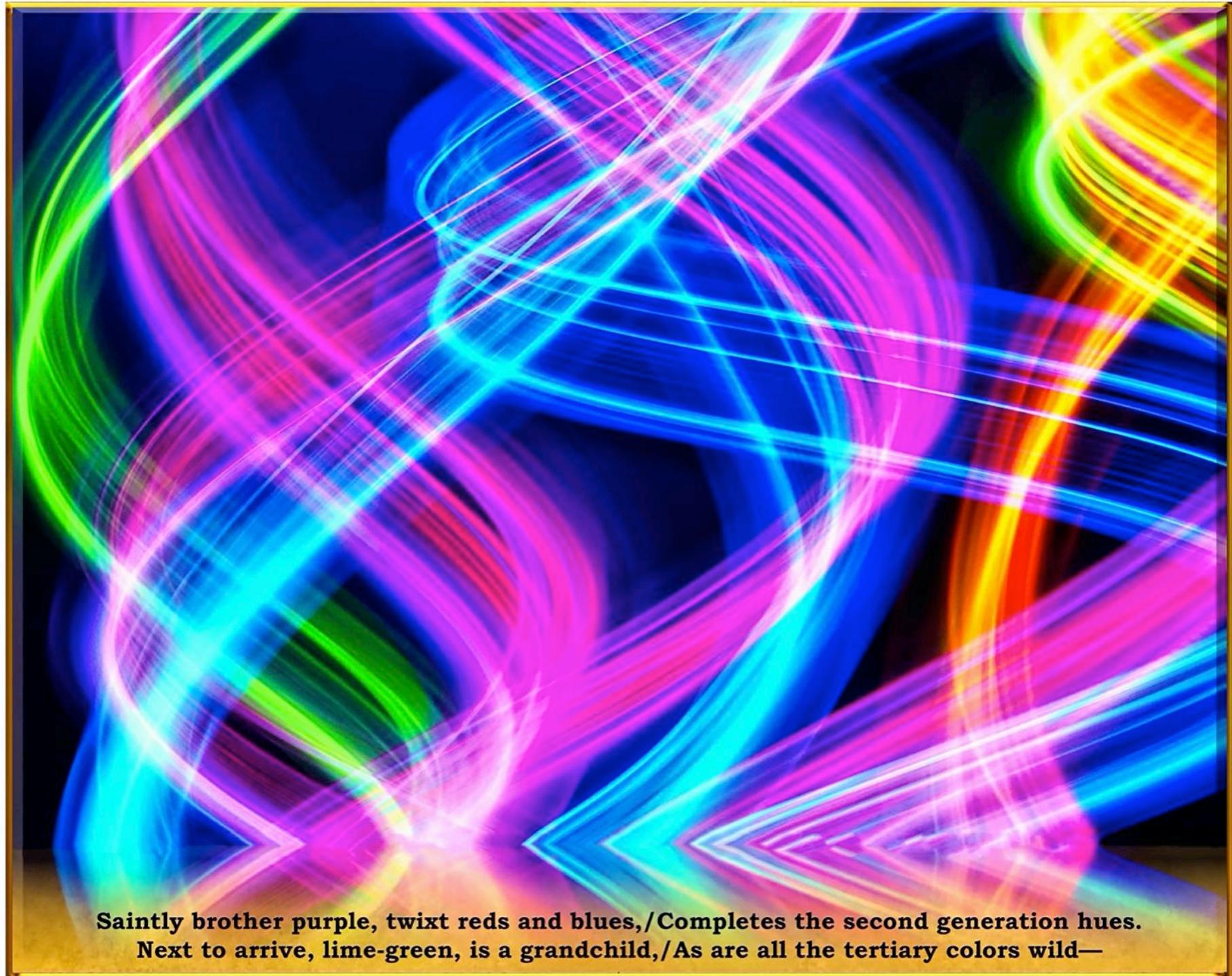
All color variants, quite numberless,/Are made from the three primaries, no less;  
Namely: red, yellow, and blue—often backed/By colorless white tinges or shades of black.



