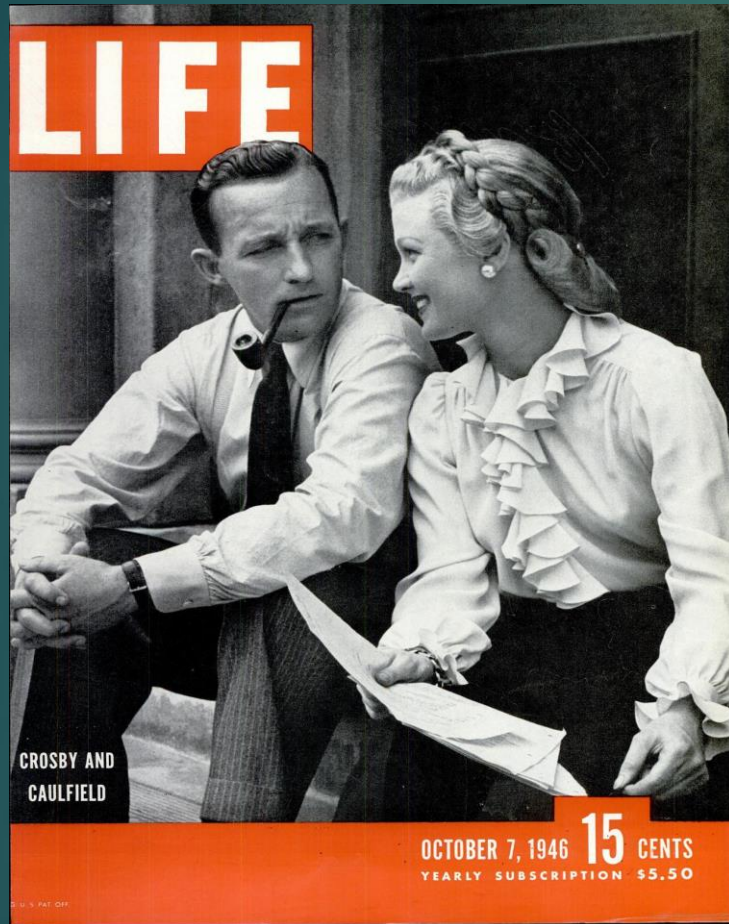


The Analyst's Rorschach : Gateway to Opening the Dialectical Field

WILLIAM ALEXY

IRSJA – SANTA FE

APRIL, 2023



Inkblot Test in Movies

Armageddon

Problem Child

Il Grande Wilder

The Man Without a Face

Silent Fall

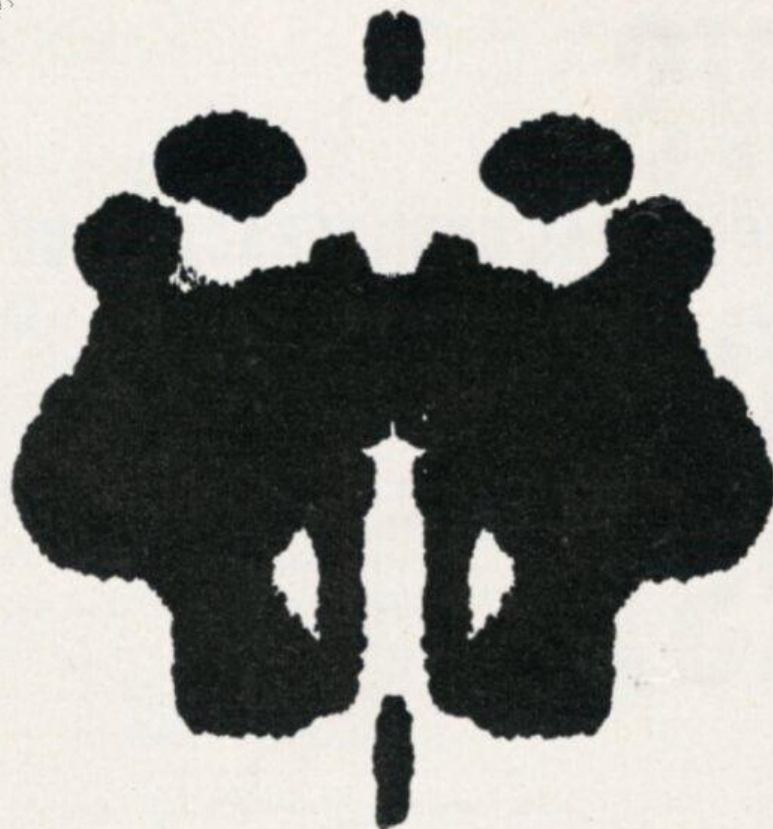
The Right Stuff

Don Juan De Marco

Clockwork Orange



