

From the time we are born every one of us has two natures inside us, one dark and one light, or more accurately one carnal and one spiritual. The ancient Hebrews called these two sides of ourselves the Yetzer Hara and the Yetzer Tov, the evil inclination and the good. But evil and good are most often viewed by us in a Greco Roman perspective and understanding.

In Hebrew, these two are much more accurately thought of as all that is right and true and proper verses that which is the absence, distortion, or remnants thereof.

In Templar lore, these two natures of man were represented by two beasts, one black and one white.

The black beast is named Lupus, and he is a three headed wolf with a serpent in place of a tail. Each of his vicious heads has a name - Sarx, Opthalmos, and Alazon - representing the primary temptations of souls - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life - While the serpent tail is named Autheides, self confidence or self reliance.



The white beast is named Leo, and he is described as being a lion, or a creature with the fore parts of a lion and the hind parts of a ram, and he is said to have ram's horns or eagles wings or both.

It is said that in our infancy Lupus, the Yetzer Hara is fully grown while Leo, the Yetzer Tov is but a cub. And while it is true that the one we feed grows stronger, it's also somewhat of a misnomer because both natures are meant to be fed.

In simple terms our two natures, the two beasts are good and evil, but good and evil are not so simple concepts as typically portrayed. It is perhaps more appropriate to assign these two sides of ourselves the labels of spiritual and carnal rather than good and evil as it is more to the point. Both animals represent our dual natures but they are not equals. As mentioned, Lupus, our carnal side, dominates in infancy. It will never grow larger nor stronger than it was when we were born but may indeed grow more wild and more hungry. If fed alone and neglected, in adulthood, though no stronger than it was in our childhood, the black wolf will dominate our nature with the white lion beast but still a cub, never given what it needs to grow and mature and keep the dark side in check.

But many also make the mistake of starving the darkness, feeding only the light side. Though this is often taught as wisdom it is equally as foolish as never attending to this animal at all. Man is made of two natures, good and evil, or spiritual and carnal. And he is meant to be so. Both fed and tended, neither starved nor neglected.

And what these two beasts eat is time. Six portions for the Lion, and one portion for the Wolf. The work days of labor are common and carnal but not for their own ends. These

are for the one holy day, the physical done for the purpose of the spiritual. And the one day remembered and guarded as what satisfies all the hunger of our hearts. One must feed both beasts and they must be fed their proper fair. Anything else is fatal. Should we starve Lupus, he will only grow ravenously hungry and when fed again, shall devour us whole. And if we avoid feeding Leo, we will be all sold for this world and devoured all the same. And despite what desperate preachers have said over the centuries, one of the worst things to do is fight our evil inclination. Other than the fact it's part of us and so we are fighting ourselves, its three heads make it impossible. Even if we find ourselves winning we will be bitten by the serpent of self reliance and die. Leave the Lion to do the fighting for it is his function and he's fairly good at it. With his horns, Zakar and Shamar, he may help by fending off the Wolf and with his two wings, he may help us by rising above the black that we may be a blessing.

