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Berlioz, Bezdomny, and the mysterious stranger are characterized by the way they engage in conversations and perceive others. Berlioz is characterized as friendly and showy. Berlioz displays his friendliness when the author writes "'That's right, we don't believe in God," answered Berlioz with a faint smile at the tourist's fear "but we can talk about it freely and openly," (Bulgakov 7). Berlioz tries to accept the stranger into the conversation with a smile and by assuring that they can speak freely. In addition, Berlioz himself says "'A hundred percent!" confirmed Bzedomny who loved the pretentious figurative expressions" (7). Berlioz tries to be artsy and knowledgeable using phrases like this to show off.

Bezdomny is more hostile and defensive in comparison to Berlioz. The author writes "What the devil is he [the stranger] after?" thought Bezdomny with a scowl," (7). Bezdomny reveals through his thoughts and his scowl that he finds the stranger to be annoying and to have ulterior motives as opposed to Berlioz, who just wants to strike a conversation with the stranger. Bezdomny also scowls again when he thinks about where the stranger learned to speak Russian.

The stranger is revealed to be eccentric. For example, he introduces himself as "a specialist in black magic," (12) when he later agrees to being a historian. For someone trying to get friendly with Berlioz and Bezdomny, he has an unconventional way of introducing himself.