Vayera 5787

Bnei Yissaschar, Chodesh Adar 3:2

It appears [that one could answer his previously presented question] based on what I have written multiple times, the prohibition against investigation into belief (for a Jew). The essence of true service of Gd for a Jew is to believe because of tradition, for so our Creator promised us, saying to Avraham, “For yedativ, so that he will instruct his children… and they will guard the path of Gd.” The meaning of yedativ is “I have placed into him knowledge, from which it would flow to his children after him by instruction,” and belief would come to them as a natural inheritance.

Genesis Rabbah 53:11

Rabbi Akiva taught: “And Sarah saw… mitzachek” – Mitzachek refers only to immorality, as it is written… This means that our matriarch Sarah saw Yishmael lurk in gardens and catch men’s wives and rape them. Rabbi Yishmael taught: This language of tzchok can only mean idolatry, as it is written… This teaches that our matriarch Sarah saw Yishmael build altars and catch locusts and sacrifice them atop the altars. Rabbi Elazar, son of Rabbi Yosi haGlili, said: This language of tzchok can only mean bloodshed, as it is written… Rabbi Azaryah quoted Rabbi Levi: Yishmael said to Yitzchak, “Come let’s see our portion in the field.” And Yishmael took a bow and arrows and shot toward Yitzchak, pretending to be joking. As it isay… And I [Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai] say [tzchok] is a positive word: This language of tzchok can only mean inheritance. When our father Yitzchak was born, everyone was happy. Yishmael told them, “You fools! I am the firstborn, I take double!” From our matriarch Sarah’s answer to Avraham, “This maid’s son shall not inherit with my son,” you learn…

Sforno on Genesis 21:8-9

8) Making fun of the big party Avraham had given to mark the weaning of Yitzchok, He claimed that surely Sarah must have become pregnant from Avimelech. The reason he had not made such remarks already at the time when Yitzchok had been born, was because he had only overheard wicked gossip about this at a later stage, and now he repeated what he had heard.

9) Seeing that what the son did was at the instigation of his mother. He spread lies about Yitzchok’s legitimacy in order to establish a claim to your inheritance.

Ha'amek Davar on Gensis 21:6-10

"Gd has made a joke of me" – Justice has made me a joke, because "All who here will laugh to me" – meaning "from me," doubting that I birthed a child from Avraham. "And Avraham made a great feast" – To who everyone that the child was precious to him, as his son. But – "And Sarah saw… laughing" – Still creating doubt, saying there was no proof from this [party]; Avraham did it to satisfy his most beloved wife. This is why his words so affected her. "Chase away this maid and her son" – And so everyone will know that Yitzchak is your son, for a great man like Avraham would not chase away his only son for the sake of his wife's love.

Bavli Bava Batra 16b

Yishmael repented during his father's lifetime, as it is written, "And Yitzchak and Yishmael, his sons, buried him." But perhaps the Torah simply listed them based upon their wisdom? If that were true, then [at Yitzchak's burial] why did the Torah say, "And Esav and Yaakov, his sons, buried him?" Why did it not list them based upon their wisdom? Rather, from the fact that the text put Yitzchak first, Yishmael must have placed him first. We learn from here that he repented during his father's lifetime.