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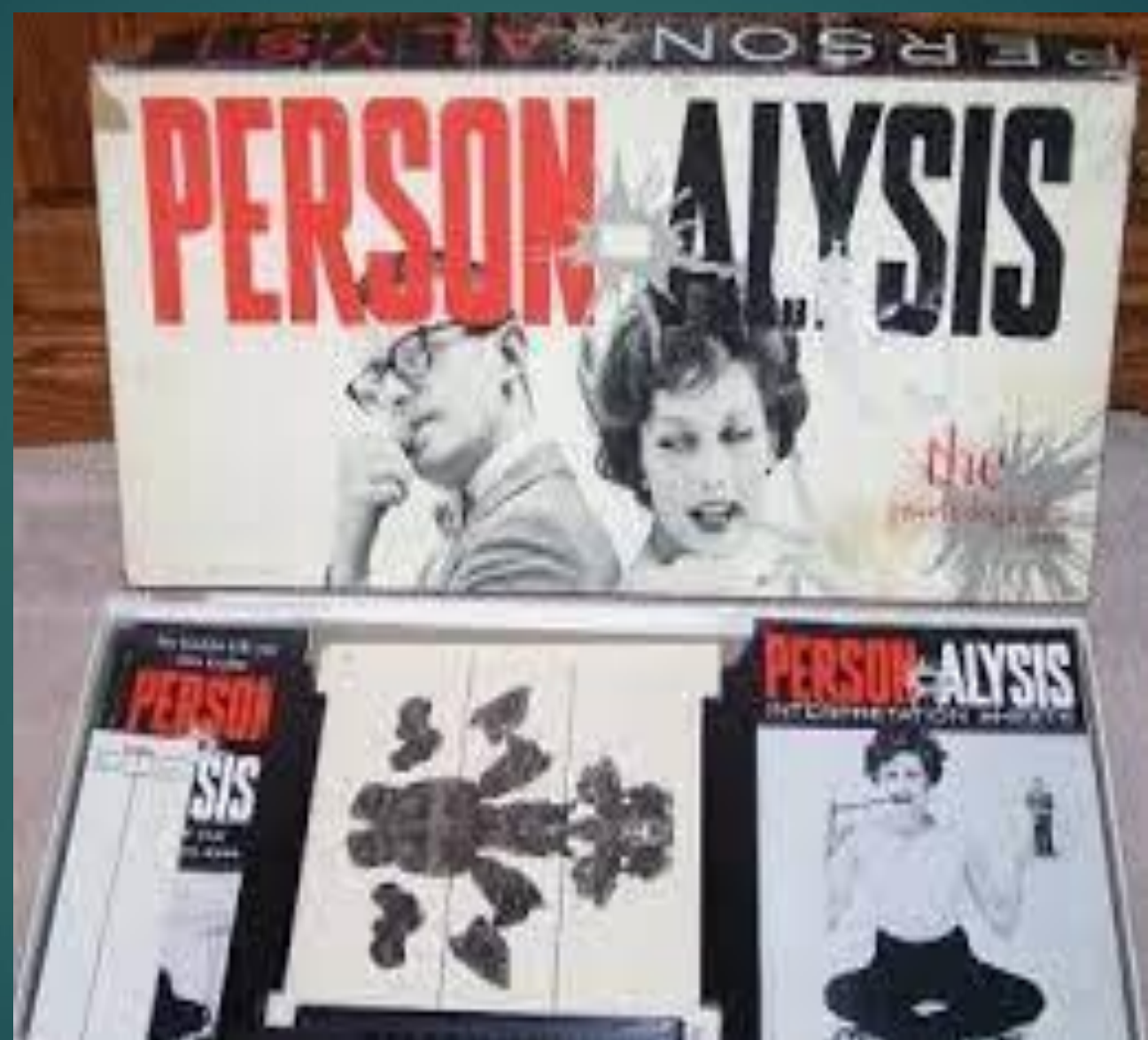


psychologically speaking...



MAROMAY, INC., 8402 MELROSE, LOS ANGELES 46

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"SAY...CAN I HAVE HER PHONE NUMBER?"



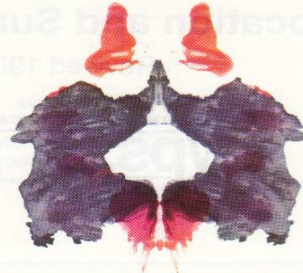
"Whatever it is, I didn't do it."



"No, I wouldn't say it was a bat. It looks to me more like a butterfly."



