



## INSIDE OUT

### AN EXPLORATION OF THE TWO INCLINATIONS

#### YETZER HATOV & YETZER HARAH

#### CAMP RAMAH DAROM

#### Genesis 4:6

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-קַיִן לָמָּה חָרָה לְךָ וְלָמָּה נָפְלוּ פָנֶיךָ: זֶה הָלֹא אִם-תֵּיטִיב שְׂאֵת וְאִם לֹא תֵיטִיב  
לַפֶּתַח חַטָּאת רֹבֵץ וְאֵלֶיךָ תִּשְׁוֹקָתוֹ וְאַתָּה תִּמְשָׁל-בּוֹ:

"G-d said to Cain, 'Why are you so furious? Why are you depressed? If you do good, will there not be special privilege? And if you do not do good, sin is crouching at the door. It lusts after you but you can dominate it.'"

#### Midrash – Avot d’Rabbi Natan 16

A person is born with the Yetzer haRah. But 13 years later, the yetzer hatov is born. When he violates the Sabbath, it rebukes him, "Airhead [literally: "empty one"]! Don't you know it says 'Everyone who violates it will surely be put to death' ([Exodus 31:14](#))?" If he is about to commit murder, it rebukes him, "Airhead! Don't you know it says 'Whoever sheds a man's blood, by man will his blood be shed' ([Genesis 9:6](#))?" If he is about to engage in a sexual sin, it rebukes him, "Airhead! Don't you know it says 'Both the adulterer and the adulteress will surely be put to death' ([Leviticus 20:10](#))?" (Avot d’Rabbi Natan 16).

#### From myjewishlearning.com

Yetzer hara is not a demonic force that pushes a person to do evil, but rather a drive toward pleasure or property or security, which if left unlimited, can lead to evil (cf. [Genesis Rabbah 9:7](#)). When properly controlled by the yetzer hatov, the yetzer hara leads to many socially desirable results, including marriage, business, and community.

#### R. Kalonymus Kalman Epstein of Cracow

The birth of the yetzer hatov does not make life easier; it makes life more difficult, at least for those who "desire to connect to God."

#### Sefer Akedat Yitzhak, 61

For the first 13 years of life, one rebels, but in the 14th year, the light of intelligence appears in him, and then he becomes bar mitzvah and subject to the punishment of a human court. Similarly, our sages, of blessed memory, hinted at this when they said, "On the evening of the 14th we search for *hametz* [leaven] by the light of a candle" (Mishnah Pesachim 1:1)

#### Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto (the RaMCHaL)

"Man is the creature created for the purpose of being drawn close to G-d. He is placed between perfection and deficiency, with the power to earn perfection. Man must earn this perfection, however, through his own free will...

Man's inclinations are therefore balanced between good [Yetzer Hatov] and evil [Yetzer Hara], and he is not compelled toward either of them. He has the power of choice and is able to choose either side knowingly and willingly..."

#### Talmud Tractate Kiddushin 30b

הקב"ה אמר להם לישראל: בני, בראתי יצר הרע ובראתי לו תורה תבלין, ואם אתם עוסקים בתורה -  
אין אתם נמסרים בידו

"So said the Holy One, blessed be he, to Israel: 'My son I created the Yetzer Hara and I created for it the Torah as an antidote. If you toil in Torah you will not be handed over into his hands...'"

Lesson Plan 3  
Yetzer Ha'Rah & Yetzer HaTov

**Watch short clip of Inside Out** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oauGmJ52XmM>

**Discussion –**

Where does your personality come from?

What makes you a kind person? What makes you mean? Cranky? Patient?

**Review Source Sheet.**

**Personality Test** – If time permits