

Four Humors in *Hamlet*

Given your knowledge of the four humors, what is the significance of these allusions to the four humors in *Hamlet*? What are we able to glean about their temperaments, personalities, and concerns?

Act III, scene 2

Hamlet: [Speaking of Horatio]

And blessed are those

Whose **blood and judgment are so well commingled,**

That they are not a pipe for Fortune's finger

To sound what stop she please. Give me that man

That is not passion's slave, and I will wear him

In my heart's core, ay, in my heart of heart,

As I do thee.

...

Guildenstern: The king, sir--

Hamlet: Ay, sir, what of him?

Guildenstern: Is, in his retirement, marvellous distempered.

Hamlet: With drink, sir?

*Guildenstern: No, my lord; rather **with cholera.***

Hamlet: Your wisdom should show itself more richer to signify

this to the doctor; for me to put him to his purgation would

perhaps plunge him into far more cholera.

Act IV, scene 7

Laertes: [upon hearing of Ophelia's death]

Too much of water hast thou, poor Ophelia,

And therefore I forbid my tears.