I



II



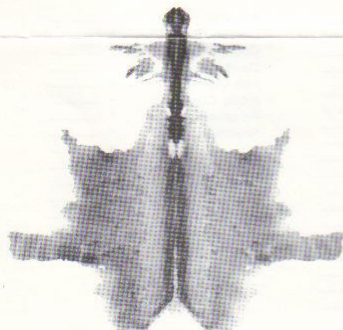
III



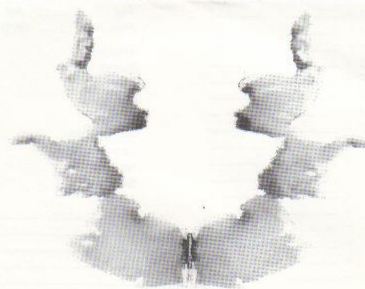
IV



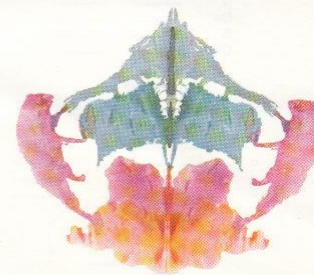
V



VI



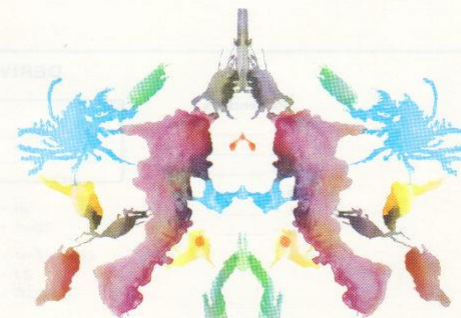
VII



VIII



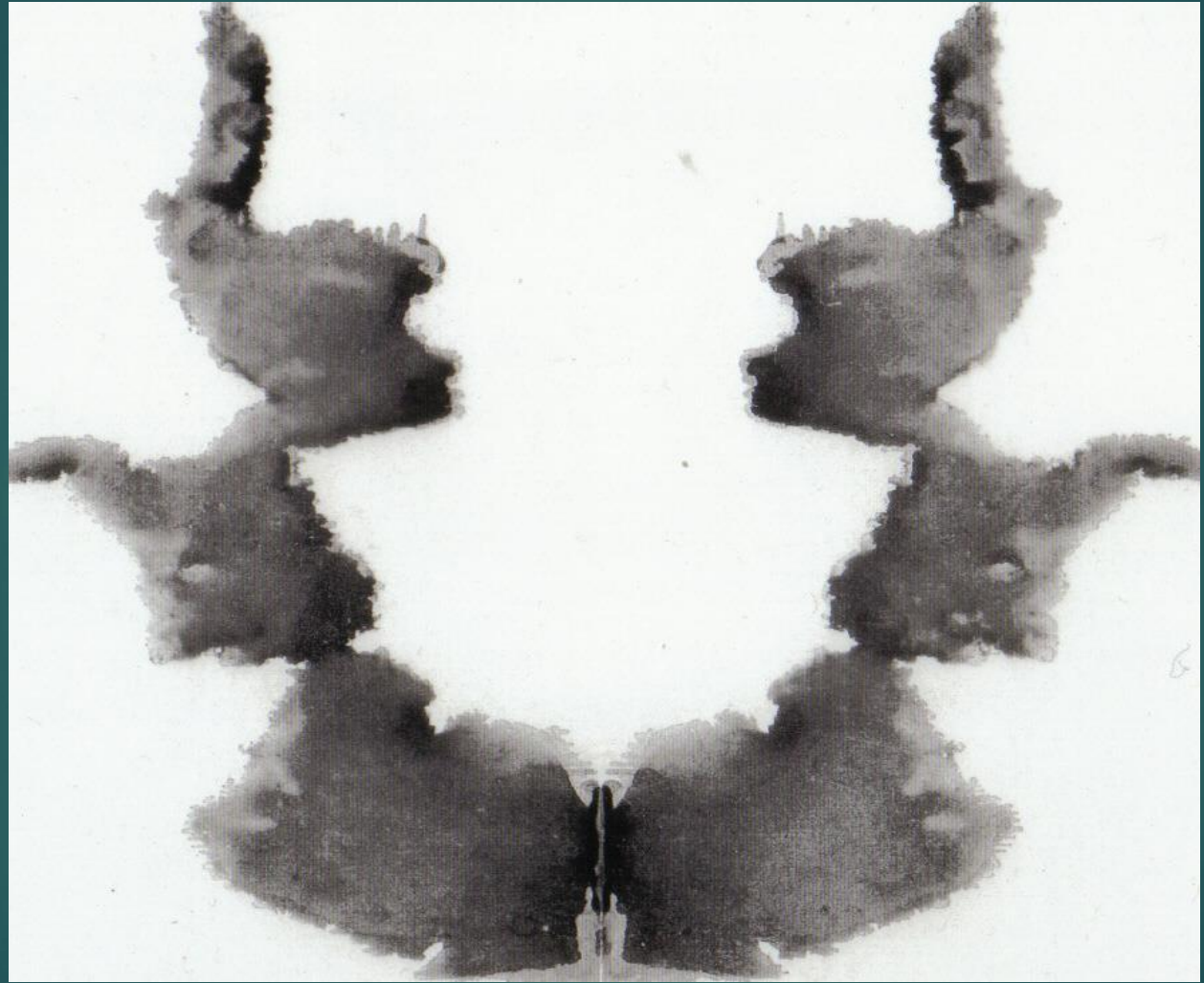
IX



X





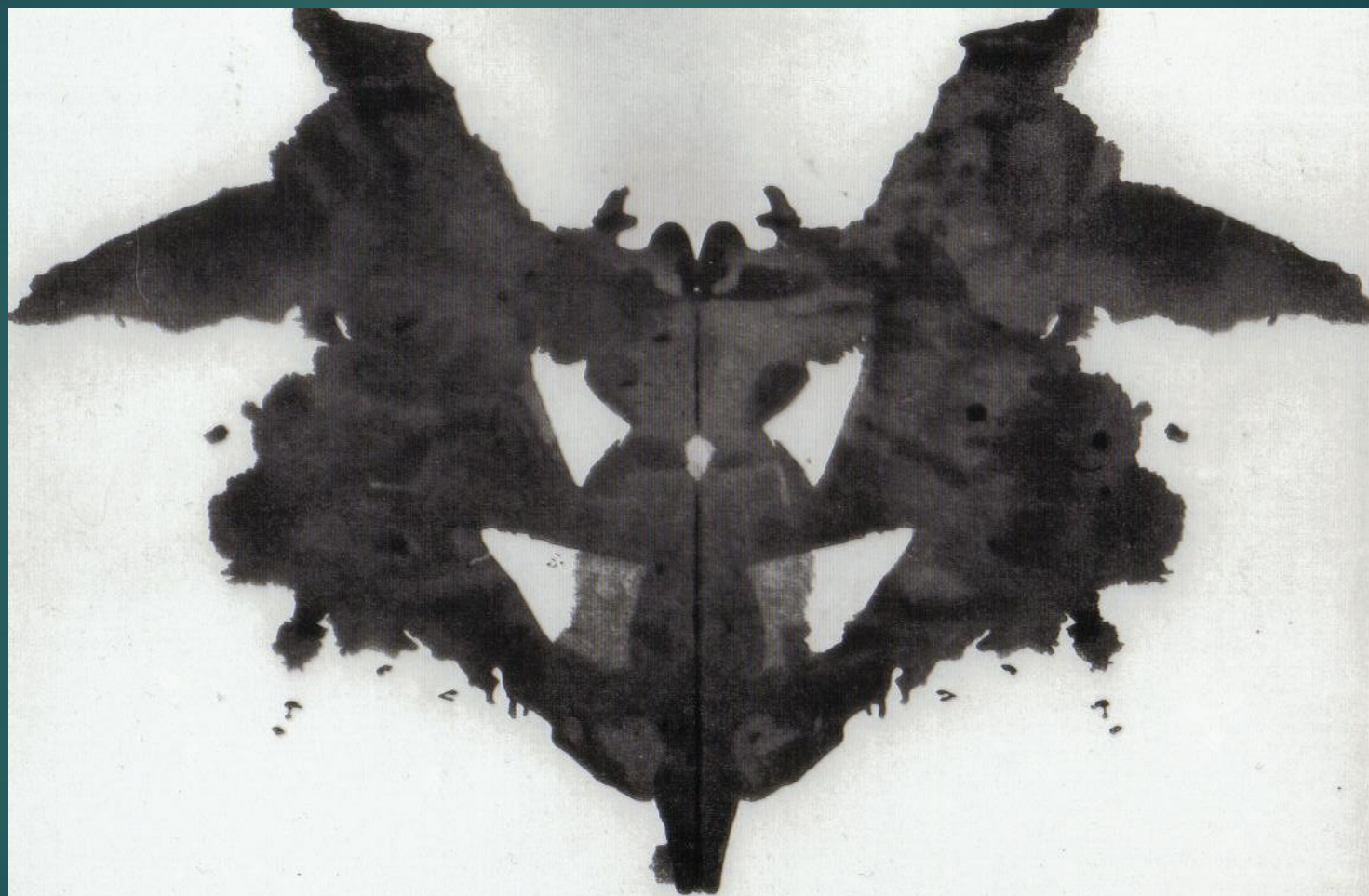


Some Interesting Context

- ▶ Rorschach: What it is and what it purports to do
- ▶ Rorschach Controversy
- ▶ Hermann Rorschach and Carl Jung

The Rorschach: What it is and what it purports to do

- ▶ Traditionally considered to be projective personality test consisting of 10 bilaterally, artistically detailed inkblots, each of which is printed on separate cards. Examinee tells examiner what the inkblot might be and identifies response location and determinants.
- ▶ Multi-dimensional method for generating useful information about personality organization and functioning.
- ▶ Relative to other psychological tests (e.g., MMPI-2), personality is assessed at a different level of analysis, emphasizing information about perceptual and problem-solving operations, affective functioning, self and interpersonal dynamics, and conflicts that may not be consciously recognized.



