

Case Report 1

Rorschach protocol and report of a 30-year-old divorced man who was accusing his ex-wife of inflicting medical problems on their child.

-- H E R M A N N 8 --

Program by James P. Choca, PhD, and Dan Garside

Rorschach Protocol

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- 1: Card I Reaction Time: 3.74  
SCORE=>W o F - (2) A 1.0  
2 sea horses  
INQUIRY: the nose a and the belly, and the cone head  
LOCATION: this is the tail curled up behind the sea horse  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
  - 2: Card I Reaction Time: 8.62  
SCORE=>W o F 0 A 1.0  
a crab  
INQUIRY: the shell and these would be the 2 front claws  
ANYTHING ELSE? eyes and little antennae, mouth  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
  - 3: Card II Reaction Time: 2.53  
SCORE=>WS o Ma.FC - (H).Cg 4.5  
2 clowns  
INQUIRY: red hats, they are touching hands like this, the white  
areas below the hat would be their heads in relief. These would be  
their bodies, leg and foot. This red would be like a red fringe right  
above the shoe. And this is the elbow of the unused arm  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
  - 4: Card II Reaction Time: 13.07  
SCORE=>WS o ma.CF.C'F 0 Sc.Na.Ex.Cl 4.5  
a rocket ship blasting off with smoke and flames  
INQUIRY: this is the fire, the clouds around it wd be smoke. Here is the  
nose cone of the rocket and the body of the rocket below it  
SMOKE? it's a dark cloud  
ANYTHING ELSE? these a could be vaguely described as sunset colors  
ANYTHING ELSE? No  
SUNSET COLORS? You can see them in the horizon as the rocket ship is lifting
  - 5: Card III Reaction Time: 5.54  
SCORE=>W o Ma.CF 0 (2) H.Sx.Hh.Fi P 5.5  
2 naked women cooking out of a pot  
INQUIRY: these are breasts, and this is the pot below, and their leg. The red spot  
(in the center of the card) would be smoke or steam coming from the cooking.  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
  - 6: Card III Reaction Time: 43.83  
SCORE=>D o FC 0 Cg  
I am trying to make a bow tie and collar but I can't really do that  
INQUIRY: I can see the red as being a bow tie  
ANYTHING ELSE? No  
>? It's the shape and the color
  - 7: Card IV Reaction Time: 3.41  
SCORE=>W o FD 0 A 2.0  
a big bear that you look up at  
INQUIRY: the width of the object, it is kind of massive. Back legs,  
front legs and claws. This would be the muzzle and the head  
ANYTHING ELSE? no  
LOOK UP AT? the legs are massive as opposed to the head

- =====
- 8: Card IV Reaction Time: 21.81  
SCORE=>W o FV u A 2.0 MOR  
may be a dust mite under an electron microscope  
INQUIRY: that was a reach! A weird insect looking shape. Malevolent looking.  
ANYTHING ELSE? no  
MALEVOLENT? it looks ugly
- 9: Card V Reaction Time: 3.84  
SCORE=>W o F O A P 1.0  
a bat, more like a butterfly, a moth, more like a moth  
INQUIRY: antenna, the wings, and an antenna like looking structure from the wings  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
- 10: Card V Reaction Time: 42.73  
SCORE=>D o Mp O (2) Hd.Cg  
2 heads reclining, back of the head to back of the head  
INQUIRY: forehead, nose, neck  
ANYTHING ELSE? no  
ANYTHING ELSE? I can visualize these as being 2 hats or hair  
ANYTHING ELSE? No  
LOCATION: One head on each half of the inkblot
- 11: Card VI Reaction Time: 13.02  
SCORE=>W o F - Hd.Sx 2.5  
looks awfully like a vagina to me  
INQUIRY: labia, somewhere in there, there must be a clitoris  
ANYTHING ELSE? labia  
ANYTHING ELSE? No  
FOLLOW-UP: DO YOU SEE THE CLITORIS? Well, no, but there must be one there  
THERE MAY BE PARTS IN THIS INKBLOT THAT RESEMBLE A VAGINA BUT  
YOU WERE LOOKING AT THE WHOLE THING. NOW THAT YOU LOOK AT IT AGAIN, DOES THE WHOLE  
THING LOOK LIKE A VAGINA? Well, no, maybe I was just looking at the bottom here
- 12: Card VI Reaction Time: 28.51  
SCORE=>W o F O Ad P 2.5  
or maybe a bear skin rug  
INQUIRY: because of the way the round animal shape falls into a flat  
shape. These are the legs and the remnant of the tail  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
- 13: Card VII Reaction Time: 8.35  
SCORE=>W o F u (2) (H).Cg 2.5  
2 pixies  
INQUIRY: hair style up, forehead, hair, nose, mouth  
ANYTHING ELSE? these could be the pixy body and an arm off to the back  
ANYTHING ELSE? no  
ANYTHING ELSE? this maybe a skirt clad leg and hips  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
- 14: Card VII Reaction Time: 43.99  
SCORE=>D o Fmp O (2) Ad AG  
I see 2 heads here also, 2 others  
INQUIRY: a pig snout, the suggestion of a scowling mouth, and an eye  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
- 15: Card VIII Reaction Time: 26.47  
SCORE=>W o CF u A.Na.Art 4.5  
my first thing is a coat of arms  
INQUIRY: a couple of lions here, maybe a mountain here a, a couple of flags  
ANYTHING ELSE? no, this could be a volcano  
? is open at the top  
>? no. Because there is red and there is orange, maybe lava  
ANYTHING ELSE? no