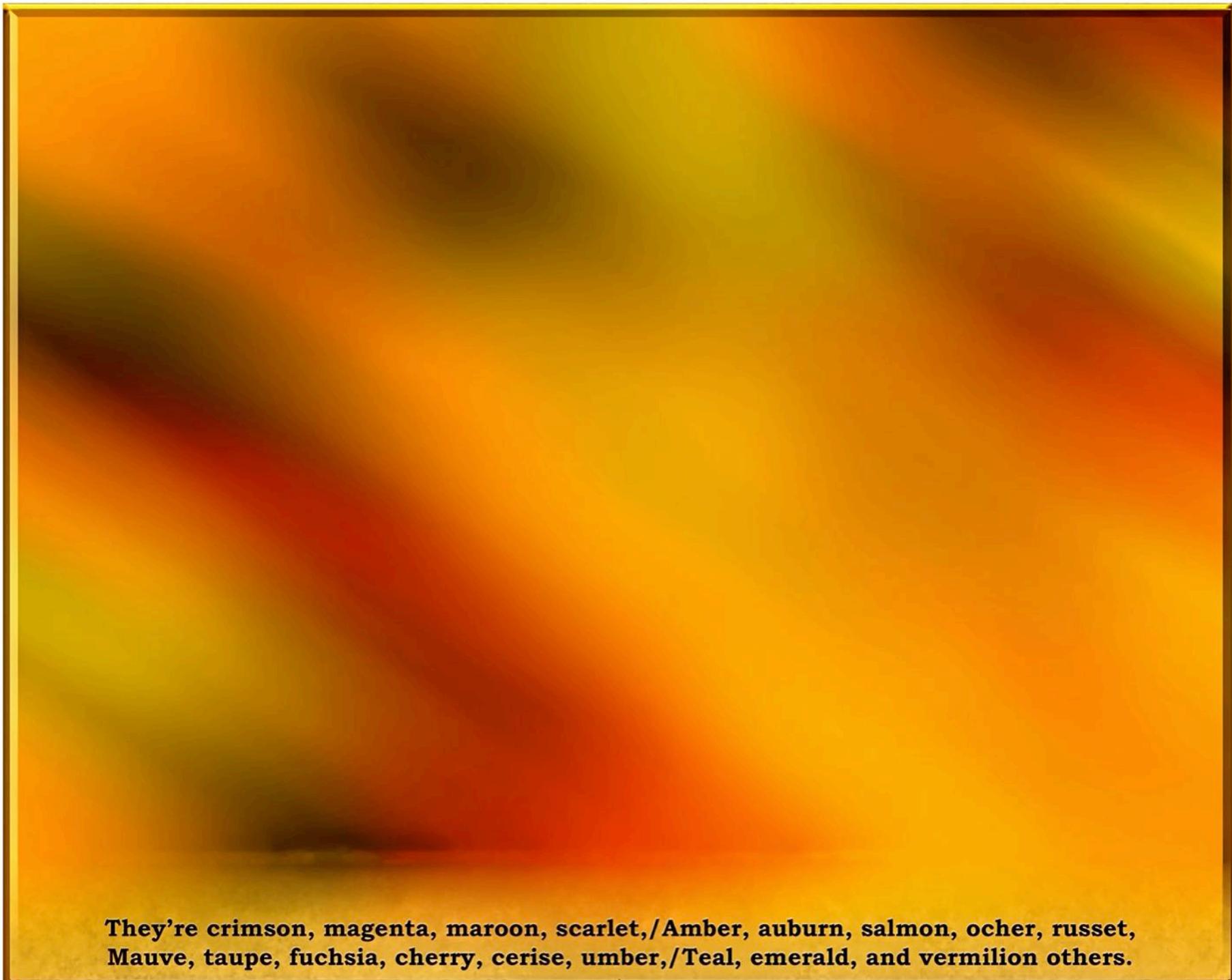
From just these three essential hues derives/All the heaven's prismatic radiance,  
Myriad colors of floral brilliance,/And technicolors that seem so alive.



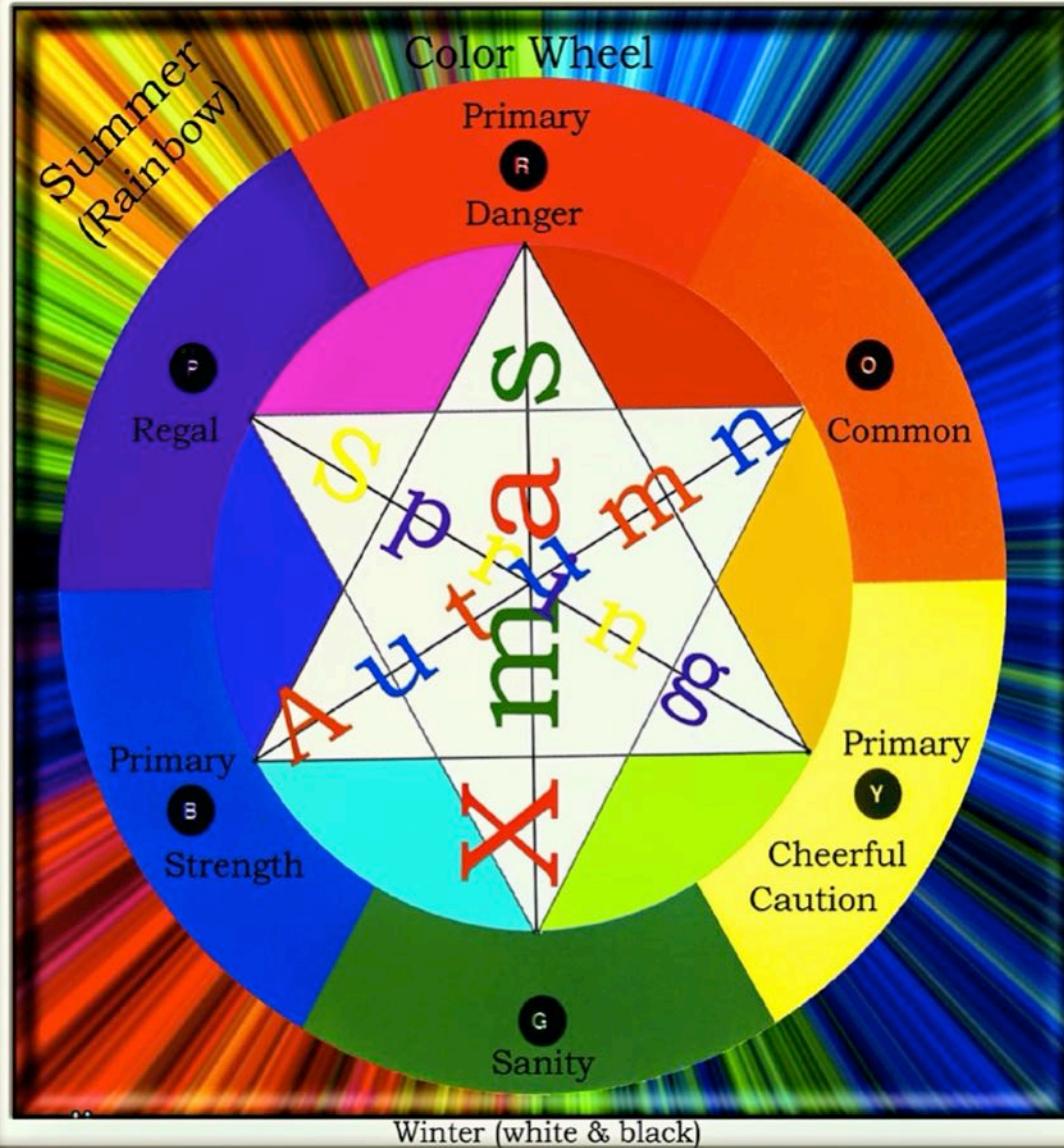
The offspring of married red and yellow/Is the secondary, orange, a bright fellow;  
Its sibling, of blue and yellow, is green,/With of course some gradation in between.