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The Rorschach: What it is and what it purports to do (continued)

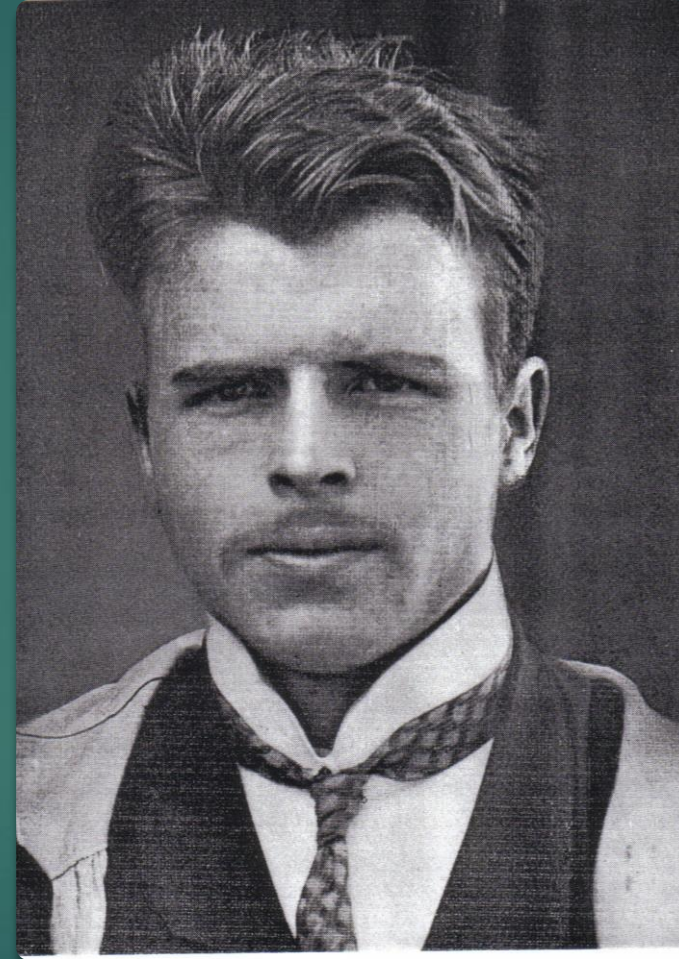
- ▶ Central thesis upon which interpretation is based is that processes by which responses are organized and given on the Rorschach are representative of how persons deal with other ambiguous situations in life that require organization and judgment.
- ▶ Overall goal of an interpretation is to create a comprehensive portrait of the person by discovering how the many variables interrelate and form a mosaic, highlighting the uniqueness of the individual's personality organization and functioning.

The Rorschach Controversy

Hermann Rorschach

1884-1922

- Erlebnistypus (EB)
- *Psychodiagnostik*, 1921



Jung and Rorschach : Mysterious Bedfellows

► **Houston Films, 1957**

Evans: You knew Hermann Rorschach, I believe, did you not?

