



**MOM:** I don't know. But I'm feeling really lucky right now: My new job's at a really good business, we have a place to live that may not be much but you and I can afford it now, and this town has great schools so that you can get a real education and build a good life for yourself when you grow up—college, a first-class career, everything.

**ABBY:** I know ... but still ... it hurts ... (MOM and ABBY hug each other, both looking tired and down.)

**SCENE 2:** **At School, in a Hallway**

(A group of fashionably dressed students, including JUDY and EMILY and STUDENTS 1-4 are gathered in the hallway between their class periods. HARI (shorthand for Yetser Ha-ra, and introduced to the congregation a few minutes after HARI's first appearance) moves freely among the STUDENTS. ABBY is in the hallway also, but alone, standing across the stage from the rest of the Actors. EMILY, though standing near the STUDENTS + JUDY, is really more of a bystander at the start of this scene.)

**NARRATOR 1:** We're at Abby's school now. There's Abby over there alone.

**NARRATOR 2:** And over there are some other kids.

**STUDENT 1:** (Pointing across the stage in ABBY's direction.) What's with the new kid?

**STUDENT 2:** She is so lame! (HARI pats STUDENT 2 on the back, approvingly.)

**STUDENT 3:** Yeah, look what she's wearing!!! Like she doesn't have a penny to her name! (HARI high-fives STUDENT 3.)

**STUDENT 4:** Her jeans are so, like you know—Wal-Mart! It must be hard to be that clueless. (HARI gives a thumbs up.) (All STUDENTS laugh loudly. HARI, laughing, pats them on the back.)

**JUDY:** No wonder no one wants to be seen with her! (HARI looks firm, hands on hips.)



**STUDENT 1:** Well just ignore her and maybe she'll go away! (HARI folds arms.)

**STUDENT 2:** Yeah, anyone hanging out with her is going to be out as far as any in-group here is concerned. (HARI now looks really excited. HARI moves over to EMILY next. Meanwhile, ABBY exits looking really dejected.)

**EMILY:** (Pushing HARI away.) Aren't you being way harsh with her?

**STUDENT 4:** So you're going to be buying your own stuff at Wal-Mart now too?

**JUDY:** Yeah, that would be funny... (Looking EMILY up and down.) You know, Wal-Mart jeans might just look good on you... (EMILY gives a nasty look to JUDY, as HARI returns to EMILY's side.)

**JUDY:** Just kidding, Emily. Even you couldn't look that scruffy!

**EMILY:** (Still looking angry but with a little smile now.) Yeah, ... right!  
(JUDY and STUDENTS 1-5 exit; EMILY freezes; HARI looks all around the stage and at the congregation, looking very much in control and imperious.)

**NARRATOR 3:** Who is that next to Emily?

**NARRATOR 4:** Why, don't you recognize Hari?! You should because Hari is part of all of us. (HARI bows to the congregation.)

**NARRATOR 3:** So who is this Hari who you say is part of all of us?

**NARRATOR 4:** Hari represents an impulse that is within all of us. That impulse has the full name of Yetser Ha-ra in Jewish tradition. We call it Hari here for short. It's that energetic impulse that is within every person that provides drive and also reflects creative forces within us but that can also turn to bad, and even evil, if not well controlled by one's Yetser Tov, the impulse within all of us to do good. That impulse to do good is cultivated through study, prayer, reflection, and the actual doing of good, especially through helping others. While the Yetser Ha-ra impulse is played by a person here whom we call Hari, remember that it's not really a person but, instead, a feeling inside each of us.





**NARRATOR 3:** So how do we know when and how it's influencing us?

**NARRATOR 4:** Well, we just saw Hari in action a minute ago. Now let's take another minute to watch Hari in action again. This time, we're not at school but at a youth group meeting at church instead. Imagine that this is taking place in our own Youth Group meeting room. Let's listen in.

**SCENE 3:** **In the Youth Group Meeting Room**

(YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS are gathered with their two PASTORS or YOUTH GROUP LEADERS, referenced simply as "LEADER" in the script below. All are seated, listening to individual SPEAKERS, older youth group members or adults in the congregation, talk about their own outreach experiences for 30 seconds apiece. HARI—pantomiming, not speaking, approaches each YOUTH GROUP MEMBER.)