Saintly brother purple, twixt reds and blues,/Completes the second generation hues.  
Next to arrive, lime-green, is a grandchild,/As are all the tertiary colors wild—



They're crimson, magenta, maroon, scarlet,/Amber, auburn, salmon, ocher, russet,  
Mauve, taupe, fuchsia, cherry, cerise, umber,/Teal, emerald, and vermillion others.



Winter (white & black)

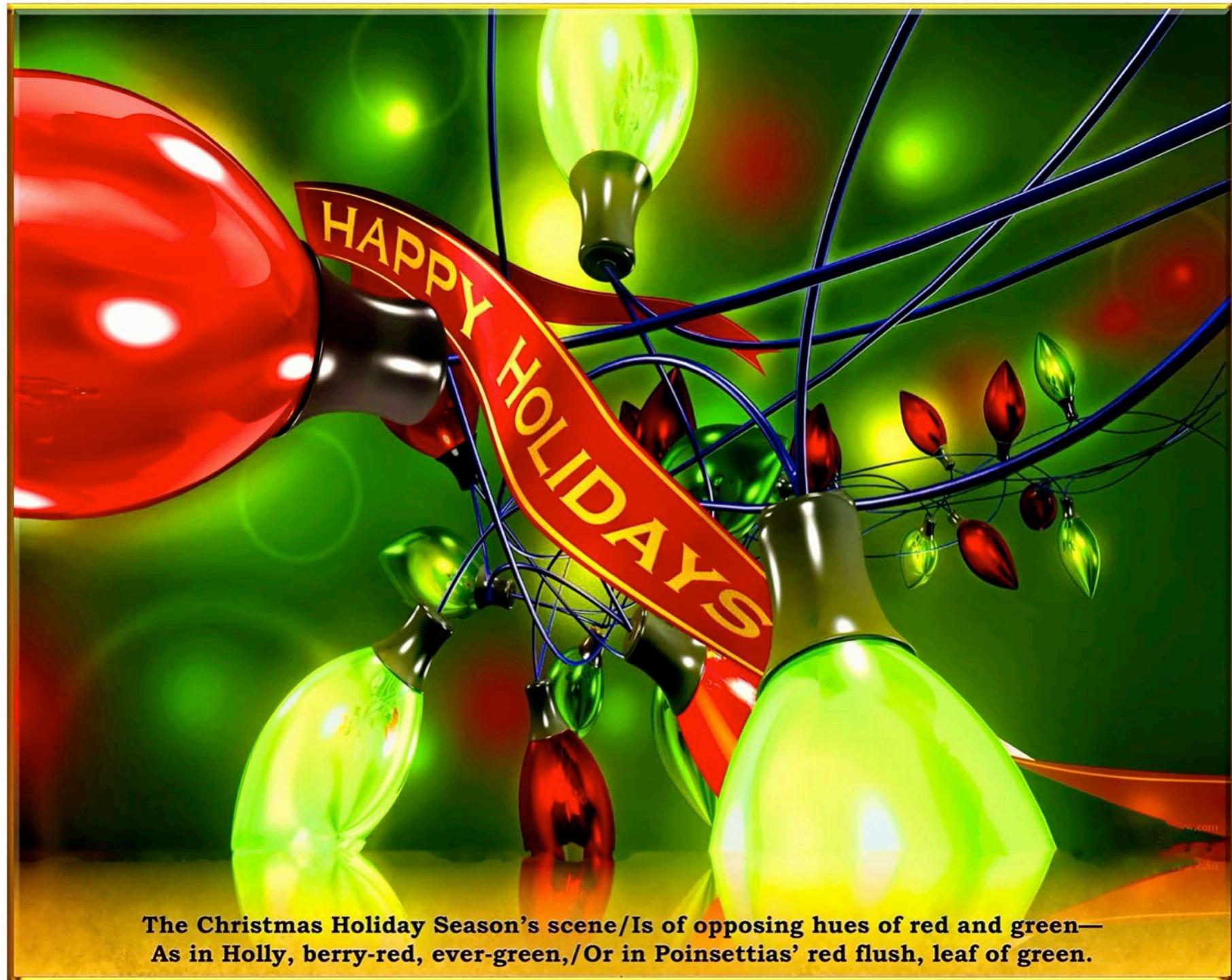
Strangely enough, all the color-pairs/That symbolize seasons and festive fairs,  
As they're found naturally in nature's ways,/Do contrast on the color wheel, crossways:



Direct opposites on the color wheel,/Sky-blue and leafy-orange represent fall,  
For they are autumn's contrasting colors—/That quite up for its lack of flowers.



As with crocus, spring's floral colors yet/Remain yellow primrose, purple violet—  
The sensual sun, as it were, warming/The virginal earth, with love, into spring.



The Christmas Holiday Season's scene/Is of opposing hues of red and green—  
As in Holly, berry-red, ever-green,/Or in Poinsettias' red flush, leaf of green.



*We're out of diametric color sets,/So which for summer? It must then contain  
The entire spectrum, as these the sunset/And the rainbow express in shine and rain.*



Since winter's snow hides all things out of sight,/Its colors are hidden inside white and night—  
The cold season's symbols, for they conceal/All of spring's and summer's bright floral feel.



For that as different as day and night,/We have the twin-opposites: black and white;  
For the day-clock first became dark and light/When twin-gods split day and night, wrong and right.



Heaven's splendor, white, for purity, bless,/Holds all the colors of prismatic light,  
But the symbol of the Prince of Darkness,/Black, removes all the colors from our sight.



