

---

# Loving Unconditionally

Loving unconditionally is about total acceptance of the other. It means accepting the good, the bad, the lovely, and the ugly. And let's face it, that's hard to do! Whether it's a significant other, a parent, child, friend, colleague, or client, loving (or even liking) another human being can be a challenge after the initial honeymoon phase where everything feels amazing. We would say that loving another entails a close look at the person for who they are. It means "celebrating" and "tolerating" the other. We would say that we are taught to celebrate the awesome aspects about an individual (usually called their strengths), and for those things which are seen as weaknesses, we often punish, try to change, or reject. We celebrate their strengths, and we ask them to change their weaknesses.

In Keirse's point of view, we believe that a person's strengths and weaknesses are configured together as a part of the same system. That is, strengths and weaknesses are a part of the same tree. They are branches that stem from the same trunk, which share the same roots. Becoming irritated with a person's weaknesses, and asking a person to get rid of their weaknesses is what is often

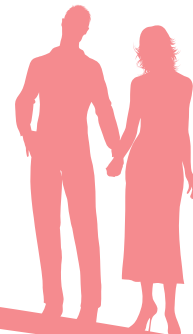
mandated. However, our research reveals that an individual is configured in such a way where asking them to change their weaknesses can be like putting poison on the weak branch or cutting off those branches, and nurturing and preserving only the strong branches.

We would argue that this approach could actually be detrimental to the whole tree. We would say that if you want to help a person be all that they can be, that you have to embrace the whole tree, and that helping them grow into the full tree that they are meant to be entails that you celebrate strengths and tolerate their weaknesses.

And in doing so, you may find that those weaknesses become endearing because you understand that those weaknesses are tied to the same roots, which make that person awesome. In this article, we unpack what it is like to "love" people of different temperaments. Specifically, we look at what you need to celebrate and what you need to tolerate if the whole tree (the relationship) is going to thrive.



# *The Artisan Tree*



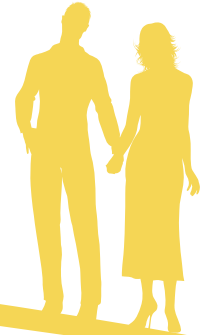
At their roots, Artisans seek to be **audacious**, **adaptable**, and display **artistic action**. This means that they are daring, make adjustments on the fly, and carry things off with style. This leads to strengths that generally make Artisans **courageous**, **flexible**, and **charismatic**. These same roots can also lead to weaknesses which can make them **overbearing**, **non-committal**, and **ostentatious**.

They are celebrated for being courageous, flexible, and charismatic, but they are viewed negatively for being overbearing, non-committal, and ostentatious. And we might think that if we zone in on their weaknesses long and hard enough, that we could eliminate them; that if we reject those weaknesses, and get them to work on them, that we are helping to build up that person. Rather than focusing on their weaknesses, which can be deflating, and can ultimately impact the whole tree—(all of the branches, and the trunk and the roots are effected, making the whole tree suffer); what we would suggest instead is that you maximally celebrate their strengths, giving momentum to their lives.

We would say that if you want them to thrive, that you need to **celebrate** them for being courageous, flexible, and charismatic and you may have to **tolerate** the times when they are overbearing, non-committal, and ostentatious because it's all part of the same tree. You have to love the whole person and not just their lovely parts.



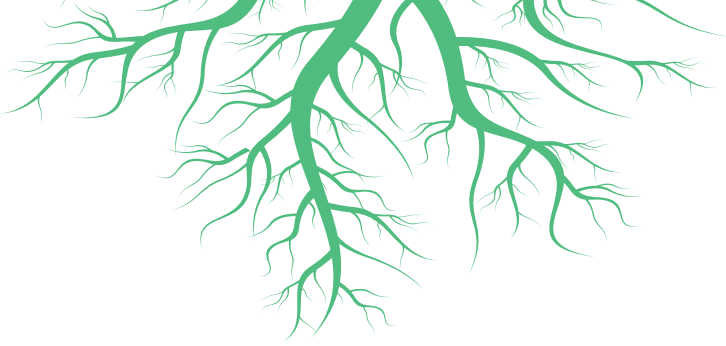
# *The Guardian Tree*



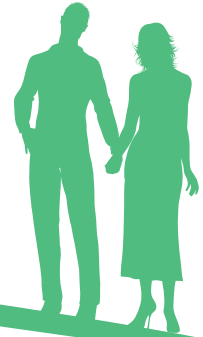
At their roots, Guardians seek to be **reliable**, of **service**, and **respectable**. This means that they are highly dependable, carry their fair share, and do what is honorable. This leads to strengths that generally make Guardians **responsible**, **accountable**, and **dutiful**. These same roots can also lead to weaknesses, which can make them **critical**, **judgmental**, and **strict**.

They are celebrated for being responsible, accountable, and dutiful, but they are viewed negatively for being critical, judgmental, and strict. And we might think that if we zone in on their weaknesses long and hard enough, that we could eliminate them; that if we reject those weaknesses, and get them to work on them, that we are helping to build up that person. Rather than focusing on their weaknesses, which can be deflating, and can ultimately impact the whole tree—(all of the branches, and the trunk and the roots are effected, making the whole tree suffer); what we would suggest instead is that you maximally celebrate their strengths, giving momentum to their lives.