- =====
- 16: Card VIII Reaction Time: 15.38  
SCORE=>W v CF u An.Art  
a colored Gray's anatomy. This could be someone's inside. A couple  
of kidneys, things like that  
INQUIRY: just the colors and the way they designed, these could be 2  
kidneys, maybe a liver underneath, the spinal column  
ANYTHING ELSE? other organs here, and an abdominal wall  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
- 17: Card IX Reaction Time: 35.32  
SCORE=>W o Mp.CF u (H).Cl 5.5  
I have already done the organs [laughs] I keep seeing an alien head in this,  
like a space alien  
INQUIRY: the orange lines outline a head or a dome, and the spots here  
look like eyes  
ANYTHING ELSE? shoulders and top of the chest. The green spots  
are exhaled gasses, I am not up on my space alien knowledge  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
- 18: Card IX Reaction Time: 18.73  
SCORE=>W v ma.CF u Ex PER >  
> maybe some sort of astrological event, like an exploding star or  
a nebulous  
INQUIRY: it looks like photographs I have seen on astronomy books  
of exploding stars or nebula  
>? the way the green is coming out and the circular impressions inside  
the pink  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
- 19: Card X Reaction Time: 22.80  
SCORE=>W v Fmp.CF.VF u A  
this looks like a drop of pond water under a microscope, with all  
sorts of invisible life forms floating around  
INQUIRY: paramecia, the yellow would be ameba, the blues could be hydra  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
- 20: Card X Reaction Time: 46.52  
SCORE=>W v ma.CF u Na.Bt  
thawing tundra  
INQUIRY: pools of water among the ice and snow. Patches of wild  
flowers coming out the melting snow  
? the colors, patches of green grass here  
ANYTHING ELSE? no
- 21: Card X Reaction Time: 23.00  
SCORE=>D o CF - Cg.Sx CON  
a feather boa  
INQUIRY: there should be a woman here but I don't see it  
ANYTHING ELSE? This would make the ovaries if they were upside down  
BOA? the head dress. This falls too low to be a bra. It kind of falls apart  
FALLS APART? I am trying to make it into a woman with a feather boa and a bra but  
it doesn't work  
ANYTHING ELSE? No  
BOA? the pink. I don't know  
ANYTHING ELSE? I just thought of a bra and then I saw the pink, and I kind of  
stretched
- 22: Card X Reaction Time: 12.44  
SCORE=>D o F u An.Sx  
Ovaries from #21  
LOCATION: Green D upside-down  
INQUIRY: it sort of looks like the fallopian tubes  
ANYTHING ELSE? This would make the ovaries if they were upside down  
ANYTHING ELSE? No

