

Portraits of Temperament

idea would not have been accepted for so long, by so many people, in so many countries, had there not been some sort of widely shared recognition of its validity.

Temperament: Traits, Characters, and Metaphors

	Ezekiel c590 B.C.	Lion (bold)	Ox (sturdy)	Man (humane)	Eagle (far-seeing)
A	Hippocrates c370	Cheerful	Somber	Enthusiastic	Calm
	Plato c340	Artistic	Sensible	Intuitive	Reasoning
	Artistotle c325	Sensual	Material	Ethical	Logical
	Irenaeus 185 A.D.	Spontaneous	Historical	Spiritual	Scholarly
B	Galen c190	Sanguine	Melancholic	Choleric	Phlegmatic
	Paracelsus c1550	Salamander (changeable)	Gnome (industrious)	Nymph (inspiring)	Sylph (curious)
	Adickes 1905	Innovative	Traditional	Doctrinaire	Skeptical
	Spränger 1914	Aesthetic	Economic	Religious	Theoretical
	Kretschmer 1920	Manic	Depressive	Oversensitive	Insensitive
C	Myers 1958	Perceiving	Judging	Feeling	Thinking
	Keirsey 1978	Dionysian (artful)	Epimethean (dutiful)	Apollonian (soulful)	Promethean (technological)
D	Keirsey 1998	Artisans	Guardians	Idealists	Rationals

Let's look now at summaries of Keirsey's portraits of the four temperaments, starting with the one he named the "Artisans" in *Please Understand Me II*.

Artisans

The great spider was lying asleep when the Lion found him. Its legs were long and its body covered with coarse black hair. It had a great mouth, with a row of sharp teeth a foot long; but its head was joined to the pudgy body by a neck as slender as a wasp's waist. This gave the Lion a hint of the best way to attack the creature, and as he knew it was easier to fight it asleep than awake, he gave a great spring and landed directly upon the monster's back. Then, with one blow of his heavy paw, all armed with sharp claws, he knocked the spider's head from its body. Jumping down, he watched it until the long legs stopped wiggling, when he knew it was quite dead.

The Lion went back...and said, proudly, "You need fear your enemy no longer."