**So then, it is proved that in both nature/And in the color wheel opposites attract  
And complement in their contrast—to procure/Both real and symbolic color contracts.**





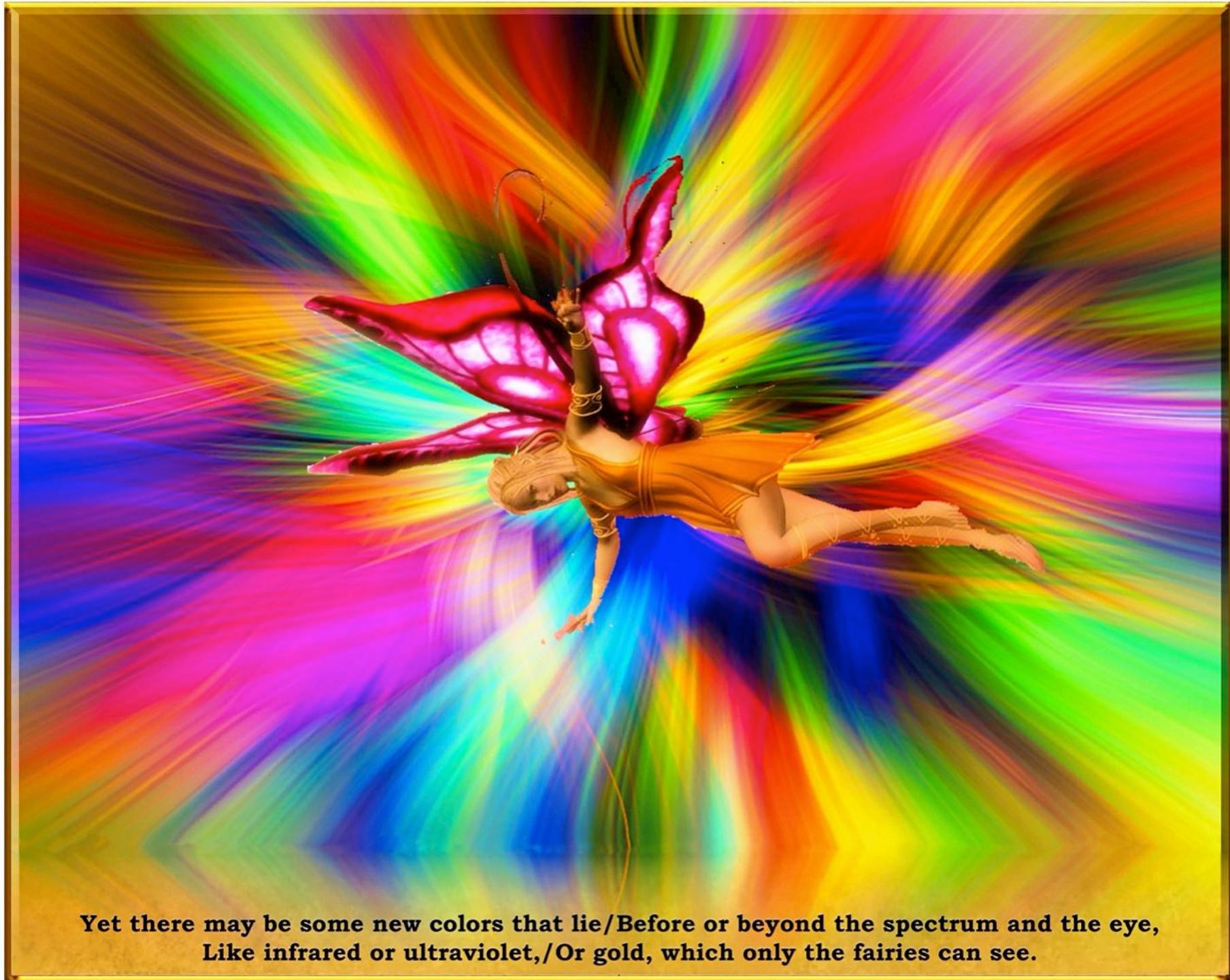
Next we'll turn to the colors lone, to see/The whatfor of their light's activity,  
But first, let's ask, *Are there any missing hues,/Unknown, hidden in rainbows, or not used?*