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Rorschach Sequence Report

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|            |          |                  |                |       |              |     |     |
|------------|----------|------------------|----------------|-------|--------------|-----|-----|
| Card: I    | Resp: 01 | Rtn. Time: 3.74  | W o F          | - (2) | A            | 5.5 |     |
| Card: I    | Resp: 02 | Rtn. Time: 8.62  | W o F          | 0     | A            | 1.0 |     |
| Card: II   | Resp: 03 | Rtn. Time: 2.53  | WS o Mp.FC     | -     | Cg.(H)       | 4.5 |     |
| Card: II   | Resp: 04 | Rtn. Time: 13.07 | WS o ma.CF.C'F | 0     | Sc.Na.Ex     | 4.5 |     |
| Card: III  | Resp: 05 | Rtn. Time: 5.54  | W o Ma.CF      | 0 (2) | Sx.Hh.Fi.H P | 5.5 |     |
| Card: III  | Resp: 06 | Rtn. Time: 43.83 | D o FC         | 0     | Cg           |     |     |
| Card: IV   | Resp: 07 | Rtn. Time: 3.41  | W o FD         | 0     | A 2.0        |     |     |
| Card: IV   | Resp: 08 | Rtn. Time: 21.81 | W o FV         | u     | A 2.0        |     | MOR |
| Card: V    | Resp: 09 | Rtn. Time: 3.84  | W o F          | 0     | A P          | 1.0 |     |
| Card: V    | Resp: 10 | Rtn. Time: 42.73 | D o Mp         | 0 (2) | Cg.Hd        |     |     |
| Card: VI   | Resp: 11 | Rtn. Time: 13.02 | W o F          | -     | Hd.Sx        | 2.5 |     |
| Card: VI   | Resp: 12 | Rtn. Time: 28.51 | W o F          | 0     | Ad P         | 2.5 |     |
| Card: VII  | Resp: 13 | Rtn. Time: 8.35  | W o F          | u (2) | Cg.(H)       | 2.5 |     |
| Card: VII  | Resp: 14 | Rtn. Time: 43.99 | D o F          | 0 (2) | Ad           |     | AG  |
| Card: VIII | Resp: 15 | Rtn. Time: 26.47 | W o CF         | u     | Na.Art.A     | 4.5 |     |
| Card: VIII | Resp: 16 | Rtn. Time: 15.38 | W v CF         | u     | Art.An       |     |     |
| Card: IX   | Resp: 17 | Rtn. Time: 35.32 | W o Mp.CF      | u     | Cl.(H)       | 5.5 |     |
| Card: IX   | Resp: 18 | Rtn. Time: 18.73 | W v ma.CF      | u     | Ex           |     | PER |
| Card: X    | Resp: 19 | Rtn. Time: 22.80 | W v FMp.VF.CF  | u     | A            |     |     |
| Card: X    | Resp: 20 | Rtn. Time: 46.52 | W v ma.CF      | u     | Na.Bt        |     |     |
| Card: X    | Resp: 21 | Rtn. Time: 69.22 | W v CF         | -     | Sx.Cg        |     | CON |
| Card: X    | Resp: 22 | Rtn. Time: 15.00 | D v F          | u     | Sx.An        |     |     |



Rorschach Structural Summary

Contents

Quality

| CONT   | 13   |      |      |      | OF ALL         |      |           |
|--------|------|------|------|------|----------------|------|-----------|
| H      | 1 3  | Low  | Low  | Low  | +              | 0 0  |           |
| (H)    | 3 9  | High |      | High | o              | 9 41 |           |
| Hd     | 2 6  |      |      |      | u              | 9 41 |           |
| (Hd)   | 0 0  |      |      |      | -              | 4 18 |           |
| Hx     | 0 0  |      |      |      | none           | 0 0  |           |
| A      | 7 20 |      |      |      | OF F           |      |           |
| (A)    | 0 0  |      |      |      | +              | 0 0  |           |
| Ad     | 2 6  |      |      |      | o              | 4 50 | Low Low   |
| (Ad)   | 0 0  |      |      |      | u              | 2 25 |           |
| Ab     | 0 0  |      |      |      | -              | 2 25 |           |
| Al     | 0 0  |      |      |      | none           | 0 0  |           |
| An     | 2 6  |      |      |      | OF S           |      |           |
| Art    | 2 6  |      |      |      | +              | 0 0  |           |
| Ay     | 0 0  |      |      |      | o              | 1 50 |           |
| Bl     | 0 0  |      |      |      | u              | 0 0  |           |
| Bt     | 1 3  |      |      |      | -              | 1 50 |           |
| Cg     | 5 14 | High | High | High | none           | 0 0  |           |
| Cl     | 1 3  |      |      |      | SPECIAL SCORES |      |           |
| Ex     | 2 6  | High | High | High | DV1            | 0 0  |           |
| Fi     | 1 3  |      |      |      | DV2            | 0 0  |           |
| Fd     | 0 0  |      |      |      | DR1            | 0 0  |           |
| Ge     | 0 0  |      |      |      | DR2            | 0 0  |           |
| Hh     | 1 3  |      |      |      | INC1           | 0 0  |           |
| Ls     | 0 0  |      |      |      | INC2           | 0 0  |           |
| Na     | 3 9  |      |      |      | FAB1           | 0 0  |           |
| Sc     | 1 3  |      |      |      | FAB2           | 0 0  |           |
| Sx     | 4 11 | High | High | High | ALOG           | 0 0  |           |
| Vo     | 0 0  |      |      |      | CON            | 1 5  | High High |
| Xy     | 0 0  |      |      |      | AB             | 0 0  |           |
| Idio   | 0 0  |      |      |      | CP             | 0 0  |           |
| RATIOS |      |      |      |      | AG             | 1 5  |           |
| H+Hd   | 3    |      |      |      | MOR            | 1 5  |           |
| A+Ad   | 9    |      |      |      | CFB            | 0 0  |           |
| H+A    | 8    |      |      |      | PER            | 1 5  |           |
| Hd+Ad  | 4    |      |      |      | COP            | 0 0  |           |
| A%     | 26   |      |      |      | PSV            | 0 0  |           |

