

Editorial Note

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Ten Little Inkblots

*Number one is strange and wingy
Number two is red and splashy
Number three is civilized
Number four is deep and dark as fairy tale
And five will bring you back to earth
With six you blush
And seven, you smile and feel elated
At eight emotions blend with art,
And nine disturbs you: what might this be?
Then ten explodes in joyful fantasy.*

Ten little inkblots designed almost a century ago that speak today to people from across the world. How come the Rorschach is so universal? Why has it not aged, nor fallen into oblivion like so many methods, and tests and theories of the past? Probably because it is "something" that eludes its historical context, that reaches Man (in the sense of *homo*) because it is evident as lightning, simple as a smile, and complex as life, just like a sonata from Mozart. The fact that the Rorschach test has, nowadays, reached a fully scientific status in psychology has not altered its unique nature. This unique and somewhat mysterious nature of the test, plus the fact that it is so mighty in capturing the meanders of a personality, probably explain, in part, the recurring crusades launched against it, which mingle rational sound arguments and unrational destructive passions. To the first, science can answer, and has answered, and thanks to these critics, has advanced in knowledge. Toward the second, science remains speechless, because science has nothing to do with passions and ideologies. The answer to the second is either a shrug of the shoulder or ethics: an ethical clinical practice, an ethical use of the Rorschach, honesty toward our patients, modesty in the face of our ignorance and limits. Just as a person is more than its body, more than its history, more than its childhood experiences, more than its behavior, a person is more than its psychology. After all, the mystery might be not so much in the Rorschach, as in the person.