

A SHORT VORT

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ותאמר לאברהם גרש האמה הזאת ואת בנה... (כ"א:י)

"And she said to Avraham: Drive away this maidservant and her son.... (21:10)

Would it not have been wiser for Yishmael to remain and receive the same type of parental education that Yitzchak acquired? Perhaps, Yishmael would not have become the evil person that he later became?

The Chofetz Chaim (Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan 1838-1933) answers by saying that Sarah resolved that Yishmael would be a poor role model for Yitzchak. Thereby, leaving the only alternative, to send Yishmael away. While she realized that the opposite could occur of Yitzchak having a positive influence on Yishmael to leave his evil behavior, however, her prophetic perception advised her otherwise.

Avraham was hesitant and needed G-d to comply with Sarah's request of sending Yishmael away. The ability of evil becoming dominant is too great and cannot be risked.

- Shabbat Shalom