## **REPORT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**REPORT IN BRIEF:** Mr. Santos (not his real name) was a 30-year-old Hispanic divorced gentleman who was referred for an evaluation as part of a child custody hearing. The patient alleged that his ex-wife was harming their 3-year-old child on purpose. Mr. Santos denied having any emotional problems at this time. However, he reported experiencing so much stress that he had not been able to work for several months. He also admitted to smoking marijuana frequently, presumably to relieve his anxiety. The intellectual assessment showed his abilities to be in the superior range. The testing showed slippage of the thought process and over-emotionality in an individual with reasonable contact with reality.

**PRESENTING COMPLAINTS:** The patient believed that his ex-wife was “killing” their child in order to receive insurance money. He claimed to have witnessed instances when she placed a table in front of an open window, took the seatbelt off the child in the car, or took similar actions that placed the life of the child in imminent danger. It was said that she “abuses” the child “surreptitiously” for her pleasure, because she enjoys seeing her child in pain. He accused his ex-wife of purposely feeding the child with a dirty bottle that had sour milk in order to cause gastrointestinal problems. He believed that the ex-wife twists the child’s arm and trips the child in order to cause pain. It was said that she smiles when the child is hurt. These problems are more likely to take place when there is a full moon and the ex-wife “goes crazy,” according to the patient.

To deal with this problem, the patient consulted several therapists. He talked to a psychologist who reportedly gave him information about the Munchausen disorder by proxy, told him that the disorder was untreatable, and warned him that he may even have trouble convincing others of what he believed was going on. Mr. Santos then called the Department of Children and Family Services but felt that the Department was not going to be doing anything to help. After taking the child to visit his mother, he then took her to Mexico, where he hoped to find employment. Eventually the employment did not materialize and the patient was forced to return. He was arrested at the border for having abducted the child.

Mr. Santos recognized that he had become very “angry” and had been feeling “very stressed” as a result of what he perceives to be his situation. He complained of headaches, chest pains, and abdominal pains, which he feels had resulted from his high level of stress.

**PSYCHIATRIC HISTORY:** At the age of 17 Mr. Santos was caught breaking into a vending machine and was sent to a reform school for juveniles. He recalled that he saw a psychologist at the time and was given psychological testing.

When he was in his twenties the patient sought treatment for depression, anger, and “violence.” He explained that he was feeling sad, having crying spells, and was contemplating suicide. Moreover, he was having a hard time developing a lasting romantic relationship, and had been involved in several physical fights. The treatment and came to accept “violence” as neither positive nor negative, but a “neutral” event. He also learned that a person must accept his or her own anger, but that the person’s behavior was the element that could be controlled.

The patient had been smoking marijuana on a daily basis intermittently. He believed that the cannabis took away his aches and pains, and allowed him to work. He stated that he does not use this drug recreationally, and that—when he was not working—he does not smoke. He acknowledged going through periods of withdrawal when he stopped using the drug, but saw this problem as a minor price to pay for the relief from pain that the drug gave him.

**MEDICAL HISTORY:** Mr. Santos had been told that he needed surgery for a bad knee, but he has not followed up on this recommendation. The patient had a hernia operation when he was twenty. Otherwise, he denied ever having any significant medical problems or serious accidents.

**SOCIAL HISTORY:** Mr. Santos was born in a border town in Texas. His parents were also Texas natives. They were separated when the patient was 11 years old, at which time he and his mother went to California. The patient returned to Texas to live with his father a few months later, but moved with his mother in California permanently at the age of 13.

