

The reference in xviii is to the boat used by Moses and al-Khiḍr, and in xxix to Noah's ark.

The lexicographers fancifully derive it from **سَفَنَ** to peel or pare (cf. *LA*, xvii, 72). This, however, is denominative from **سَفْنٌ** an adze, which itself is not an Arabic word but the Pers. **اِسْتَان** which passed into Arabic through **صحن**.<sup>1</sup> Guidi, *Della Sede*, 601, called attention to the fact that **سفينة** is a loan-word in Arabic, and the Semitic root is doubtless **ספן** to cover in, which we find in Akk. *sapannu* = concealment, Phon. **מספנת** a roof,<sup>2</sup> and Aram. **סִפֵּן**; Heb. **סִפֵּן** to cover.

The form **ספינה** occurs in Heb. in the story of Jonah (Jonah i, 5),<sup>3</sup> and in the Talmud and Targums **ספינא** and **ספינתא** are commonly used. Even more commonly used are the Syr. **ܣܦܝܢܐ** and **ܣܦܝܢܬܐ**, and as both the al-Khiḍr and Nūḥ stories of the Qur'ān seem to have developed under Christian influence we might suspect the word there to be a borrowing from Syriac. It occurs, however, in the old poetry, e.g. Imru'ul Qais xx, 4 (Ahlwardt, *Divans*, 128); *Div. Hudh*, xviii, 3, etc., so one cannot venture to say more than that it came from some Aram. source, as an early borrowing into Arabic.

**سَكَرَ** (*Sakar*).

xvi, 69.

Intoxicating drink.

With this should be associated all the other forms derived therefrom and connected with drunkenness, e.g. iv, 46; xv, 15, 72; xxii, 2. as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 321 (*Mutaw*, 40), tells us that some early authorities considered it an Ethiopic word. It is possible that the Eth. **ሰካራ** is the origin of the Arabic word, but the word is widely used in the Semitic languages, e.g. Akk. *šikaru* (cf. **שִׁכָּר**; **ܫܚܪܐ**), beer<sup>4</sup>; and Heb. **שִׁכָּר**; Aram. **ܫܚܪܐ**; Syr. **ܫܚܪܐ** date wine, and was borrowed into Egyptian,

<sup>1</sup> Vullers, *Lex*, i, 68; Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 216, 217.

<sup>2</sup> Lidzbarski, *Handbuch*, 330; Harris, *Glossary*, 127.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. the **ספינה** and **ספינתה** of the Elephantine papyri (Cowley, *Aramaic Papyri*, No. 26).

<sup>4</sup> Zimmern, *Akkad. Fremdw*, 39.