

borrowed words came, we find that as-Suyūṭī,¹ whose classification is the most complete that has come down to us, divides them in the *Muta-wakkilī* into the following classes :—

- (i) Words borrowed from Ethiopic (لسان الحبشة)
- (ii) Words borrowed from Persian (اللغة الفارسية)
- (iii) Words borrowed from Greek (اللغة الرومية)
- (iv) Words borrowed from Indian (اللغة الهندية)
- (v) Words borrowed from Syriac (اللغة السريانية)
- (vi) Words borrowed from Hebrew (اللغة العبرانية)
- (vii) Words borrowed from Nabataean (اللغة النبطية)
- (viii) Words borrowed from Coptic (اللغة القبطية)
- (ix) Words borrowed from Turkish (اللغة التركية)
- (x) Words borrowed from Negro (اللغة الزنجية)
- (xi) Words borrowed from Berber (اللغة البربرية)

It is obvious at the first glance that much of this is mere guess-work, and equally obvious that the philologists whom as-Suyūṭī quotes had frequently very little conception of the meaning of the linguistic terms they use. It is necessary, therefore, to inquire a little more closely into what may have been meant by these terms and what may have been the possibilities of Arabic having drawn on any of these languages for religious and cultural vocabulary.

(i) *Abyssinian*.—Philologically, Ethiopic, the ancient language of Abyssinia, is the most closely related to Arabic of all the Semitic tongues ; Ethiopic and Arabic, with the languages of the S. Arabian

¹ Sprenger's list, " Foreign Words Occurring in the Qoran," in *JASB*, xxi (1852), pp. 109-114, is taken from his MS. of as-Suyūṭī's *Al-Muhaddhab*.