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 choler.**

*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 choler.

**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.