

# This is how it is, or is it?

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Although the intellect of a child is typically much weaker than that of an adult, the opposite is true when it comes to his imagination. We've all seen how powerful a child's imagination can be. They literally believe their thoughts to be an alternate reality.

In [Tinyana 8](#), [Rebbe Nachman](#) says that the key ingredient to true faith is a clear imagination. The intellect is limited by its knowledge. Faith only starts where the intellect can no longer go. By means of a pure imagination we can soar to heights of faith and come close to our Creator.

So often in our life we're faced with trying situations where we feel stuck. We don't believe that we can ever break out of *the cycle* that we find ourselves in. Whether it's a financial hole, a substance addiction or a bad job, we rack our brains exploring all the options to free ourselves, but we're left with that dejected feeling of "the same old me". I think this despondence comes from the opposite of imagination; cynicism. When we see a child lost is his imagination, it's

comical to us. We think it's ridiculous that the child can believe in something that we can't understand. We're too limited by our intellect. Our ego doesn't allow us to entertain something we don't know exists. But the sweet child is in touch with a force that catapults him to another world. He imagines. He believes.

The Rebbe goes on to say that the role of the true tzaddik is to refine our imagination. With his *ruach hakodesh* (Divine Spirit), he teaches us about faith and cultivates our imaginative faculty.

Says Reb Nosson ([Hilchos K'vod Rabo 3:6](#)), this is what's so bitter about the destruction of our Holy Temple. When the temple stood, there was a great spirit of prophecy. The tzaddikim drew down that Divine spirit and blew into our souls words of optimism that refined our imagination and enhanced our faith.

How sad that with so few true tzaddikim left, we feel stuck in a one dimensional world of repetition. Our only hope is to soak up their holy words and open our minds to another reality – The space of imagination, the world of faith.

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