Jung: No, he circumvented me as much as possible.

Evans: But did you get to know him personally?

Jung: No, I never saw him.

Evans: In his terms 'introversive' and 'extroensive,' of course, he is reflecting your concepts of introversion and extraversion.

Jung: Yes, but I was anathema because I had said it first, and that is unforgivable. I should never have done it.

Jung and Rorschach : Mysterious Bedfellows

► (Interview continues) :

Evans: Are you familiar with the test?

Jung: Yes, I know it. But I never applied it because later on, I didn't apply the association test anymore because it wasn't necessary. I learned what I had to learn from the exact examination of psychic reactions. I think it is a very excellent means.

Evans: Would you recommend the practicing psychiatrist, the clinical psychologist, to use projective tests like the Rorschach test?

Jung and Rorschach : Mysterious Bedfellows

► (interview continues)

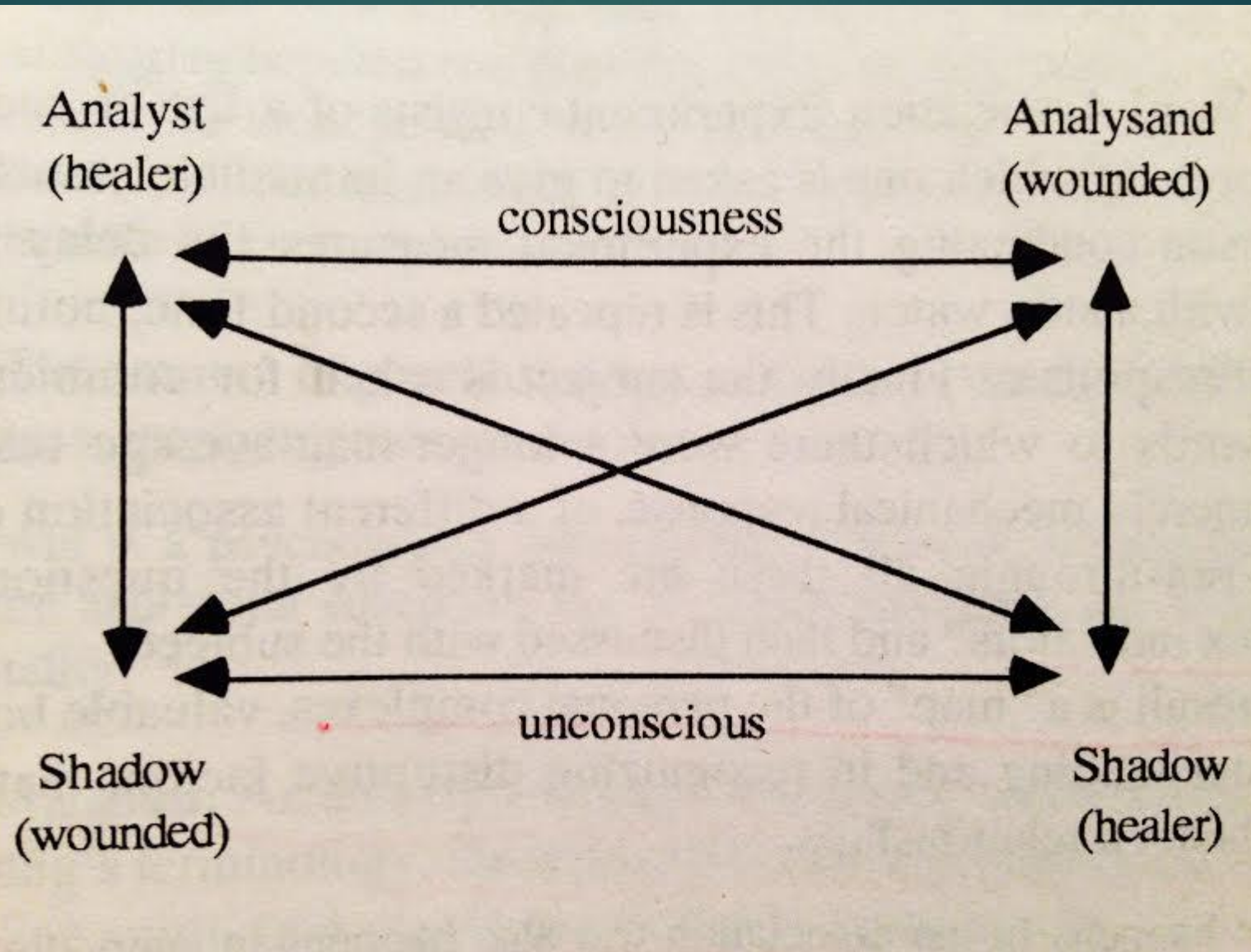
Jung: For the practical training of psychologists, who do actual work with people, I think it is one of the best means of making them see how the unconscious works. It is exceedingly didactic. You can demonstrate repression and the amnesic phenomenon, the way people cover up their emotions ... It is like an ordinary conversation, but seen and measured in its principles. That is what makes it so interesting. You observe all the things you observe in a conversation. You ask people something and discuss certain things – and you observe little hesitations, mistakes in speech, certain gestures. All that comes into the foreground ... and so I think I don't overrate the didactic value of it. I think very highly of it ...

My Rorschach Story

(Background)

My Rorschach Story

- ▶ Case colloquium presentation
- ▶ Have you ever taken the Rorschach?
- ▶ Include Rorschach findings in my thesis?



My Rorschach Story

- ▶ Case colloquium presentation
- ▶ Have you ever taken the Rorschach?
- ▶ Include Rorschach findings in my thesis?

