



PASSAGES

#6

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Sigh, I guess it would be too easy to complain about the inconveniences of being pregnant. The heartburn is incredibly annoying. The swollen ankles and fingers are unpleasant. The not being able to sleep at night because of the heartburn, frequent trips to the bathroom, and having to wake up to heave my bulk of a body over every time I need to turn over is very irritating. Plus knowing that after the babies are here, I probably won't be sleeping through the night for a couple extra nights. I chose this, so I'll stop complaining. I'm 27 weeks now, with about 10 more weeks until the repeat cesarean section. Next week I start the antepartum testing (monitoring for contractions and fetal well being). Two weeks ago, I had a scare when I flunked the one-hour glucose screen; fortunately I passed the three-hour glucose tolerance test, so I am officially not a gestational diabetic. It's wonderful having two babies in their; one uses my bladder for a soccer ball, and the other uses my stomach as a punching bag. I'm trying to keep a good attitude. At least I'm still at work (and thus getting paid).

Thanks for everyone who took the Keirsej Temperament test. For those of you who still want to, it's keirsej.com, the Keirsej Temperament Sorter II, which you can take or score on-line. Of the ten who took it, here is the break down: Artisan 2 1/2, Guardian 3, Idealist 2 1/2, Rational 1 2/2 (the halves are people who straddled 2 types). Six tested as introverted, 2 extroverted, and 1 borderline.

Remember, Keirsej related the 4 types to the characters in the Wizard of Oz; the Lion would be the Artisan, the Scarecrow the Rational, the Tin Woodsman the Guardian, and Dorothy the Idealist. Nationally, of women, 49% are Guardians, 25% Artisans, 26% Idealists, and 6% Rationals (no comments, please). Of men, the breakdown is 43% Guardians, 28% Artisans, 13% Idealists, and 15% Rationals. So it seems that in SFPA the Artisans are underrepresented and we may be a little heavy in Idealists and Rationals. Which makes sense to me, since the Idealists and Rationals are the abstract thinkers, and science fiction seems to be pretty abstract at times.

Mailing Comments SFPA 215

The New Port News 191, Ned Brooks-----ct me: Funny you mentioned Tolkien; I've been thinking lately I need to reread the Ring trilogy. It's been at least 20 years since the last time I read them, so it will be like reading them for the first time! I surely don't remember any references to listening to horses. ... Thanks for the best wishes! I definitely need all the help I can get right now. ... Re the Keirsej test: half the people taking it complain about difficulty choosing between some of the answers. It seems to be more of a problem with concrete thinkers (Artisans and Guardians) as opposed to abstract thinkers (Rationals and Idealists). The true test is, do you agree with the temperament you scored? Supposedly 10-20% of people do not. I think the reason why I'm so fascinated with the concept is that it helps me gain insight about how different people have different motivations and thought processes. For instance, before reading the book, I thought all people should prefer abstract thinking over concrete (the Pygmalion project, everyone should think like me), and obviously, that's not the case. I'm hoping that knowing a little more will help me to get along better with other people, and be more tolerant.

A word of caution: if you did receive the TB vaccination, you should never get

the TB skin test, because you could develop a strong reaction. The TB skin test is designed to cause a reaction in people with TB antibodies, which you definitely should have if you got the vaccine. The reason why the vaccine is not given in the U.S. is because it's not completely effective, and its use eradicats the effectiveness of the only screening test for the disease (the skin test). In the U.S., all people who convert to a positive skin test get treated with antibiotics for 6 months, even if they have negative X-rays. In third world countries where TB is more prevalent, that's obviously not possible, so the vaccine becomes more cost-effective. Once you have had the vaccine, you will never be able to detect TB in its earliest stages; you have to wait until the disease progresses to the point that you get either a positive X-ray or sputum culture.

I'll definitely have to try the Illuminatus books. I agree, I hate it when people pierce their newborn babies' ears. At least I was old enough to decide for myself (I was 14) when I pierced my ears. But I draw the line at piercing other body parts. That seems so barbaric.

This is Not a Minazine #99, Richard Lynch-----ct me: I'll be really curious to see who the SFPA temperaments reflect the general population percentage-wise. It definitely is possible to straddle different types. I do intend to travel more when the kids are bigger. My partner, Dr. Fadel, travels a lot; you can find medical meetings all over the world, and call it a business expense! In the four years since I've been working with him, he's gone to Egypt, England, Scotland, France, Spain, Argentina, Denmark, Bermuda, the Panama Canal cruise, and Canada. Not to mention all the places in the U.S., Chicago, Boston, Miami, San Francisco, Wyoming, just off the top of my head. ... ct Randy Cleary: So you are the Radical Middle.