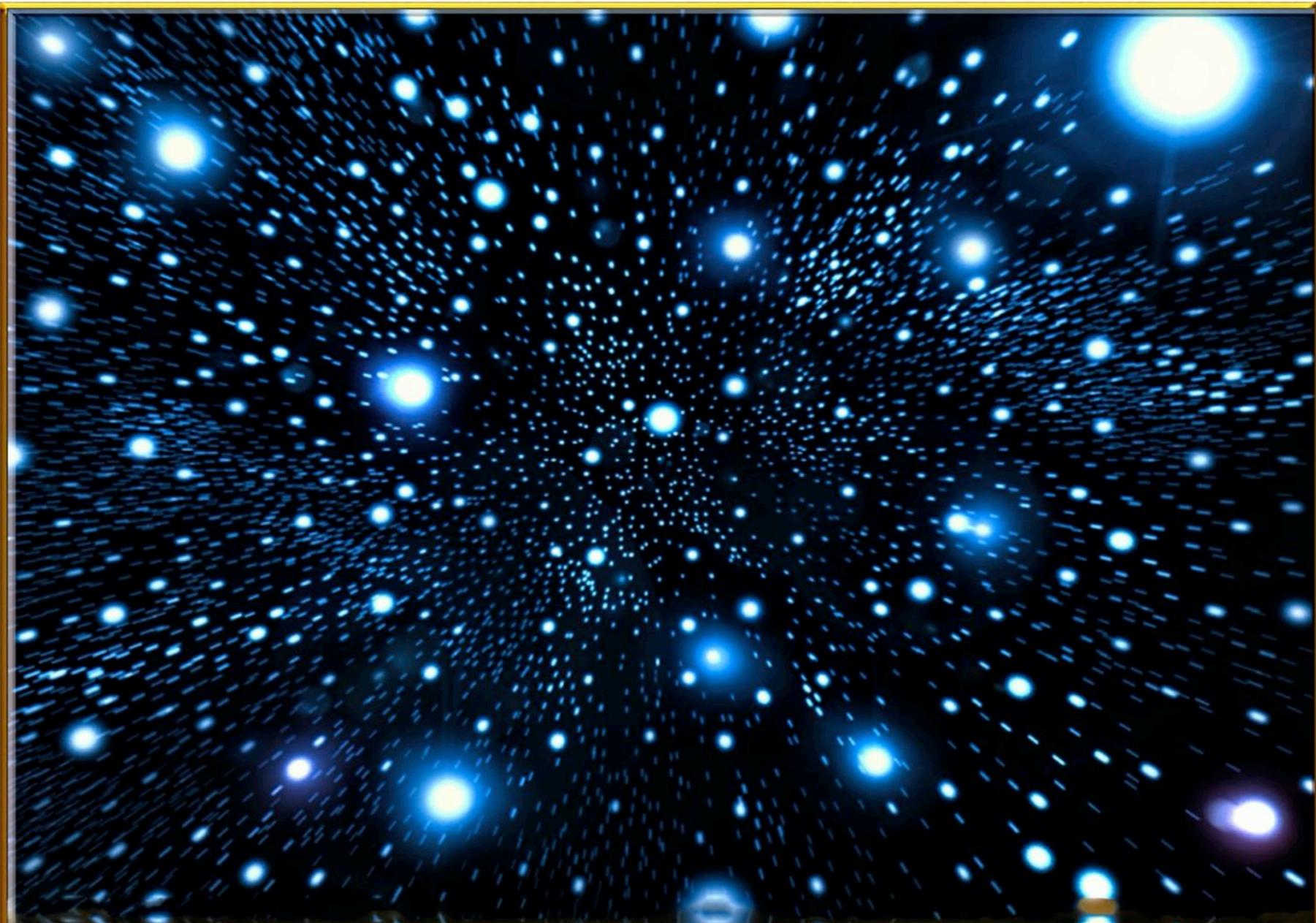
*Hidden colors? No, for I see how red goes/To orange, graduating through the rainbow  
Into yellow and on through green, to let/Blue into indigo to become violet.*



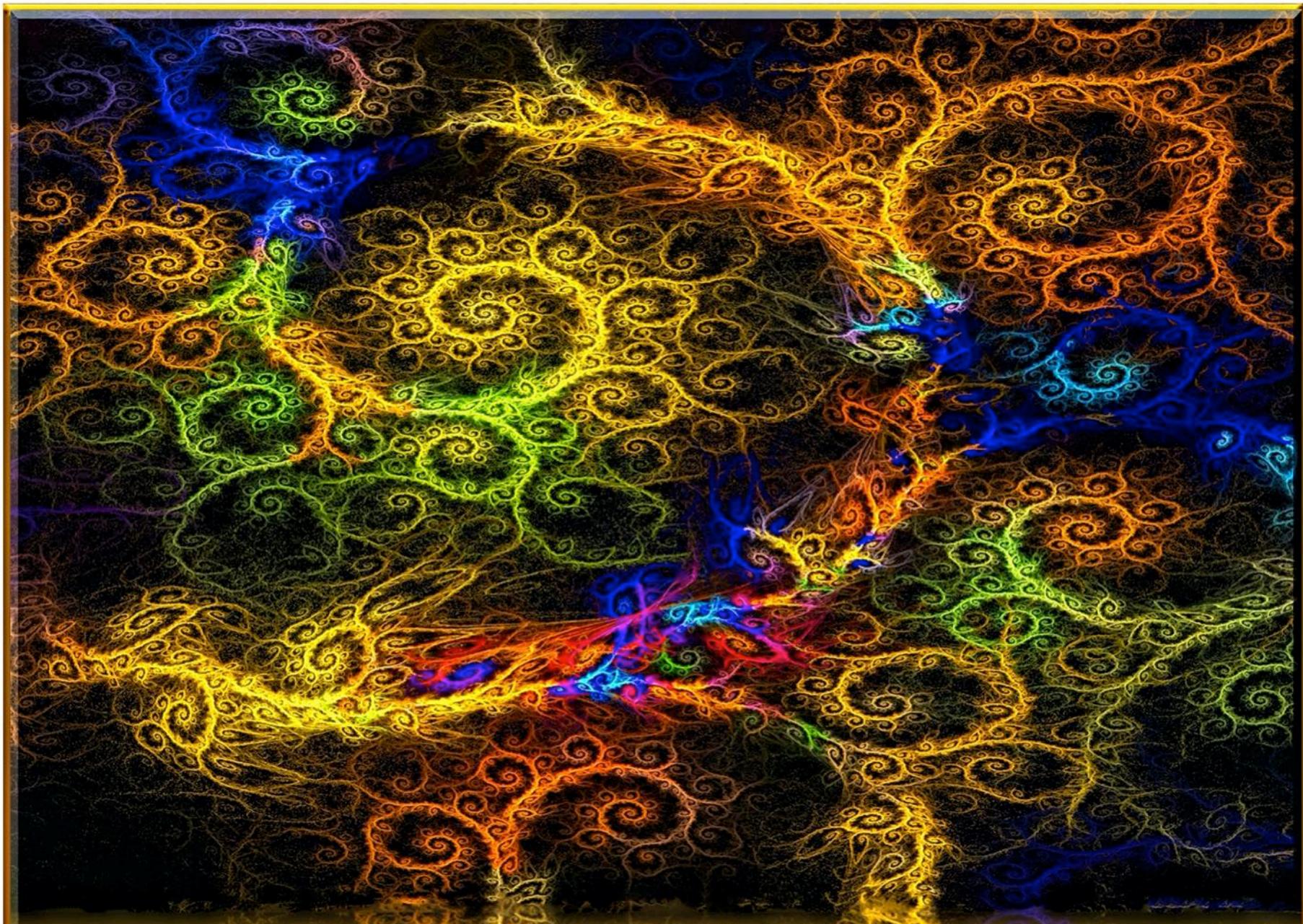
Perhaps between green and blue, lies some new/Tincture unique enough to be it's own hue,  
But alas, those turquoise waves everyday/In tropic seas wash that theory away.