Rorschach Findings

Decision-Making Style (EB)

Affect Modulation (Form-Color Ratio)

Information Processing (Zd)

Self-Awareness (FD)

- $EB = 7:2.5$
- $FC : CF + C = 5:0$
- $Zd = 4.0$
- $FD = 3$



Session with Rebecca

- ▶ We both take our seats (as usual) and Rebecca suddenly says:

Rebecca: Everything is fine, I can go now. [*We both laugh, appreciating the humor.*]

Bill: I like that! [*I pause*] It feels good! You're not normally this way when we begin our sessions.

Rebecca: I know. It just came out. [*She seems pleased with herself.*]

Bill: It's like you let down and allowed the more playful, uninhibited side of you to shine through.

Rebecca: Well, what's wrong with that? [*She smiles sheepishly.*]

Session with Rebecca

(continued)

Bill: Nothing. Makes me wonder about when it is that this side of you comes out.

Rebecca: It feels good. I like when I loosen up.

Bill: I like it, too. And I wonder about when this happens, and what there might be that keeps you from loosening up more often.

Rebecca: *[pauses]* For some reason, I'm thinking about a quilt I saw this past week. It was so artistically done. The wash of color and stitching was so original. It didn't follow any certain pattern. It just flowed. I wondered, "Where did that come from?" To express color and stitch in that way. *[As I listen, I recall her having told me well over a year ago about a quilt she had been working on, where the stitching and rows adhered to a very set pattern. My sense at the moment is that she is not recalling her work on the quilt.]*

Bill: I recall your having told me, a while back, about a quilt you were working on.

Rebecca: *[she pauses, seems bewildered for a brief moment.]* Yes, Mine had

Session with Rebecca

(continued)

to have so many stitches per square inch, and be so far apart. And if I discovered that I had made a mistake, I would have to undo the entire row and start over, in order to get it right. [*I continue nodding, letting her know that I clearly recall.*] How can I be more flowing? How can I be more expressive? [*We both are comfortably stilled by her questions.*]

Bill: It seems that we really are talking about loosening up.

Rebecca: You know, a few days ago my landscaper said to me when we were in my backyard that it was so relaxing back here. He was right. It really is relaxing in my backyard. I love the trees and the plants that are there. It's like, "This is me." That's why I spend so much time on my back porch. I look out and feel like I'm more myself. [*I'm smiling, very much appreciating what she is saying.*]

Bill: And what about your front yard?

Rebecca: It's different. I take care of it by pulling weeds and keeping it presentable. And if I'm in my front yard, and I see someone who is about to walk by, I always try to make a point of saying something like, "Have a nice day."

Session with Rebecca

(continued)

Bill: So could we say that when you're in your front yard, you are attentive to how you present yourself, and when you're in your backyard, you allow yourself to let down – to loosen up – and just be as you are?

Rebecca: I haven't thought of it that way, but yes, that's true.

Bill: Kind of like the difference between how you are and who you are.

Rebecca: I'm not sure I understand.

Bill: It's as if the front yard represents that part of you that is concerned about how you present yourself to the world, how you behave and conduct yourself; while your backyard reflects the more genuine – loosened up – you.

Rebecca: I've been afraid of the "who" – would people like who I am? In my backyard, I do like who I am. I'm more of a gentle person in my backyard [*she pauses*]. I've lived my whole life trying to please other people. [*She tears heavily. We both realize the truth in what she said.*]

Session with Rebecca

(continued)

Bill: I'm wondering right now about the quilt.

Rebecca: I see a connection.

Bill: Go ahead.

Rebecca: The artistic-looking quilt came from the person's backyard, so to speak. It reflected the person's true self. My quilt had this orderly pattern to it. I had to get it right, according to what was expected. There's nothing wrong with that – but it definitely came from my front yard.

Bill: Really good Rebecca. And I'm also now thinking about how our session opened with your having said, "Everything is fine, I can go." Perhaps we now have a better sense of where you may be ready to go.

Rebecca: This is really good.

Bill: I agree. It has been.

Rorschach Findings

Decision-Making Style (EB)

Affect Modulation (Form-Color Ratio)

“We must be able to let things happen in the psyche. For us, this is an art of which most people know nothing.” (Jung, 1931)

“If the wrong person uses the right means, the right means work in the wrong way.” (Jung, 1931)

Conscious Intent and the Autonomous Nature of Psyche

► Harding, 1947, p. 310

The supreme value represented by the term individuation lies hidden in the unconscious. It is like a golden fish in the ocean. If a man wants to catch it, it is obviously of no use for him to stay inactive on the shore; he must take a boat and go out and fish. This requires a conscious and willed act, possibly hard work and persistence; but unless the fish rises of its own accord, all of his fishing will be in vain.

Conscious Intent and the Autonomous Nature of Psyche

► **von Franz, 1997, p. 39**

... in our story, the ball does not begin rolling on its own. The young man first has to give it a little push, although from then on, he doesn't have to push again – once it starts rolling, it doesn't stop. So there is a very different picture here, because the autonomous activity of the Self, the process of individuation, does not start without an initial push – but you have to get it going. You have to start, and the starting effort has to be exerted by you.