Revenant #1, Sheila Strickland-----Okay, I admit it, I had to go to the dictionary: definition #1: a person who returns, as after a long absence. Definition #2: a ghost. I'm hoping that you're implying definition #1. ... I can see how you get frustrated at people who can't spell Sheila. It astounds me the number of people who can't spell Janet. (At least now I can say, it's like Janet Jackson, and most people can figure it out....) ... ct me: so do you think of yourself as an idealist? My daughter is, and she spends a lot of time dreaming and fantasizing. She's been in heaven since I introduced her to Anne McCaffrey. ... Sounds like you've had a tough time, in between your lymphoma and your mother's illness. Congratulations for getting through it!

I was at Vul-Con, too. Sigh--those were the days!

Frequent Flyer, Tom Feller-----I was going to pick on you about the difference between "spaying" and "spading" your cat, but I looked it up in Webster's, and both are correct. ... Sounds like Parthecon was a good con. ... Interest insider's account of the Love Bug Virus. I heard a lot about it on the news, but I never got it.

It May Be Better to Light a Candle Than to Sit and Curse the Darkness, But How Much More Effective to Become a Flaming Idiot , George Wells-----ct me: I guess I wasn't clear; I did that ultrasound on myself on the machine in my office before we left for Las Vegas. No, I do not carry ultrasound machines around with me; although there is a briefcase-sized one on the market now, I don't own any machines small enough for me to carry! ... So you fell asleep during Gladiator and Battlefield Earth? Not a good recommendation.....

Guilty Pleasures, Eve Ackerman-----Thank you for the insights of abortion legislation; I thought maybe I had slept through the part of my OB-Gyn residency where they taught about "partial birth" abortions. I certainly never heard about it before the Right-to-Lifers started publishing their literature. ct me: I'm keeping a tally on SFPANs who took the Keirsey quiz. ct Schlosser: I gave blood right before I got pregnant, and the blood bank has been calling me regularly, trying to get me to come back, since my blood type is O negative, the universal donor. I keep telling them I can't while I'm pregnant. ...

Home With the Armadillo #41, Liz Copeland-----So Allegra is good stuff, huh? I've never tried it..... ct me: It's great you're another INTJ! I am definitely very strongly I on the I/E scale. Ditto on learning to do more with scanner/digital camera/color printer, all that tect stuff. I had never heard of Harry Potter until all the press about #4. I read the excerpt in Newsweek and enjoyed it, so I bought all 4 of them and I'm really looking forward to reading them. ... Good luck in the elections!

Cross-Train at the Office, Jeff Copeland-----I enjoy your comments about the Microsoft breakup. It certainly evokes a lot of passion on both sides. The Roman Empire piece was funny. Hopefully the breakup won't set technology back too far. ... I do listen to Rush occasionally, and I did happen to hear his take on the Guiliani announcement of prostate cancer, but what I heard was that it was not big deal. Basically 100% of men will get prostate cancer is they live long enough, and it's very curable in its early stages. That in and of itself should not have affected the election. So why do you think Guiliani dropped out? Was it because he thought he couldn't beat Hillary, or because he honestly didn't feel he had the energy to take on the Senate job?

Spiritus Mundi 177, Guy H. Lillian III----- Congratulations on the Hugo nomination! I knew you could do it. Sorry about your job; hope your search if fruitful. ... So you're and Idealist! I probably could have guessed that -- you do seem like an abstract kind of person. For what it's worth, I scored the test of one of my office nurses, who refused to answer 7 or 8 of the questions because she liked or disliked both answers equally; the results were the same either way I answered them for her. ... Re: chuckling at pregnant women; you would have a great laugh if you saw me; I'm huge. ct Lynch: Cathryn is one of those teens absolutely obsessed by The Matrix. ...

ct Brooks: You were discussing school sports; I heard a scary sound bite recently. The Atlanta city school system evidently is banning recess in an attempt to improve test scores. They really think that little kids are going to be able to sit still for 8 hours straight and concentrate? They've already gotten rid of the fine arts, the one area proven to increase academic performance; and this from the state that gives a classical music tape or CD to every baby born in the state. ... ct Schlosser: As far as I know, Payne Stewart's plane had a sudden decompression that killed everyone on board; I can't think of anything else that could have silenced everyone, short of a murder-suicide. ...

ct Dengrove: I disagree in re: Children of Dune. An "ordinary" stabbing adds an elegant simplicity to an otherwise excessively complex series of novels. Stunningly concise. ... ct Brown: Funny you mentioned that 4th grade dodge ball game. That was my athletic pinnacle as well, being the last person standing in 4th grade. Well, that, and then there was that intramural volleyball game when I served 10 in a row, in the finals one year.