Yet there may be some new colors that lie/  
Before or beyond the spectrum and the eye,  
Like infrared or ultraviolet,/Or gold, which only the fairies can see.



*But what of clear, white, silver, gray, or black?/ Well, they're not true colors, for, either they lack  
All color (black, clear) or hide all hues (white)/Or are mixtures (gray, silver): black-white.*



But wait, there is a well-known color,/One quite common in both dress and nature,  
That cannot be found in the rainbow—/Give up? It's brown—and has nowhere to go!



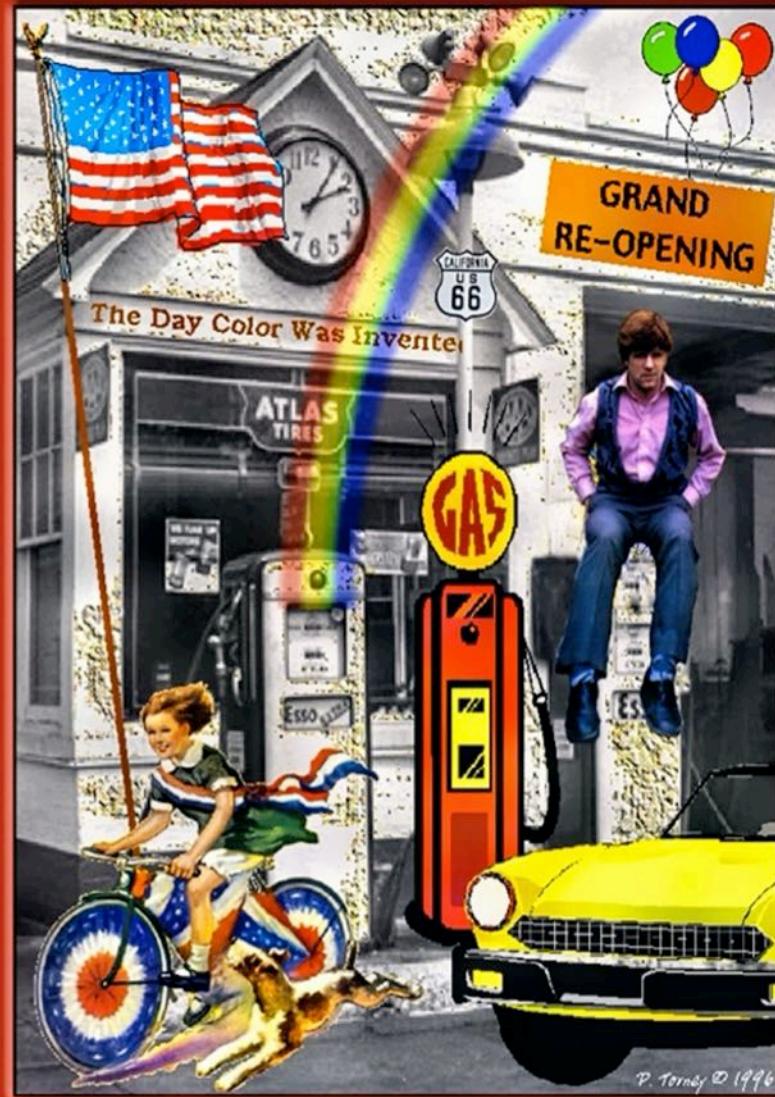
Brown is the color of death, like the leaves/That crumble dry and lifeless when earth grieves,  
Which is why the faeries won't let it show/In their magically spectral rainbow.



