



The Banishment of Hagar and Ishmael

Date

ca. 1750

Primary Maker

Francesco Zuccarelli

Medium

oil on canvas

Description

The Banishment of Hagar depicts a well known story from the Old Testament, for centuries considered a rich source of artistic subject matter because of its drama and allegorical content. Hagar was the Egyptian hand-maiden of Sarah, the wife of the patriarch, Abraham. The older, barren, Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham, and the son who was born to them was Ishmael. Sarah, who eventually gave birth to Isaac, banished Hagar and Ishmael, after being insulted by the younger woman. After Hagar and Ishmael ran out of food and water, God intervened and saved them. Ishmael grew to manhood and became the father of twelve sons. The Islamic religion reveres him as a patriarch.

Dimensions

Sight: 11 3/4 x 16 7/8 in. (29.8 x 42.9 cm) Framed: 17 x 22 1/4 x 1 3/4 in. (43.2 x 56.5 x 4.4 cm)