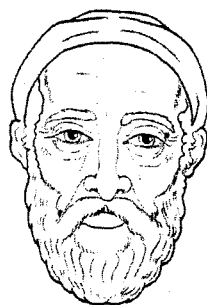


This is one of many portraits of Emperor Charles V that Titian painted during his years as court painter of Italy.



Titian

30.4 Titian, Italian Painter

Titian (about 1488–1576) was born in a village in the Italian Alps. The exact date of his birth is uncertain. Early in life, Titian's talent took him to the wealthy society of Venice. He became the city's greatest Renaissance painter.

Personality and Training As a boy, Titian was sent to Venice to train with famous painters. As a young man he worked with an artist named Giorgione, a master of fresco painting. (A fresco is painted on the wet plaster of a wall or ceiling.) Titian also studied examples of art from Rome and Florence. In time, he outgrew the influence of his teachers and created his own style.

Titian was a persuasive man. According to legend, long after he was rich and famous, he persuaded patrons to support his art by claiming to be poor. But he was also said to be quite generous with his friends.

Talents and Achievements

Titian's early work was precise and detailed. Later he developed a freer style. He used blobs of paint to create vivid forms, colors, and textures. He was known for his inspired use of color and for loose,

lively brushwork that made his pictures appear to be alive. His work also shows a flair for expressing human personality.

Titian painted many classical myths and Bible stories. As a court painter, he created portraits of the rich and powerful. In 1516, he was named the official painter of Venice. Later, Holy Roman emperor Charles V made him court painter of Italy. Titian made many portraits of Charles V and other royalty.

Charles greatly admired Titian's work. There is a story that the emperor once picked up a paintbrush that had fallen to the floor. Titian protested, "I am not worthy of such a servant." The emperor replied, "Titian is worthy to be served by Caesar," referring to the emperor of ancient Rome. Charles even made Titian a knight—a first-time honor for a painter.

Titian is often described as a "painter's painter" because of his influence on other artists' use of color and brush strokes. Centuries later, many painters still try to copy his techniques.