Trivial Pursuits #89, Janice Gelb-----ct Lynch: You have a PC laptop and a MAC desktop? You seem to have all your bases covered. ct Ned Brooks: I think it's too late about growing a generation of couch potatoes. The trick will be making exercise more fun than surfing the net. ... ct. Brown: Does Sports Illustrated curse the team it predicts will win? ct Jeff: I agree about being over 40; it's different than it was 20 years ago; our generation thinks and acts younger for the most part. There does seem to be a big dividing line between smokers and non-smokers however; smokers in general look 10-15 years older.

Offline Reader, Irvin Koch----- Interesting account of your investments; sounds like the bear market bit you real bad...

Derogatory Reference 95, Arthur Hlavaty----- Hope your arm is better. ... The list of quotes was intriguing, and I did read them all....

Twydrasil and Treehouse Gazette #64, Richard Dengrove-----ct me: so you're a combination Artisan and Rational? Interesting paradox. I wonder if you qualify as a split personality? ... It's too true that horses understand people much better than we understand them; it's a good thing they're passive for the most part, but they can drive you crazy with their passive-aggressive behavior when you're trying to get them to do something. One author of riding instruction put it best-- they're great at pretending to do what you ask, while all along doing what they want. ... Both my brothers are Libertarians, and they make some very convincing arguments. I'm afraid that, by their very nature, they're not likely to get organized enough to influence the balance of power. The older I get, the more I favor a minimalistic approach to government-- I think we should pay off the national debt and reduce the tax burden on citizens; admit that they welfare society

doesn't work; and encourage more privatization, such as education. ... The question is, why are teenagers so bent on outraging their parents? ... ct Lynch: I enjoyed the lectures of classical music appreciation on tape, but that's because I enjoy intellectualizing things. ... ct Gary Brown: you probably mean Groshong (not forshing) (this is an indwelling catheter in one of the large veins in the shoulder or chest, used for giving chemotherapy).

Peter, Pan & Merry #29, David Schlosser-----ct me: unfortunately, some of the doctors in town do tend to disappear and dump their problem patients on the on-call coverage. ... Maybe you should get Random better tasting vitamins, like Flintstones?

Avator Press, Randy Cleary (Clearly)----- Enjoyed the story about your fencing; seems like a well-written article. I liked the quote about "finding the shortest route from the sword to your opponent, while finding the quickest and easiest route away from his or her blade."

The Marsh Creek Gazette, Steve and Suzanne Hughes-----No, thanks, hang gliding is one thing I have no desire to ever try. Add that to the list with skydiving and bungee jumping.

The Sphere Vol 186 no. 1, Don Markstein-----Sounds like you need to show that contract to your attorney, and figure out how to get out of it.....

Tennessee Trash #35, Gary Robe-----Since you're busier doing the work of people laid off, does that mean you get a raise? ... ct me: I don't know, I think after a while making life and death decisions kind of becomes second nature. I think Kyle would be the innovator, and I would be the adaptor. He is the worst at starting projects and not finishing them. I hate that! ... I do hate it that I had to miss DSC.

Oblio #128, Gary Brown-----I am so glad this Elian thing is over; I was getting so tired hearing about it.... ct me: You may have seen the Monty Roberts "Shy Boy" special, about the mustang who came in from the wild.... Ct me: That was kind of my reaction: "Ohmigod, TWINS?!?!"

"YNGVI IS A LOUSE" And Other Graffitos, Toni Weisskopf-----I bet I could fly the rest of my life and never again get a seat next to someone I know. I read your friend's (Ellen? forgot her name) account of that trip in SFC newsletter, and it sounds like you came close to leaving the day before! My son's fiancée's flight was cancelled due to the bad weather in Boston, and she had to take a later flight... ... ct me: I would definitely

have guessed that you're extraverted.

mikey doesn't work here anymore, mike weber----- Enjoyed your review of "The Road to El Dorado." I saw a few of the "Road" movies way back when.

A Modest (Constitutional) Proposal, Jeff Copeland-----Thanks for working on this. It makes a lot of sense.

I hate to leave so much white space; I didn't even touch on the Hawaii vacation! Just to summarize, it was wonderful, and I didn't want to come home. The plane ride out there, however, is a true test of your endurance. I definitely want to go back during the winter when the humpback whales are there.

See you next time in SFPA! If I'm still able to type!