

## Rorschach Analysis

Described as a “crown of thorns, twisted, dark and unreflective” (Watts 124), Rorschach plays into the theme of mocking other forms of life. It is a painful burden and symbol of suffering, orbiting a failed star and engulfing debris like a “vast metastatic amoeba.” This shows that it might not be fully intelligent and follows a set of patterns that a spacefaring intelligence might have set for it.

Also, with a perfect equatorial circle of Rorschach, 87,900 km from Big Ben’s center of gravity, suggests that it could be an artificial object. Natural planets and comets typically have a non-perfect equatorial distance, implying that the skimmers it controls may be part of a larger, automated system. In the novel, skimmers circle around Rorschach like asteroids and help it grow, almost like honey bees circling flowers. The overall pattern makes it kind of the structure of Rorschach similar to a honey comb, a set of geometric patterns that is naturally occurring in nature.

As Rorschach communicates with Susan James and the crew of the Theseus, it manipulatively changes voices and personalities. Initially, the personality is very formal, attempting to get the crew to comply with its orders to stay away. Later, it switches to a more casual tone to further confuse and manipulate the crew. But eventually it is revealed to be a Chinese Room, which is just a set of patterns to respond to the crew.

Amanda Bates’ mention of Rorschach’s improvisational behavior with Spindel mentions Rorschach’s covert-to-invulnerable phase. There are signs that it is still growing and not omniscient, so the crew of the Theseus still has a fighting chance of dealing with it. Over the

novel Rorschach holds its fire even as the crew ventures into its labyrinthian innards. There are also moments where the crew completely blindsight Rorschach showing that it is not completely invulnerable or omniscient.

Rorschach's warning for Theseus not to approach exhibits a patronizing or cocky demeanor, demonstrating a lack of empathy. As Szpindel puts it, if Rorschach were human, it might be called a clinical sociopath – a being with “fast talkers, no conscience, tending to malapropism and self-contradiction, and no emotional affect” (Watts 124).

Finally, when Susan James questions Rorschach about its responsibility for Firefall, it replies that it sends many things and does not monitor their “children.” This response indicates that Rorschach cannot be understood in a human way, where it cares for its young. Instead, it operates as a detached, automated system similar to a space herring.

### **Works Cited**

Watts, Peter. Blindsight. Tor Essentials, 2014, print.