Consciousness Raising

With the right attitude, the right things happen

Hold Rorschach findings in soft consciousness, without expectations, and with an attitude of deference and humility toward the unconscious



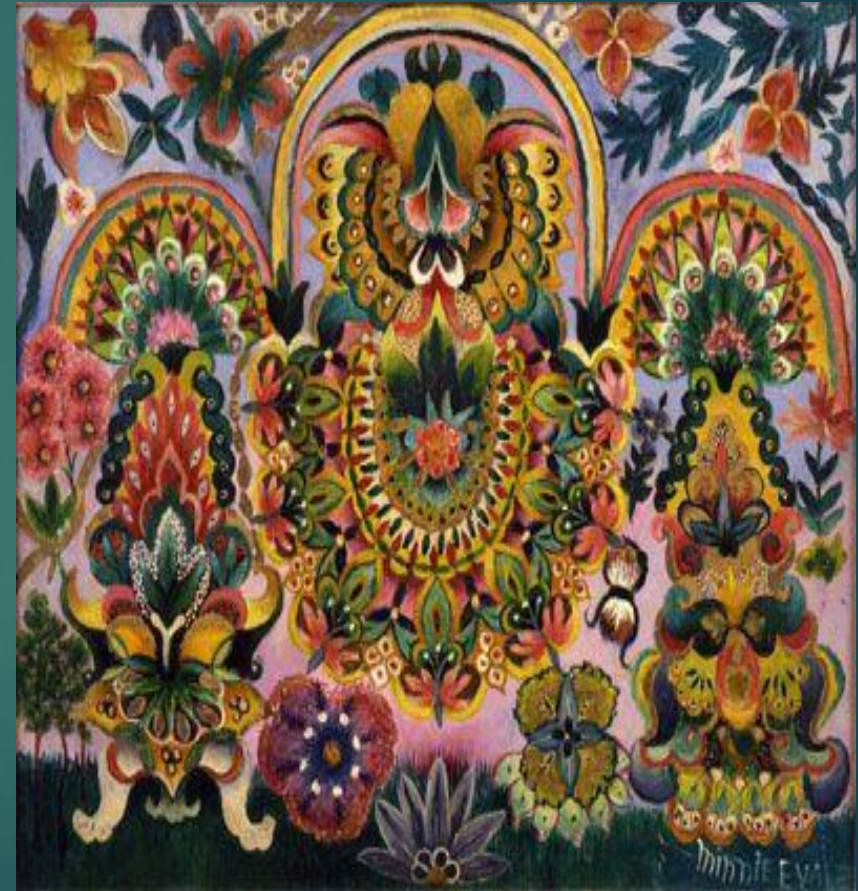
Archetypal Dimensions of the Rorschach Inkblots

(McCully, 1971, 1987)

Card 1 / “Venus of Laussel”



Card 10 / “Garden of Venus”



Correspondence of Rorschach Inkblot to Archetypal Theme (McCully, 1971, 1987)

- I - The experience of one's matriarchal source
- II - The opposition of forces that leads to the psychological experience of contrast and separation
- III - The personal or individual qualities of shadow and persona
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- VI - The experience of masculine energy being projected or carried into life
- VII - An individual's relationship with the Eros principle
- VIII - An individual's manner of functioning through the combined forces of masculine-feminine interchanges
- IX - Striving for psychological or non-material goals
- X - The experience of "mother" nature

Inkblot & Corresponding Myths

(Squyres and Craddick, 1984, 1990)

Card

Myths

1	Persephone / Oedipus
2	Hephasstus, Hera, & Dionysos / Gilgamesh & Enkidu
3	Jacob & Esau / Cain & Abel
4	Prodigal Son / Abraham & Isaac
5	Prometheus / Narcissus
6	Hercules / Odysseus
7	Eros & Psyche / Tristan & Isolde
8	Osiris & Isis / Zeus & Hera
9	Arjuna & Krishna / King Arthur & the Holy Grail
10	Vishnu's Dream / Buddha's Enlightenment

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Some Rorschach History

- ▶ Rorschach
- ▶ Beck
- ▶ Klopfer
- ▶ Hertz
- ▶ Piotrowski
- ▶ Rapaport-Schafer
- ▶ Exner (Comprehensive System)
- ▶ Meyer, et al. (Rorschach Performance Assessment System; R-PAS)

A (very) Brief Rorschach Overview: Administration, Coding, Interpretation*

- * Structural
- * Thematic
- * Sequence Analysis
- * Behavioral

CASE 30 ===== STRUCTURAL SUMMARY =====

LOCATION FEATURES		DETERMINANTS		CONTENTS		APPROACH	
		BLENDS	SINGLE				
Zf	= 22	FM.Fr	M = 0	H	= 3,0	I	W.W.W.WS
ZSum	= 79.5	M.CF	FM = 2	(H)	= 1,0	II	W.WS
ZEst	= 73.5	M.FD.FC'.CF	m = 0	Hd	= 1,0	III	D.D
		M.m.FD	FC = 1	(Hd)	= 1,0	IV	W.W.W.W
W	= 23	FM.FD	CF = 2	Hx	= 0,0	V	W.W
D	= 3	m.FT	C = 0	A	= 9,1	VI	D.W
W+D	= 26	FC'.M	Cn = 0	(A)	= 0,2	VII	W.WS.W
Dd	= 0	FM.Fr.CF	FC' = 1	Ad	= 3,0	VIII	W.W.W
S	= 4	M.FC.Fr.m	C'F = 0	(Ad)	= 0,0	IX	W.W
		m.CF	C' = 0	An	= 1,1	X	WS.W
		CF.m	FT = 0	Art	= 3,1		
		CF.FM	TF = 1	Ay	= 0,0	SPECIAL SCORES	
DQ			T = 0	Bl	= 0,1		
+	= 10		FV = 1	Bt	= 1,1	DV	= Lv1 Lv2
o	= 14		VF = 0	Cg	= 0,2	INC	= 1x1 1x2
v/+	= 0		V = 0	Cl	= 0,0	DR	= 3x2 0x4
v	= 2		FY = 0	Ex	= 1,0	FAB	= 0x3 0x6
			YF = 0	Fd	= 0,0	ALOG	= 1x4 0x7
			Y = 0	Fi	= 0,2		
			Fr = 0	Gc	= 0,0	CON	= 0x7
			rF = 0	Hh	= 1,0	Raw Sum6	= 7
			FD = 1	Ls	= 0,1	Wgtd Sum6	= 18
			F = 5	Na	= 0,2		
			(2) = 7	Sc	= 1,0	AB	= 1 GHR = 1
				Sx	= 0,3	AG	= 1 PHR = 5
				Xy	= 0,0	COP	= 2 MOR = 4
				Id	= 0,2	CP	= 0 PER = 1
							PSV = 0