**NARRATOR 4:** (Pointing.) There are the two youth group leaders. Pay special attention also to Hari!

**NARRATOR 3:** And listen to what some of the high school youth group members are telling this younger youth group about their actual experiences. Here are two of them telling a little about that work now.

**SPEAKER 1:** (From the podium where the NARRATORS have been speaking, looking to the YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS and the congregation.) Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, as most of you know, and I'm in our high school youth group. I'm going to tell you about \_\_\_\_\_ (an outreach trip or project) and what the experience has meant to me.... (Tells his/her story.) Now, let me turn it over to our second speaker who most of you know.

**SPEAKER 2:** (Also speaking from the podium and looking to the YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS and the congregation.) Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, as most of you know, and I'm also in our high school youth group. I'm going to tell you about \_\_\_\_\_ (an outreach trip or project) and what the experience has meant to me.... (Tells his/her story.)



**LEADER 1:** (Standing.) Many thanks to both of our speakers for their excellent presentations! We hope you'll think about being part of some of our outreach programs yourselves and maybe even think up some new ones of your own.

**LEADER 2:** We can help you do that, if you'd like. Pick an area that really speaks to you. Any thoughts?

**PETER:** (HARI moves over to PETER, but PETER brushes HARI off.) Yeah. Some of the kids at our school really need to hear about this stuff. All they think about is getting the latest clothes and electronic gear and having the best parties.

**LEADER 1:** So, Peter, you want to try to raise consciousness of these problems at school?

**LEADER 2:** Sounds like a very good idea. What do the rest of you think about that? (HARI moves among the YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS who look interested in what the LEADERS and PETER have said but still skeptical. HARI gets close to JAY, tapping his shoulder.)

**JAY:** Sounds kind of crazy to me. (HARI nods approvingly.)

**JAY:** At least here at church we can talk about this stuff and not get laughed at by our friends. At school, kids would think that we were do-good jerks. (HARI smiles broadly.)

**JAY:** Not only wouldn't we accomplish anything, but we'd look like idiots for just trying to talk about this stuff!

**LEADER 1:** Do the rest of you feel the way Jay just described? (HARI now moves actively among the other YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS, except for PETER, whispering to each YOUTH GROUP MEMBER who in turn shuffle their feet and squirm in their seats; they avoid looking at the LEADERS.)  
(YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS and LEADERS freeze.)

**NARRATOR 4:** Notice anything?





**NARRATOR 3:** Yeah. Hari seems to be having an impact on each of the youth.

**NARRATOR 4:** That's right, and not for the good. The good impulse is Yetser Tov. We call it Tovi, but we're not showing it here. So, while Tovi is always around just like Hari, we're focusing on Hari right now.

**NARRATOR 3:** So what exactly is Hari doing? Is it really bad or evil?

**NARRATOR 4:** It's not exactly as we usually think of evil. Hari is an impulse that works in a lot of ways, and right now it's just being discouraging.

**NARRATOR 3:** What do you mean?

**NARRATOR 4:** Sometimes what Hari does is just make us believe that something good can't be accomplished because it's never been done before, or it's too hard, or too much work, or too unlikely to succeed, or even potentially too embarrassing for us as we think we are seen by our friends and others.

**NARRATOR 3:** Okay. I think I get it. So let's watch some more and see what happens next. (HARI continues to hover around each of the YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS, except for PETER.)

**LEADER 2:** Let's see how our high school youth group speakers feel about what Peter and Jay have just said.

**SPEAKER 1:** It's not easy but it can be done. Each of us in the high school youth group can tell you that.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah, you just have to think through what you are doing and explain it well. (HARI shakes his head "no" while getting agitated.)

**SPEAKER 1:** Sure, some people will tease you about it in a mean way, but others will quietly respect you for it.

**SPEAKER 2:** And some will even come out in support of what you are doing and actually help you. (HARI, looking positively discouraged, keeps on moving around and whispering to YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS. None of them speaks up, and all of them look uncomfortable.)