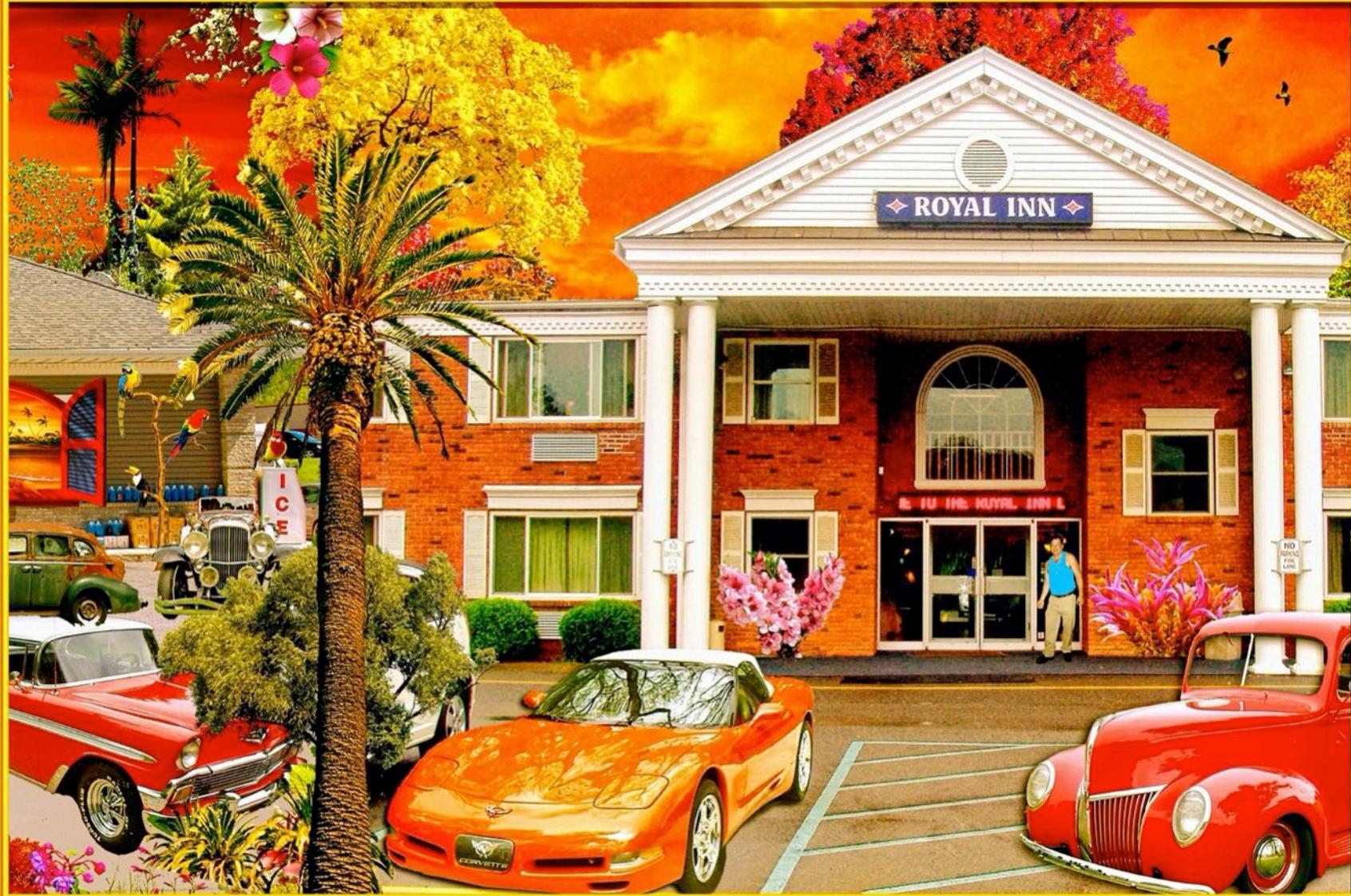
But alas, brown's new hue is not to last,/ For brown's no more than red, yellow, and black.  
So onward we move: *What do colors mean?/What's nature's physiological scheme?*



When we see red, we see danger: *Stop! Blood!//* Metabolism rises, adrenaline floods—  
And so restaurants use red tablecloths/*To increase both the appetite and the cost.*



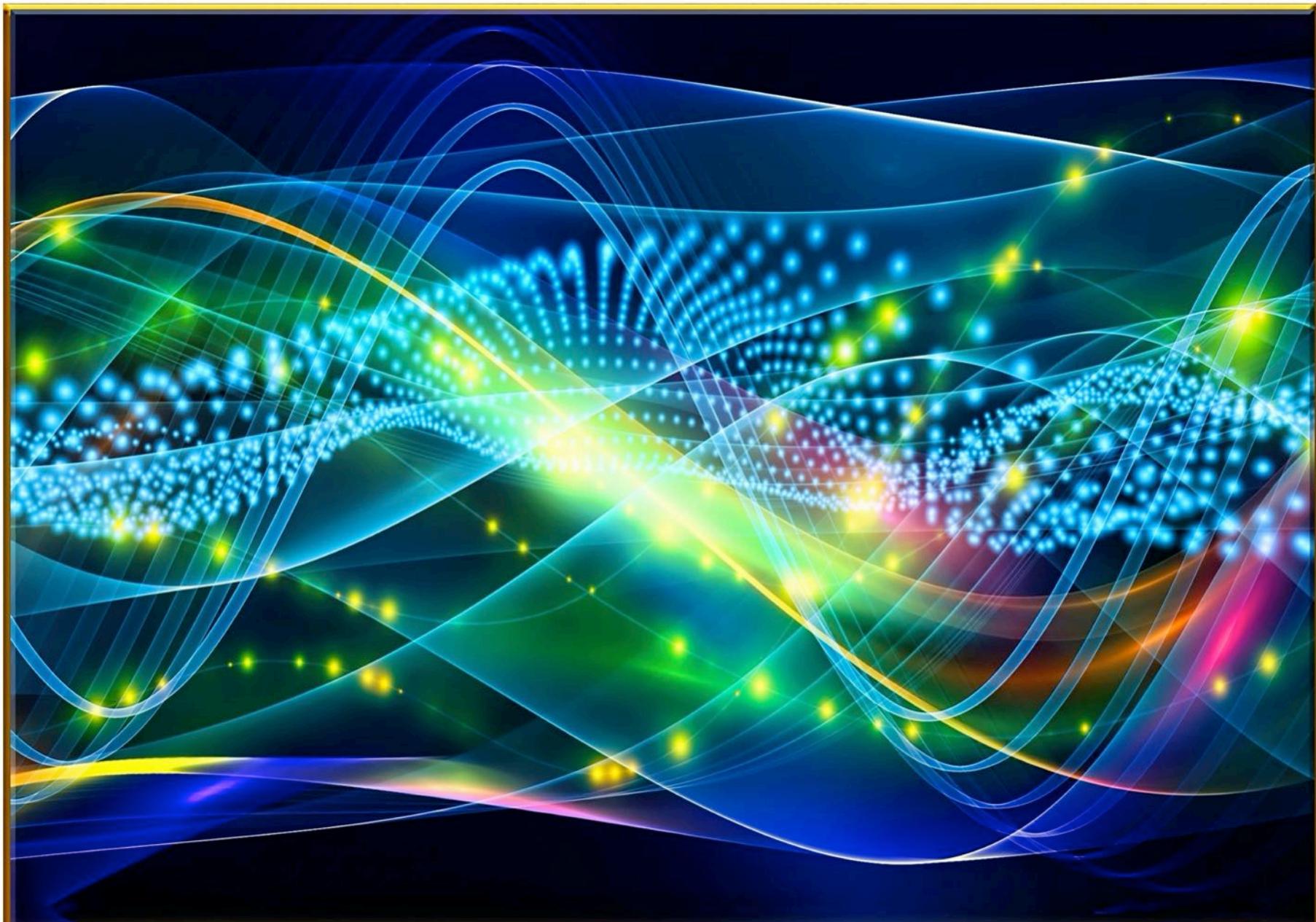
Yellow, the quickest color we can see,/Means caution, as with black on a bee,  
But yellow's bright and cheerful too, and lends/Light to small and sunless rooms like kitchens.