The patient's father died when Mr. Santos was eighteen. The father was remembered as an "intelligent" individual. He was a "decent guy," in spite of the fact that he was physically abusive toward the patient. The father had been married before and married again after divorcing Mr. Santos's mother. A liquor store owner, the father was said to have done reasonably well occupationally. Mr. Santos has a half-sister born from his father's first marriage. This sister was not raised with the patient and the two of them have never had much of a relationship.

Mr. Santos was very critical of his 60-year-old mother. He described her as a "negative" woman who was always "putting (him) down." It seemed that she wanted to be a "classy" person, and did not see the patient fitting that image. The mother "destroyed" the relationship she had with the father. She had been married once before but did not marry again after the parents divorced. The mother has been a receptionist for a state agency in California.

Mr. Santos married for the first time at the age of 19. This marriage was prompted by the fact that the ex-wife was pregnant. A son eventually resulted from that pregnancy, although the patient was never sure that he was the son's biological father. That first marriage only lasted 2 years. The son is now ten but Mr. Santos has never had much contact with him.

The patient remarried at the age of 23. He was officially married to his second ex-wife for six years but they were separated for some of that time. He complained that the ex-wife was "putting (him) down all the time." Mr. Santos used to see his ex-wife as a "sensitive" and "good-hearted" person but he perceived her as a "sadistic psychopath with an untreatable disorder" more recently.

The subject of the patient's concern is his 3-year-old daughter. The daughter has never presented any major problem.

**EDUCATIONAL HISTORY:** Mr. Santos is a high school graduate. He finished the high school when he was actually at the reform school. He recalled being a good student and denied ever encountering academic difficulties.

**OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY:** The patient has worked in construction for most of his adult life. He is mostly a window installer. For the last several months he has not been reporting to work. He explained that he had been “breaking down and crying” on the scaffold, and felt that he was not doing his share when he was at work.

**MENTAL STATUS EXAMINATION:** At the time of the examination this right-handed patient was alert, oriented, verbal and coherent. Although he understands Spanish, English has always been his main language. The speech, language, and other cognitive functions appeared to be intact. The thought process was orderly and effective. The thought content was unremarkable except for the possibility that the accusations against his ex-wife were unfounded. The affective response was appropriate to the content of the conversation. The mood was within normal limits and demonstrated a good range of emotions. No suicidal or homicidal ideation was verbalized. The psychomotor activity and anxiety levels were within the normal range. The patient was cooperative.

## TEST RESULTS:

Shipley Institute of Living Scale (SILS)

Estimated Intelligence Quotient (IQ) = 97

The Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory - III

| Personality Style Scales:                          | Scores=> | Raw | Base Rate |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------|-----|-----------|
| 1 - Introversive (Schizoid).....                   | =        | 0   | 0         |
| 2A - Inhibited (Avoidant).....                     | =        | 3   | 35        |
| 3 - Cooperative (Dependent).....                   | =        | 5   | 50        |
| 4 - Dramatic (Histrionic).....                     | =        | 22  | 81 *      |
| 5 - Confident (Narcissistic).....                  | =        | 16  | 61        |
| 6A - Competitive (Antisocial).....                 | =        | 6   | 45        |
| 7 - Disciplined (Compulsive).....                  | =        | 16  | 51        |
| 8A - Negativistic (Passive-Aggressive/Explosive).= |          | 3   | 22        |

| Severe Personality Scales:    |   |   |    |
|-------------------------------|---|---|----|
| 2B - Depressive.....          | = | 4 | 63 |
| 6B - Aggressive/Sadistic..... | = | 5 | 43 |
| 8B - Self-Defeating.....      | = | 3 | 59 |
| S - Schizotypal.....          | = | 4 | 61 |
| C - Borderline.....           | = | 0 | 0  |
| P - Paranoid.....             | = | 7 | 63 |

| Clinical Symptom Scales:                |   |   |      |
|-----------------------------------------|---|---|------|
| A - Anxiety.....                        | = | 6 | 80 * |
| H - Somatic Preoccupations.....         | = | 4 | 63   |
| N - Hypomania.....                      | = | 5 | 60   |
| D - Dysthymia.....                      | = | 2 | 40   |
| B - Alcohol Abuse.....                  | = | 6 | 70   |
| T - Drug Abuse.....                     | = | 3 | 45   |
| R - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder..... | = | 1 | 15   |
| SS - Psychotic Thinking.....            | = | 2 | 30   |
| CC - Psychotic Depression.....          | = | 3 | 60   |
| PP - Psychotic Delusion.....            | = | 3 | 63   |

**Modifier Indices:**

|   |                     |   |    |    |
|---|---------------------|---|----|----|
| X | - Disclosure.....   | = | 78 | 51 |
| Y | - Desirability..... | = | 16 | 74 |
| Z | - Debasement.....   | = | 4  | 45 |
| V | - Validity.....     | = | 0  |    |

**Rorschach Inkblot Test**

The results of this test will be incorporated into the discussion section below.