PROTOCOL 167 ===== RATIOS, PERCENTAGES, AND DERIVATIONS =====

R	= 26	L	= 0.24	FC:CF+C	= 2: 8	COP = 2	AG = 1
EB	= 5: 9.0	EA	= 14.0	Pure C	= 0	GHR:PHR	= 1:5
cb	= 11: 6	cs	= 17	SumC':WSumC	= 3:9.0	a:p	= 6:10
		Adj cs	= 13	Afr	= 0.37	Food	= 0
				S	= 4	SumT	= 2
FM	= 6	SumC' = 3	SumT = 2	Blends:R	= 12:26	Human Cont	= 6
m	= 5	SumV = 1	SumY = 0	CP	= 0	Pure H	= 3
						PER	= 1
						Isol Indx	= 0.27
a:p	= 6:10	Sum6	= 7	XA%	= 0.81	Zf	= 22
Ma:Mp	= 3:2	Lv2	= 1	WDA%	= 0.81	W:D:Dd	= 23: 3: 0
2AB+Art+Ay	= 6	WSum6	= 18	X-%	= 0.19	W:M	= 23: 5
MOR	= 4	M-	= 0	S-	= 2	Zd	= +6.0
		Mnone	= 0	P	= 7	PSV	= 0
				X+%	= 0.69	DQ+	= 10
				Xu%	= 0.12	DQv	= 2
						3r+(2)/R	= 0.62
						Fr+rF	= 3
						SumV	= 1
						FD	= 4
						An+Xy	= 2
						MOR	= 4
						H:(H)+Hd+(Hd)	= 3: 3

PTI = 1 DEPI = 6* CDI = 3 S-CON = 9* HVI = No OBS = No

Decision-Making Style

- ▶ Refers to the relationship that exists between thinking (introversive) and feeling (extratensive) during decision-making, problem-solving activity.
- ▶ **Introversives** are inclined to think things through and delay before committing to a decision or course of action.
- ▶ **Extratensives** are prone to look toward external feedback for guiding decision-making activity. Relative to introversives, theirs is more of an intuitive style, incorporating feelings and having a greater tolerance for ambiguity and imprecise logic.

Affect Modulation

- ▶ Refers to the manner and comfort with which people process emotional experience.
- ▶ Psychological adaptation is promoted by well-developed capacities to modulate affect sufficiently, pleurably, and in moderation.
- ▶ When capacities are deficient or impaired, affect may be processed in a constricted, dysphoric, or overly intense manner.

Information Processing

- ▶ Refers to the efficiency with which people organize information.
- ▶ Efficient organization of information consists of an adaptive balance between the amount of information people take in and their capacities to process this amount of information adequately.

Self-Awareness

- ▶ Provides a measure of interest in and capacity for introspection.
- ▶ Adaptation is best served when person maintains a moderate level of self-awareness.

A Brief Rorschach Primer : Formulating Interpretations

- ▶ Structural
- ▶ Thematic
- ▶ Sequence Analysis
- ▶ Behavioral

Some Rorschach History

- ▶ Rorschach
- ▶ Beck
- ▶ Klopfer
- ▶ Hertz
- ▶ Piotrowski
- ▶ Rapaport-Schafer
- ▶ Exner (Comprehensive System)
- ▶ Meyer, et al. (Rorschach Performance Assessment System)

Conscious Intent and the Autonomous Nature of Psyche

► Jung, 1929

Everything good is costly, and the development of personality is one of the most costly of all things. It is a matter of saying yea to oneself, of taking oneself as the most serious of tasks, of being conscious of everything one does, and keeping it constantly before one's eyes in all its dubious aspects – truly a task that taxes us to the utmost.

► Jung, 1934

That is why the Self appears and says, “Be yourself, just be yourself.” ... Self-conscious people are always trying to be themselves, yet they avoid it most carefully; self-consciousness is a sort of illness of the consciousness of the Self. What can you say to a person who is self-conscious? You cannot be better than you are, why should you be self-conscious? You are just foolish ... Everybody is sick for a time with that self-consciousness business.

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Archetypal Theme

- I - The experience of one's matriarchal source
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- VIII - An individual's manner of functioning through the combined forces of masculine-feminine interchanges
- IX - Striving for psychological or non-material goals
- X - The experience of "mother" nature

A Brief Rorschach Primer : Coding

- ▶ Location and Developmental Quality
- ▶ Determinant(s) and Form Quality
- ▶ Pair ?
- ▶ Content(s)
- ▶ Popular ?
- ▶ Z-score ?
- ▶ Special Scores ?

Conscious Intent and the Autonomous Nature of Psyche

- ▶ Carl Jung
- ▶ Esther Harding
- ▶ Marie Louise von Franz