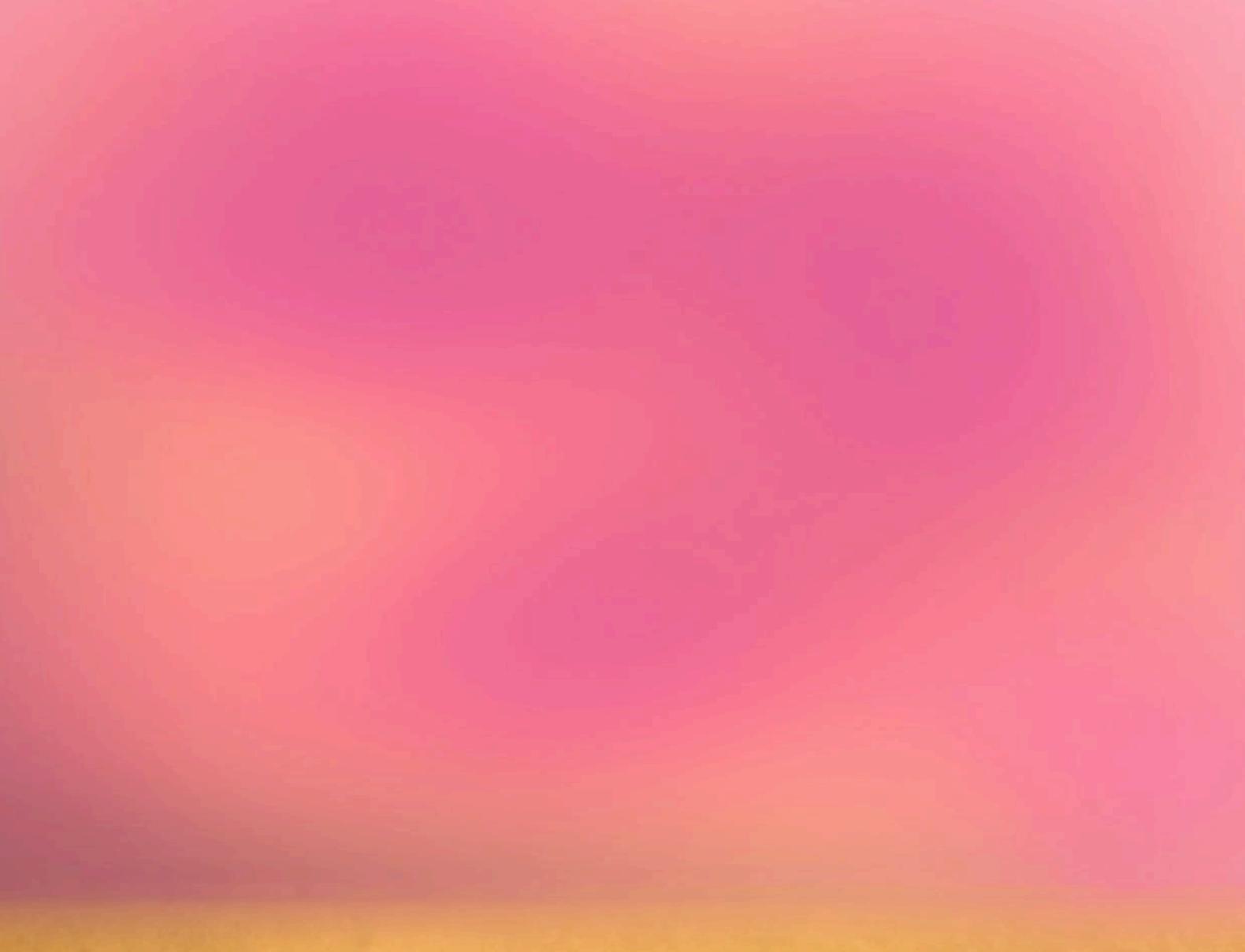
Healthful orange is the common man's color;/ So to make the expensive look cheaper,  
Such as with a hotel, they paint it orange,/ And put some shiny polish on the door hinge.



Blue invigorates and therefore provides/Extra strength and power; so blue's on our side  
When the home team's locker room is painted/In its hue (visitor's was pink—they fainted).



Blue as was said is good, except on food,/For few foods are blue; so in diet mood,  
Put a blue light in your kitchen—and lose/Weight avoiding repulsive looking food.



**Pink (red tinted with white) debilitates,/Sapping strength and temper, so that is why  
It's used in prison cells and locker rooms,/For it calms the most violent inmates.**



**What of purple? Well, it's mournful, but too  
It's stately, regal, and virginal, new.**



**Of green, though it's seldom worn, none complain;  
And use it in their carpets to stay sane.**



The stars are not just white, they scintillate:/Sirius is blue, its companion green;  
Betelgeuse, red; many, like Sol, yellow;/Arcturus, orange—all jewels constellate.



Well, as colors go, so then do we, see:/Hues are just differing wavelengths of light  
That the brain interprets, in its own right,/For some natural colored necessity.



*May I chance upon a land of strange rainbows/Of elfin-hued flowers: red delphiniums,  
Black tulips, orange fuchsias, white marigolds,/Bronze grass, and the legendary blue rose.*





**(A Colorful Garden)**



**(The Netherworld)**





