

سُوق (Sūq).

xxv, 8, 22.

A street.

It occurs only in the plu. أسواق referring to the streets of the city.

In later Arabic سوق normally means a *market place*, but in the Qur'ān it is used as the שוק of the O.T. and the Targums for *street*, in contradistinction to the Talmudic meaning of *broad place* or *market*.¹

The philologists derive it from ساق *to drive along* (LA, xii, 33), but Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 187, is doubtless right in thinking that it is a word taken over by the Arabs from more settled peoples.² The Aram. שוקא; Syr. ܫܘܩܐ commonly mean ὄδος, as well as ἀγορά, and in a Palmyrene inscription (De Vogüé, xv, 5) we read ܫܘܩܐ, showing that the word was known in N. Arabia.

From some early Mesopotamian source³ the word passed into Iranian, for we find the Phlv. ideogram 𐭮𐭥𐭥𐭥 *shōkā* meaning *market, public square, or forum*, whence comes the Judaeo-Persian 𐭮𐭥𐭥𐭥.⁴ From Syriac it passed also into Arm. as շուկ in the sense of *market*,⁵ and it may have been from Christian Aramaic that the word came into Arabic.

سِيمَا (Sīmā).

ii, 274; vii, 44, 46; xlvii, 32; xlviii, 29; lv, 41.

Sign, mark, token.

A majority of the Muslim authorities take the word from سام, of which Form II سَوَّمَ means *to mark* or *brand* an animal, and Form V تَسَوَّمَ *to set a mark on*. These, however, are denominative and the

¹ Cooke, *NSI*, 280; Cowley, *Aramaic Papyri*, No. 5.

² But see Müller, *WZKM*, i, 27.

³ In Akkadian inscriptions we find *sūqu*—a street; cf. Zimmern, *Akkad. Fremdw*, 43.

⁴ *PPGI*, 214; *Frahang*, Glossary, p. 82. It occurs in the Judaeo-Persian version of Jer. xvii, 1; see Horn, *Grundriss*, p. 84.

⁵ Hübschmann, *ZDMG*, xlv, 247; *Arm. Gramm*, i, 314.