Genesis 16:1

Genesis 16:1	
Avram (l/k/a Avraham) marked the passing of the tenth year since God promised to	וְשָׂרַי
enable him to father a son by way of Sarai (l/k/a Sarah), and was concerned as to why	
<i>Sarai</i> , his 75-year-old	
<i>wife</i> , had yet to conceive.	אֵשֶׁת
Avram could	אַבְרָם
not understand the nature of the impediment barring Sarai from motherhood	לא
and had no idea of God's rationale for barring her from bearing children. Sarai's	יָלְדָה
barrenness was a mystery	
to him. The onset of famine forced Avram and Sarai to journey from Canaan to Egypt to	לוֹ
procure food. Avram and Sarai encountered Pharaoh, ruler of Egypt who, upon seeing	
Sarai, had it in mind to engage her in intimate fashion. God interceded on Avram and	
Sarai's behalf by rendering Pharaoh impotent. Convinced that The God of Avram is	
superior to any of the gods he worships, and sorrowful for inflicting mental anguish	
upon Avram and Sarai, Pharaoh compensates Avram with tangible goods, livestock and	
servants. Pharaoh envisions his daughter procreating with Avram,	
and conscripts Hagar to serve her (Sarai). As a means of facilitating the unification and	וְלָה
procreation between Avram and Hagar, Pharaoh designates his daughter to serve as	
Sarai's	
<i>maidservant</i> . Pharaoh introduces his	שִׁפְחָה
<i>Egyptian</i> daughter to Avram and Sarai	מָצְרִית
and after citing her transition from Egyptian princess to Sarai's servant, tells them her	וּשְׁמָה
name is	
`Hagar'.	ָדָגָר
Genesis 16:2	
During her ten years of subordination, Hagar witnesses her mistress Sarai (l/k/a Sarah)	וַהּאֹמֶר
bemoaning her inability to transition into the procreative vessel through which Avram	
(l/k/a Avraham) fathers the child God destined him to father. Desperate to procreate,	
Sarai intends to implore Avram to pray to God (a/k/a AdoShem) (Ruler of the Universe)	
on her behalf, <i>and</i> to achieve her procreative objective, <i>says</i>	
Sarai	שָׂרַי
to	אָל
Avram,	אַבְרָם
"Behold and listen to me	הּבָּה
<i>please!</i> I believe	נָא
<i>He keeps me</i> from procreating because of my failure to ascend to an acceptable level of	אַצַרַנִי
spirituality. Through fault of my own,	
AdoShem prevents me	יְהוָה
from bearing your children. Perhaps God will enable me to procreate if I sanction a	מָלֶּדֶת
marriage between Hagar and you. Marry Hagar,	
go into her tent and conceive a child.	בא
Please marry Hagar and conceive a child with her. Cleave	נָא
<i>unto</i> Hagar,	אָל
my maidservant and	שׁפְחָתִי
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

my maidservant and *perhaps* God will recognize my goodwill gesture of sanctioning the procreative union between Hagar and you as an augmentation of my spiritual growth and allow me to

אוּלַי

become the procreative vessel through which you may father the child God destined	
you to father. If, in His infinite wisdom, God had reason to tear down my womb, then	
perhaps He	
can find a reason to build it up. If you have progeny	אָבָנֶה
through her (Hagar), perhaps God will enable me to conceive a child." Avram	מִמֶּנְה
contemplates fathering a child with his wife's maidservant,	
<i>and</i> having determined that his wife's request is prophetic, <i>complies</i> by having intimate	וַיָּשְׁמַע
relations with Hagar.	
Avram paid heed	אַבְרָם
<i>to</i> the <i>voice</i> of	לְקוֹל
Sarai urging him to procreate with her maidservant, and agreed to marry and attempt	יָּיָרַי יָּשָׂרַי
to conceive a child with Hagar.	
Genesis 16:3	
Sarai (l/k/a Sarah) believed that allowing Hagar to become Avram's (l/k/a Avraham)	וּתִקַּח
second wife and conceive a child by way of Avram might be the means by which God	
looks favorably upon her goodwill gesture, renders her fertile, and enables her to	
conceive a child by way of Avram. Sarai is intent upon informing Hagar of her pending	
procreative union with Avram, and takes Hagar aside.	
Sarai, the	שַׂרַי
wife of	<u>ַּיַ</u> אֵשֵׁת
Avram, speaks	• *
with	אַבְרָם אית
	אָת
Hagar,	<u>הָגָר</u>
<i>the Egyptian</i> daughter of Pharaoh. Ten years earlier, Pharaoh conscripted his daughter	הַמִּצְרִית
into becoming	
her (Sarai's) maidservant, and hoped that Avram would marry and procreate with her.	שָׁפְחָתָה
Sarai knew that if,	
at the end of	מִקֵּץ
ten	עֶשֶׂר
<i>years</i> , she is unable to bear children then it would be incumbent upon her husband to	שָׁנִים
choose an additional wife through which to procreate. Avram had been Sarai's husband	
for more than ten years, but since God promised to make Avram a great nation in His	
holy land of Canaan, the ten-year span God gave them to procreate began when Avram	
took up residence in Canaan. Prior to enabling Avram and Sarai to procreate, God	
recognizes the necessity for them	
to live in Canaan for ten years. The inability to procreate plagues	לְשֶׁבֶת
Avram and Sarai all the while they reside	אַכְרָם
in the land of	<u>בּאָר</u> ץ
Canaan. ¹⁵⁴ Believing her goodwill gesture of enabling Avram and Hagar to procreate	ַּבָּעַן כְּנָעַן
might convince God to render her fertile, Sarah unites Hagar with Avram. Sarai	1
encounters Hagar	
and gives	رنوترا
her leave	<u>וניטין</u> אֹתָה
to marry Avram,	לְאַבְרָם

¹⁵⁴ Ten years.

<i>her husband</i> . Believing she needs divine intervention to bear children, Sarai gives Hagar	אָישָׁה
leave	÷ .
<i>to</i> marry <i>him</i> (Avram). Sarai hopes Hagar,	לוֹ
as Avram's second wife, will conceive and give birth to Avram's first offspring, and	לְאִשָׁה
prays to God that her goodwill gesture convinces Him that she too is worthy of bearing	
Avram's children.	
Genesis 16:4	
Avram (I/k/a Avraham) believes Sarai's (I/k/a Sarah) prophetic insight reflects the will of	וַיָּבֹא
God as regards to the manner in which God will enable her to conceive the child He	
destined Avram to father. Avram agrees to marry and attempt to conceive a child with	
Hagar. Avram had it in mind to initiate intimate relations with Hagar, <i>and</i> to achieve his	
procreative objective, <i>went</i>	
<i>to</i> the tent where	אָל
Hagar resided, had intimate relations with her,	הָגָר
and she conceived. With the passing of time, Hagar becomes self-aware of bodily	וַתַּהַר
changes,	
and upon realizing	וַהֵּרָא
that	רִּי
she is pregnant, castigates Sarai's barrenness and exalts Avram's viable seed.	הָרָתָה
Subservient to Sarai for ten years, Hagar envisions her pregnancy as the means by	
which to elevate herself above Sarai and assume the role as Avram's primary wife.	
During her ten-year tenure as Sarai's servant, Hagar masks her contempt toward Sarai,	
and after she becomes pregnant by Avram, openly begins to despise	וַתַּקַל
her mistress. In addition to despising Sarai	גְּבִרְתָּה
with her eyes, Hagar spews forth words denigrating Sarai in the presence of visitors	רְּצֵינֶיהָ
motivated to bask in the presence of Sarai's legendary beauty. ¹⁵⁵	
Genesis 16:5	
Sarai (I/k/a Sarah) intends s to implore Avram (I/k/a Avraham) to punish Hagar for her	וַתּאׁמֶר
insubordination, and to achieve her objective, says	
Sarai	שָׂרַי
to	אָל
Avram, "Hagar flaunts her pregnancy and belittles my barrenness. Hagar has	אַבְרָם
wronged me. I place blame	חַמָסי
upon you for failing to implore God (a/k/a AdoShem) (Ruler of the Universe) to bring	עָּלֶידָ
about an end to my perpetual childlessness. Unable to provide you with children,	
/ allowed my maidservant to marry you and serve as a vessel of procreation.	אָנֹכִי
<i>l put</i> my	נָֿתַתִּי
maidservant	שׁפְחָתִי
<i>in your arms</i> and hoped God would reward my goodwill gesture by enabling my womb	<u>ה</u> ָתֵיאָך
to become a vessel of procreation. Hagar perceives her pregnancy as an elevation of	
her status,	

¹⁵⁵ Hagar's pregnancy emboldens her to end her subservience to Sarai (I/k/a Sarah). Sarai reacts contemptuously toward Hagar's rejection of her authority. After becoming pregnant with Avram's (I/k/a Avraham) child, Hagar believes *she* should take Sarai's place as Avram's primary wife.

and now she sees me in an inferior light. Hagar fancies herself my superior	וַהַּרָא
because	כִּי
<i>she is pregnant.</i> That former Egyptian princess has been a member of our household for	הָרָתָה
ten years,	
<i>and</i> after becoming pregnant by you, <i>I find myself despised</i> by her. My words fail to convince you that Hagar harbors ill will toward me. Look	וָאַקַל
<i>in her eyes</i> to determine if her countenance reflects that which is in her heart. Because you failed pray to God on my behalf, I say unto God,	רְּעֵינֶיהָ
<i>May He judge</i> my infertility as a wrong needing to be set right and enable me to conceive your child. May	יִשְׁפֿט
AdoShem judge my infertility as a wrong needing to be set right and undo the inability to procreate that exists	יְהוָה
between me	בֵּינִי
and between you". ¹⁵⁶	<u>ובינֶי</u> ך
Genesis 16:6	
Avram (I/k/a Avraham) acts upon Sarai's (I/k/a Sarah) complaint of Hagar's insubordination by observing Hagar's interaction with her, <i>and</i> when he sees Hagar disrespecting Sarai, <i>said</i>	וַיּאמֶר
Avram	אַבְרָם
to	<u>- ייָ</u> אַל
Sarai, "Upon	<u>ש</u> ָׂרַי
beholding Hagar,	<u>הנ</u> ה
your maidservant, my second wife and the bearer of my yet-to-be-born child, I perceived an air of superiority and disrespect toward you. Hagar's fate is	ײַ ^ײ ָפְחָמַד
in your hands.	<u>ה</u> וֹבָרָ
Do	<u>ע</u> שי
unto her as she has done unto you or benignly correct her behavior by drawing upon	<u></u> לַה
the goodness within. Discipline your subordinate if Hagar's behavior engenders anger	הַטוֹב
<i>in your eyes."</i> Sarai thinks about the manner in which to deal with Hagar's insubordination,	<u>הְצֵינָי</u> ָר
and the next time she encounters Hagar, verbally mistreats and physically afflicts her by imposing endless tasks involving hard labor.	וַתְּעַנֶּהָ וַתְּעַנֶּהָ
Sarai punishes Hagar with verbal abuse and the imposition of hard labor. Hagar endures Sarai's verbal abuse and carries out the physically demanding tasks Sarai imposes upon her. Hagar holds Sarai in contempt because of Sarai's inability to become pregnant. Perceiving no end to the strife between her and Sarai, Hagar takes the initiative	<u>ײַׂר</u> י
and runs away. Hagar ran away because she could no longer tolerate Sarai's mistreatment and infliction of mental cruelty emanating	וּאַבְרַח

¹⁵⁶ Growing intolerable toward Sarai's (I/k/a Sarah) abuse, Hagar runs away from Avram's (I/k/a Avraham) camp. Hagar encounters an angel admonishing her to return to and conceive a child with Avram. Knowing she is carrying Avram's child in her womb, a perplexed Hagar wonders why the angel speaks of her pregnancy as a future occurrence. Upon returning to Avram's camp, Hagar falls victim to Sarai's 'evil eye' curse and miscarries before conceiving a second time and giving birth to Avram's firstborn son Yishmael (Ishmael).

from her face.	מִפָּנֶיהָ
Genesis 16:7	
Hagar ends Sarai's (I/k/a Sarah) abuse by running away from Avram's (I/k/a Avraham) camp. God (a/k/a AdoShem) (Ruler of the Universe) had it in mind to counsel Hagar as regards to the fate He envisions for her, <i>and</i> to achieve His objective, dispatches an angel to do His bidding. When <i>he finds her</i> , that	<u>וּי</u> ּמְצָאָה
<i>angel</i> sent by	מַלְאַדְ
AdoShem, is intent upon doing God's will by interacting with her. The angel encountered Hagar	יְהוָה
by a	עַל
fountain of	צין
<i>the water</i> situated	הַמַּיִם
<i>in the wilderness</i> . Hagar's encounter with an angel occurred	<u>ה</u> ּמִדְ נ ָר
by	עַל
the fountain of water one would find if one were	הָעַי <u>ָ</u> ן
on the way to	ڂؘؗػۛۯٮڮ
<i>`Shur'</i> . An angel of God appeared before	שוּר
Genesis 16:8	
and said,	וַיּאמַר
"Hagar,	ָהָגָר
maidservant to	שָׁפְחַת
Sarai (I/k/a Sarah),	שָׂרַי
where are you going? Tell me why you ran away	אַי
from there (Avram's (I/k/a Avraham) camp). I know	מָזֶה
you came from Avram's camp	בָאת
and implore you to tell me where	ַרְאָנָה
you are going." Hagar felt obliged to answer the angel's question	תֵלֵכִי
and said, "I ran away from Avram's camp because I needed to distance myself	וַתּאמֶר
<i>from</i> the angry <i>face</i> of	מִפְּנֵי
Sarai,	שָׂרַי
my mistress.	גְּבְרְתִּי
/ am	אָנֹכִי
running away from Sarai because I can no longer endure her mistreatment."	בּרַחַת
Genesis 16:9	
After dispatching the first angel to interact with Hagar, God (a/k/a AdoShem) (Ruler of the Universe) sends another angel to interact with her, <i>and</i> instructs him to <i>say</i>	וַיּאמֶר
<i>to her</i> that which God is intent upon her hearing. The second of four	לָ <i>ה</i>
angels sent by	מַלְאַד
AdoShem says to Hagar,	יְהוָה
"Go back	שוּרִי
to	אָל
your mistress	גְּבִרְתֵּך
<i>and submit</i> to her will and respect her authority. You are to cower in Sarai's (I/k/a Sarah) presence. You must convince Sarai that you are	וְהָתְעַנִּי
under her authority and subject to punishment meted out by	עֿעֿע

<i>her hands</i> if you commit another act of insubordination. You must submit yourself to	ָיָדֶי הָ
Sarai's will and authority. You must be prepared to absorb all manner of suffering Sarai,	
your mistress, may deem fit to inflict upon you."	
Genesis 16:10	
After dispatching the second angel to interact with Hagar, God (a/k/a AdoShem) (Ruler	וַיּאׁמֶר
of the Universe) sends and instructs a third angel to say	
to her that which God is intent upon her hearing. The third of four	לָה יליייי
angels sent by	מַלְאַדְ
AdoShem says to Hagar, "God intends	יְהוָה
to increase the world's population. God told me to tell you,	הַרְבָּה
<i>'I will</i> significantly <i>increase</i> the world's population by enabling you to become the	אַרְבָּה
progenitrix of many nations. I will bless you	
with many	אֶת
offspring,	<u>זַרְעֵ</u> ך
and no one will be able	וְלֹא
to count the number of progeny whose bloodline traces back to you. A declaration	יָסָפֵר
from the multitudes shall recognize you as the maternal progenitor and Avram (I/k/a	מֵרֹב
Avraham) as the paternal progenitor of many nations." ¹⁵⁷	
Genesis 16:11	
After dispatching the second angel to interact with Hagar, God (a/k/a AdoShem) (Ruler	וַיּאמֶר
of the Universe) sends and instructs a fourth angel to say	
<i>to her</i> that which God is intent upon her hearing. The fourth of four	לָה לָה
angels sent by	מַלְאַד
AdoShem says to Hagar,	יְהוָה
"Behold and listen to me. You will miscarry while	<u> </u>
you are pregnant because Sarai (l/k/a Sarah) will cast an evil eye upon you. God has	הָרָה
destined you to become the procreative vessel through which Avram (I/k/a Avraham) is	
the father. You must return to Avram's camp and resume having intimate relations	
with him. For a second time, you will become pregnant by Avram,	
and you will give birth to a	וּילַדְתִּ
son,	ڌَا
and you shall call him 'Yishmael' (Ishmael).	וְקָרָאת
<i>His name</i> will be	שְׁמוֹ
<i>Yishmael'</i> . God sent His angels to you	יִשְׁמָעֵאל
because	כּי
He heard your anguished cries.	שָׁמַע
AdoShem is bringing about an end	יְהוָה
to your suffering and	אָל
your poverty. God will ensure that you bear Avram's child,	עָנְיֵה
Genesis 16:12	
and he shall be named 'Yishmael' (Ishmael).	ןהוּא

¹⁵⁷ This prophetic statement refers to the first nation to issue forth from Yishmael's (Ishmael) loins. This prophetic statement also refers to the issuing forth of subsequent nations from Avram (I/k/a Avraham) and Hagar who reunite and procreate after Sarai's (I/k/a Sarah) death (Genesis 25:1). Sometime after fathering six more children with Hagar (Genesis 25:2), Avram disassociates and dispatches them the east where they establish nations of their own (Genesis 25:6).

<i>He</i> (Yishmael) <i>will become</i> known as the one who comports himself in the manner of a	יָהְגֶה
wild donkey. Rejecting the notion of comporting himself as a civilized	פֶרָא
man, Yishmael will prefer living and hunting in the wilderness. Yishmael will steal that	אָדָם
which honest men acquire through toil. Yishmael will acquire ill-gotten gains by	
his own hand. Yishmael will take up arms	יַדוֹ
against everyone	בַכּל
and force the hand of	וְיַד
everyone wronged by him to turn	כּל
against him. Yishmael's enemies will seek revenge	ia
and take up arms against him. Yishmael's misdeeds will engender a downcast	וְעַל
countenance upon the	
faces of	פְּנֵי
all	ç۲
his relatives.	אֶחָיו
He (Yishmael) will dwell in the wilderness of Paran to maintain safe distance from his	יִשְׁכּוֹ
enemies."	
Genesis 16:13	
The recipient of prophetic messages from four of God's (a/k/a AdoShem) (Ruler of the	וַתִּקְרָא
Universe) angels, Hagar is eager to interact with God, <i>and</i> to achieve her objective, <i>calls</i>	
out the	
name of	שֵׁם
AdoShem Whom she believes is	יְהוָה
the One speaking	הַדֹּבֵר
<i>to her</i> through His angels. Hagar says to God, "Are	אַלֶיהָ
" <i>You</i> , The	אַתָּה
God	אַל
Who saw me in a state of distress and dispatched angels to aid and comfort? We	רָאִי
(Yishmael (Ishmael) and I) are alive	
<i>because</i> You dispatched angels to provide aid and comfort." Hagar waits for God to	Ęŗ
reply, and with no reply forthcoming,	
says, "Are the angels You had interact with Avram	אָמְרָה
the same angels who interacted with me	הָגַם
here? Are the angels	הַלֹם
I have seen here the same angels entrusted to look	רָאִיתִי
after him (Avram)? Please acknowledge if You are The	אַחֲרֵי
One Who saw me in a state of distress and dispatched angels to aid and comfort."	ראָי
Genesis 16:14	
Although she does not receive a reply from God, Hagar knows she has been the	עַל
recipient of God's revelations. Hagar wants to memorialize the site where she	
encountered four of God's angels, and <i>for</i>	
this reason,	כַּז
calls it 'Be'er Lachai Ro'i' (The Well of the Living One Who sees me). Hagar ascribes	קָרָא
holiness	
<i>to the well</i> and names it	לַבְּאֵר
'Be'er	רְאֵר
Lachai	לַחַי
<i>Ro'i'</i> . After naming the holy site, Hagar thought, "I named this well 'Be'er Lachai Ro'i'	ראָי
because it is the site where I	

