

# Sarah's Trials (2006 – 2008)

16 Paintings by Richard McBee

## Genesis of Project

Akeidah

Dura's Sarah

Abe gets up early

Bad marriage : A List

Smashing Idols / Venus

Sarah and Abraham's Dilemma

Sarah's Laughter / Rembrandt



Dura' s Sarah – 235 C.E.

## **Abe Gets Up Early Bad Marriage: A List**

Abraham gets nervous about his safety when entering Egypt and passes off his wife Sarah as his sister, resulting in her near rape by Pharaoh. (Genesis 12: 13 -17) He repeats this strategy upon entering Gerar with Avimelech and the same thing happens to Sarah. (Genesis 20: 2 - 6)

When the three strangers arrive at their tent, Abraham runs and tells Sarah to go fetch fine meal and make cakes, as if she didn't know how to welcome guests to her home. (Genesis 18:6)

Abraham is told by God (Genesis 16:18) that Sarah will miraculously have a child at 90 years of age and doesn't bother to pass this information on to Sarah. Subsequently when the three strangers tell her and Abraham that she will have a child she laughs and is castigated by God. (Genesis 18: 10 – 15)

God tells Abraham, take your son and offer him on the mountain. Abraham gets up early to sneak out of the house and doesn't tell Sarah what he is about to do with her only son. As a result once she finds out what almost occurred she dies of shock. (Genesis 22: 1 – 3)

Why?



Sarah's Trials  
16 Paintings by Richard McBee

Abraham's Conflict: Smashing Venus: Detail





Sarah Triumphs:

Sister Act  
(Entering Egypt)

Detail

Sarah Triumphs

Whip Angel Defends Sarah from  
Pharaoh & Avimelech:

Detail





## Sarah's Despair

*Just like that, Abraham went  
and had sex with her and she  
conceived a male child,  
Ishmael.*



Sarah Triumphs

Hagar is Expelled

Detail



Sarah Abandoned

Sarah Alone

Detail





## Isaac Returns

*I worried about my missing son  
and husband.*

*Then Isaac returned, shaken.*

*He told me Abraham almost  
slaughtered him on an altar to  
God.*

*I cried out and died.*



## Abraham Returns to Hagar

*Men have needs...so again Abraham took a wife and her name was Keturah.*

*This was Hagar. They had six children.*

*When he died he was buried next to me in the cave of Machpelah.*

