

Nephesh Spirit and Neshama Soul in the Rorschach

From: Rorschach_List@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Rorschach_List@yahoogroups.com]

On Behalf of Aimee Yermish Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 04:07 To:

Rorschach_List@yahoogroups.com Subject: Re: [Rorschach_List] Coding "The soul going up"

On 16 Jan 2009, at 12:14 AM, Evyatar Michaelis wrote:

1. Card II "It's a soul that go up (D2)" Inquiry: "Here (D1) is the black body and here (Dd26) is the head with red eyes and the soul (D@) going up from here (D4). No more details in the Inquiry. My coding questions: "Soul going up" - M or m, Passive or active. The content coding of soul - Hx, AB, Id MOR or not.

Wow, that's an interesting philosophical and religious question. Do you think it matters if he used the word nefesh ([Nephesh](#) is the Hebrew word commonly translated as soul in English. It literally means the "complete life of a being" though it is usually used in the sense of "living being" (breathing creature). The Hebrew word Nephesh applies to humans, lower animals, corpses and to God Almighty (Leviticus 26:11; 26:30; Psalm 24:4; Isaiah 42:1). In some Jewish traditions - such as Chabad-Lubavitch - plants also have souls [1]. The concept of an immaterial soul separate from and surviving the body is common today but was not fully founded in ancient Hebrew beliefs [2], or [Neshama](#) [soul], (or some other word? (I have some Hebrew, not a huge amount.) What does he think of the soul as, an essentially human thing or a sort of object? Personally, I'd say that because of the content coding involving human content, I think I'd vote for M over m.

"Going up" as passive or active... I think passive -- it sounds like the soul is floating up from the body, not actively fleeing.

Content code for soul... I don't think you can code Id if you code other things, right? Instead of Hx, though, my first reaction was (H). Again, this is another deeply philosophical question and one that may hinge on the kid's understanding of the idea rather than ours. I don't agree with AB -- it's not a representation of a soul, it *is* a soul. Do you also need to code the body?

MOR... it's a pity we don't know for sure whether he thinks the body is dead or merely meditating or dissociating. I'm inclined to guess that he meant dead, so yes on MOR.

2. Card III "It's two head of poultry" Inquiry: "Here (Dd 32) is 2 heads of poultry because of the beak and they are filing water the pail (D7)"

(Have no any ward about the water) I code it: D+ FMa (for filling water),F (for pail)
Ad, Hh FAB1 What do you think?

Ma -- chickens don't fill water pails, humans do. The rest seems reasonable. (I'm assuming the apparent DVs are really just translation issues.) Did he show you actual water (mp)?

Great way to wake up in the morning, wrestling with interesting Rorschach responses.

-- Aimee Yermish

Doctoral student, clinical psychology

Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology