

MOTIVATION!

Background

The Siforno is teaching us that Sarah was giving Hagar to Avraham as a ploy to make herself jealous. When she would see Hagar having a child, she would be jealous of Hagar, and that would add to her motivation. She hoped that that extra motivation would move her to the level that she would be *zoche* to have children.

Questions

Sarah Imeinu knew that Avraham was to be the father of the Jewish nation. She wasn't sure that she was *zoche* to be the woman who would bring that about. She had sat childless for countless years. From the fact that she planned out this strategy to make herself jealous, we clearly see that she assumed that she was "lacking in merit," and therefore was as of yet not on the level to have a child with Avraham. It is hard to imagine a woman more motivated than she. From a basic human perspective, she wished to have a child. But even more, this was her one opportunity to become the mother of the Jewish nation, arguably one of the greatest accomplishments a woman could ever achieve. If she recognized that she needed more motivation, wouldn't that alone be sufficient to motivate her to make herself more worthy? Why would she need to actually give her maid-servant to Avraham?

ספר בראשית פרק טז

א וְשָׂרִי אֵשֶׁת אַבְרָם לֹא יָלְדָה לוֹ וְלֵאמֹר שְׂפָחָה מִצְרִית וְשָׂמָה הָגָר
 ב וְתֹאמֶר שָׂרִי אֶל אַבְרָם הִנֵּה נָא עֲצָרְנִי יְדוּד מִלְּדַת בָּא נָא אֶל שְׂפָחָתִי אוּלַי אֲבִנָּה מִמֶּנָּה וַיִּשְׁמַע אַבְרָם לְקוֹל שָׂרִי

And Sarah, the wife of Avraham, didn't give birth, and she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar. And Sarah said to Avraham, "Behold! HASHEM has held me back from giving birth; take my maidservant, and perhaps you will built from her." And Avraham listened to Sarah.

ספורנו עה"ת ספר בראשית פרק טז פסוק ב

אוּלַי אֲבִנָּה מִמֶּנָּה. אוּלַי הַקְנָא תַעוֹרֵר הַכַּח לַפְעוּלוֹתֶיךָ

Perhaps you will built from her- Perhaps jealousy will awaken the potential to the actual.