**Thematic Apperception Test (TAT)**

The results of this test will be incorporated into the discussion section below.

**INTELLECTUAL ASSESSMENT:** The test findings showed Mr. Santos to be an intellectually capable individual. There were no indications of cognitive deficits.

**EMOTIONAL ASSESSMENT:** The picture that emerged from the evaluation was that of a somewhat marginal individual who, by his own admission, has had his share of psychological “demons” in his life.

Historically the patient started poorly, being the product of a broken and unstable home. His parents reportedly abused him, the father in a physical manner, while the parenting limitation posed by the mother was more of a psychological nature. Presumably partly as a result of the scars left by that era, the patient was left with substantial personality problems. By the time of his adolescence, Mr. Santos was having trouble with the law and finished high school at a reform school for juveniles. The patient’s adult history appeared to have been characterized by an absence of long-standing interpersonal ties and a similarly checkered occupational history.

The results from the testing complimented Mr. Santos’ history by showing psychological aspects that must have been behind the historical problems. The testing showed an angry, somewhat eccentric, ego-centered individual, who may occasionally come up with ideas that are not well-rooted in reality. Actions reflecting poor judgment are also to be expected from time to time.

The patient’s anger was obvious in the projectives, and has historically been a problem in his life. This is an issue of some concern because it is quite probable that Mr. Santos has been experiencing a great deal of anger toward his ex-wife. In this context, a story he gave to the heterosexual card of the Thematic Apperception Test (13MF) was noteworthy:

“This woman was abusing this guy’s child, trying to kill this guy’s child for money. This guy gave up looking for help. This guy spent a year of his life, one year, calling people up, saying, look, my ex-wife is trying to abuse my child, and finally got sick of waiting for the fucking psychiatrists and the fucking Public Guardian to do anything about it, and he killed his fucking ex-wife cause he just couldn’t stand his kid being hurt anymore.”

It would seem that, while looking at this card, Mr. Santos was overcome by his feelings and, perhaps pushing good judgment aside, gave a story that betrayed his intense anger and potential for a loss of control. Judging from the Rorschach, he is impulsive and

emotional, and may be driven by his feelings before he considers his situation in a thoughtful manner.

In terms of Mr. Santos's reality contact, the Rorschach indicated a capacity to see the world as the rest of us see it most of the time. There were instances, nevertheless, when he displayed eccentric ideas. The fact that he often gave good responses made the profile more typical of characterological instability than of a flawed psychotic core.

Even though the patient was seen as having a personality disorder, he did not appear to fit well into any one of the usual prototypes. Like schizotypal individuals, the Rorschach demonstrated eccentric ideation and an inclination to relate superficially with others. Antisocial characteristics seen included impulsiveness and financial irresponsibility. There were borderline attributes such as intense shifts in his interpersonal relationships, affective instability, and his anger. Finally, the histrionic elements seen in the Rorschach and the MCMI consisted of excessive emotionality, a tendency toward self-dramatization, pronounced sexual interests, a need to be the center of attention, and a somewhat flamboyant style of speech.

In closing, an attempt should be made to relate the findings to the issues that brought the patient to the attention of the examiner. It is clear that Mr. Santos's psychological functioning is far from optimal. The anger he is experiencing against his ex-wife could have led him to a conscious or unconscious exaggeration of any irresponsible action the ex-wife may have taken toward their daughter. The fact that his contact with reality was occasionally faulty even allows the possibility that he was imagining those incidents. On the other hand, none of the findings can be used to rule out the possibility that his claims have been valid and that their child, as a result, is in need of protection.

**DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSIONS:**

Cannabis dependence

Personality disorder not otherwise specified

(blend of schizotypal, antisocial, borderline, and histrionic elements)

Knee pain

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** This evaluation was undertaken at the request of the psychiatrist commissioned by the court to render opinions for the custody hearing. Consequently, no recommendations are made in this report.