Demonic Desires

Yetzer Hara and the Problem of Evil in Late Antiquity

Ishay Rosen-Zvi

PENN

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

PHILADELPHIA

Contents

Introduction. The Riddle, or: How Did the Evil *Yetzer* Become a Mighty King? 1

Chapter 1. "The Torah Spoke Regarding the *Yetzer*": Tannaitic Literature 14

Chapter 2. Yetzer and Other Demons: Patristic Parallels 36

Chapter 3. Yetzer at Qumran: Proto-Rabbinic? 44

Chapter 4. Coming of Age: Amoraic Yetzer 65

Chapter 5. Refuting the *Yetzer*: The Limits of Rabbinic Discursive Worlds 87

Chapter 6. Sexualizing the Yetzer 102

Chapter 7. Weak Like a Female, Strong Like a Male: *Yetzer* and Gender 120

Afterword: Toward a Genealogy of the Rabbinic Subject 127

Notes 135

Bibliography 215

Subject Index 239

Source Index 243

Acknowledgments 255