We would say that if you want them to thrive, that you need to **celebrate** them for being responsible, accountable, and dutiful and you may have to **tolerate** the times when they are critical, judgmental, and strict because it's all part of the same tree. You have to love the whole person and not just their lovely parts.



# *The Idealist Tree*



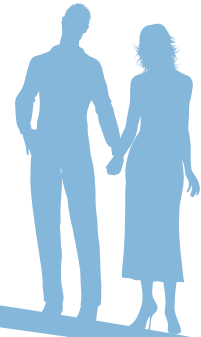
At their roots, Idealists seek to be **authentic**, **benevolent**, and **empathetic**. This means that they are genuine, kind, and understanding. This leads to strengths that generally make Idealists **lovable**, **warm**, and **compassionate**. Now these same roots can also lead to weaknesses, which can make them **overly sensitive**, **clingy**, and **highly emotional**.

They are celebrated for being lovable, warm, and compassionate, but they are viewed negatively for being overly sensitive, clingy, and highly emotional. And we might think that if we zone in on their weaknesses long and hard enough, that we could eliminate them; that if we reject those weaknesses, and get them to work on them, that we are helping to build up that person. Rather than focusing on their weaknesses, which can be deflating, and can ultimately impact the whole tree—(all of the branches, and the trunk and the roots are effected, making the whole tree suffer); what we would suggest instead is that you maximally celebrate their strengths, giving momentum to their lives.

We would say that if you want them to thrive, that you need to **celebrate** them for being lovable, warm, and compassionate and you may have to **tolerate** the times when they are overly sensitive, clingy, and highly emotional because it's all part of the same tree. You have to love the whole person and not just their lovely parts.



# *The Rational Tree*



At their roots, Rationals seek to be **ingenious**, **autonomous**, and display **willpower**. This means that they are intellectual, self-defined, and resilient. This leads to strengths that generally make Rationals very **intelligent**, **capable**, and **persistent**. Now these same roots can also lead to weaknesses, which can make them **arrogant**, **aloof**, and **driving**.

They are celebrated for being intelligent, capable, and persistent, but they are viewed negatively for being arrogant, aloof, and driving. And we might think that if we zone in on their weaknesses long and hard enough, that we could eliminate them; that if we reject those weaknesses, and get them to work on them, that we are helping to build up that person. Rather than focusing on their weaknesses, which can be deflating, and can ultimately impact the whole tree—(all of the branches, and the trunk and the roots are effected, making the whole tree suffer); what we would suggest instead is that you maximally celebrate their strengths, giving momentum to their lives.

We would say that if you want them to thrive, that you need to **celebrate** them for being intelligent, capable, and persistent and you may have to **tolerate** the times when they are arrogant, aloof, and driving because it's all part of the same tree. You have to love the whole person and not just their lovely parts.

# GUARDIAN SJ

Guardians value experience, security, authority, and respectability. They have logistical talents in establishing processes, executing methodically, managing goods and services, and upholding standards. They seek higher levels of responsibility and clear paths to advancement. Guardians express themselves earnestly while observing traditions, following rules, and taking part in societal activities. They need routines, stable structures, familiar processes, and clearly defined procedures to do their best work. Guardians can be counted on to “mind the store,” attending to the details of a project, diligently seeing it through to completion.

## CONCRETE

Artisans value potency, generosity, creativity, and adaptability. They have tactical talents in sales, marketing, operations, various forms of art, working with their hands, trouble-shooting, and crisis management. They seek stimulation, adventure, variety, and time/space to perfect their skills. Artisans express themselves excitedly while making deals, taking risks, playing games, and entertaining others. They need freedom to act on impulse, and flexibility in their work to make spontaneous decisions. Artisans can be counted on to “just do it,” improvising actions, seizing opportunities, and forging onward when others have given up.

## ARTISAN SP

# NF IDEALIST

Idealists value meaning, integrity, and human development. They have diplomatic talents in mentoring and guiding personal development, resolving conflicts, and improving communication. They seek relational harmony, good feelings, and self-improvement. Idealists express themselves enthusiastically while championing causes and inspiring others to reach their full potential. They need meaningful work, relational connection, and a personal, imaginative work environment. Idealists can be counted on to “see the best in people,” nurturing warm, loving relationships and finding new possibilities.

## COOPERATIVE

## ABSTRACT

Rationals value knowledge, competence, reason, and achievement. They have strategic talents in complex planning, structural design, reframing arguments, exploring theoretical concepts, and systems analysis. They seek efficiency, intellectual stimulation, and solutions to problems. Rationals express themselves calmly while critiquing and questioning the status quo, always insisting on a logical basis for action. They need worthwhile challenges, and autonomy to be able to solve complex problems. Rationals can be counted on to “think outside the box,” offering innovative ideas and strategies for accomplishing well-defined long term goals.

## UTILITARIAN

# NT RATIONAL