
*BRIEF NOTE***FURTHER INTERPRETATION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF RORSCHACH CARD MEANING¹**

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Many authors ascribe a psychosexual implication to Rorschach card IX and Wagner and Hoover (1970) found card IX rejection present in 22 of 33 failure pairs and a clustering among plates IV, VI, VII and IX. Although card IX is one of the most frequently rejected plates, 22 failures (one-third of the total) is more than might be expected on the basis of past research (Mensch and Matarazzo 1954). If "sex shock" is hypothesized to be the predominant non-intellectual cause of card failure (and one need not be a Freudian to accept the proposition that psychosexual problems are ubiquitous), then the frequency of card IX rejection is easily understood. It would follow that other cards which are failed in conjunction with IX might also have psychosexual implications. If this is the case,

the significant associations between cards VI and IX and VII and IX are very much in accordance with Rorschach tradition, which stresses the sexual element in each of these cards (Allen 1966; Bochner *et al* 1942; Brown 1953; Klopfer *et al* 1954). The relationship was succinctly expressed by Piotrowski (1957) ". . . a plate IX shock without a simultaneous plate VI or plate VII shock is rare in individual records. This suggests that plate IX shock has a definite sexual implication." It would be consistent also to attribute a sexual connotation to card IV and, indeed, the literature supports this position. Together with "maleness," "authority" and "father", card IX is viewed by some as having psychosexual implications associated with the male figure (Bochner *et al* 1942; Cole and Williams 1968; Rosen 1951). The validity of regarding IV, VI and VII as having sexual connotations gains credibility when

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it is noted that these cards tended to cluster among themselves as well as with card IX: card IV appeared with VI, VII and IX eight out of nine times; VI with IV, VII and IX ten out of twelve times; and VII with IV, VI and IX nine out of ten times. Again, part of the overlap may be confounded by card difficulty, but a legitimate association between the four cards may well be present.

In my study card VIII appeared three times in conjunction with card IX and did not occur with any of the other cards. The combination was significant at the $p < .04$ level but the implications are unclear. Is the juxtaposition strictly dependent upon the high number of card IX failures or are the two cards psychologically related? Since card IX follows card VIII the consecutive failures might represent severe color shock; a rejection of the first fully colored card (VIII) which is carried over to and augmented by IX, another completely chromatic plate. Card V rejection was conspicuously absent in my study. This tends to confirm the general opinion that V is an "easy" card with a relatively unique meaning and that failures on this card tend to have a serious connotation.

The above interpretations are, of course, suggestive rather than definitive. It is clear, however, that individuals who fail two cards on the Rorschach do not do so in a random fashion. Card IX failure

overwhelmingly predominates and the overlapping among IV, VI, VII, and IX does suggest that sexual shock may be associated with the rejection of each of these cards. This interpretation does not, of course, preclude the possibility that these cards may have additional, non-sexual symbolic meanings.

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