<i>beheld</i> and received prophetic insight from God's angels. Inspired by my encounter with	הנה
the angels of The God of Avram (I/k/a Avraham), I will encourage my progeny to make	
pilgrimages to and draw inspiration from this holy site situated	
between	בֵין
Kadeish	קַדֵשׁ
and between	וּבֵין
Bared."	<u>הָ</u> רָד
Genesis 16:15	
After returning to Avram's (l/k/a Avraham) encampment, Hagar declares her allegiance	וֿשֿלָד
and subservience to Sarai (I/k/a Sarah). Hagar resumes having intimate relations with	
Avram, <i>and</i> in the year 1727 b.c.e. (2034 years after creation), <i>gives birth to</i> a child.	
Hagar gave birth to the first child ever fathered by Avram. God had given	הָגָר
<i>to Avram</i> the ability to father his first child (a	לְאַבְרָם
son) who entered into this world with His blessing. Avram is intent upon naming his son	ڌَا
and to achieve his objective, calls him 'Yishmael' (Ishmael) (God will hear). Absent	וַיָּקְרָא
when one of God's angels informed Hagar of her impending motherhood and	
subsequent birth of a son named 'Yishmael',	
Avram	אַבְרָם
named	<u>י</u> שם
his son 'Yishmael'. Avram fathered the son	בּנוֹ
whom	אֵשֵׁר
she (Hagar) had given birth to, and named him 'Yishmael'. Hagar and Avram having	ַּיַרְדָה יְלְדָה
intimate relations was the means by which	***
Hagar conceived and gave birth to	הַגַר
Yishmael,	יִשְׁמָעֵאל
Genesis 16:16	
and Avram (I/k/a Avraham), 85 years	ואַבָרַם
old at the time of the conception of his firstborn, was	<u>ריי</u> בֵּן
eighty	<u>יי</u> שַׁמֹנִים
years	יי . שנה
and six	ַן שׁשׁ
years old when Hagar gave birth to Yishmael (Ishmael).	ן י ב שָׁנִים
<i>Giving birth</i> to Yishmael is the means by which Hagar convinces all that Avram's seed is	בָּל ֶדֶת
viable and Sarai's (l/k/a Sarah) womb is barren and incapable of germinating his viable	
seed. The intimate union between Avram and	
Hagar resulted in the birth of Yishmael. The establishment of the viability of Avram's	הָגָר
seed coincided	ι ζ ιτ
with the birth of	אָת
Yishmael, the first son	<u>אָזי</u> יִשִׁמַעֵאל
to issue forth from the loins of Avram. ¹⁵⁸	ַשְׁכָּוּגַא <i>ּי</i> לְאַבְרָם
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¹⁵⁸ The Torah cites Avram's (I/k/a Avraham) exact age to document his and Yishmael's (Ishmael)) age at the time they underwent circumcision (a God-ordained prerequisite a male must undergo prior to entering into a covenant with God).