

سَكِينَة (*Sakīna*).

ii, 249 ; ix, 26, 40 ; xlviii, 4, 18, 26.

The Shekinah.

The question of the Shekinah in the Qur'ān has been discussed at length by de Sacy¹ and by Goldziher,² and we need do no more here than briefly summarize the results.

The word occurs only in late Madinan passages and appears to have been a technical term learned by Muḥammad at a relatively late period. In ii, 249, it refers to the sign whereby the Israelites were to recognize Saul as their king, but in all the other passages it is some kind of assistance sent down to believers from Heaven.

Now there is a genuine Arabic word سَكِينَة meaning *tranquillity*, from سَكَن *to rest, be quiet*, and the common theory of the exegetes is that this is the word used here. This, however, will hardly fit ii, 249,³ and even in the other passages it is obvious that something more than merely tranquillity was meant, so that many thought it had the special meaning of نَصْر.⁴ There was some doubt as to the vowelling of the word, for we find سَكِينَة, سَكِينَة, and سَكِينَة beside the usual سَكِينَة (*TA*, ix, 238 ; *LA*, xvii, 76). There can be little doubt, however, that we have here the Heb. שְׁכִינָה,⁵ though possibly through the Syr. ܫܟܝܢܐ.⁶ Muḥammad would have learned the word from the People of the Book, and not quite understanding its significance, have associated it with the genuine Arabic word meaning *tranquillity*, and this gives us the curiously mixed sense of the word in the Qur'ān.

سَلَام (Salām).

Of very frequent occurrence, cf. iv, 96 ; v, 18 ; vi, 54, etc.

¹ *JA*, 1829, p. 177 ff.

² *Abhandlungen*, i, 177–204, and *RHR*, xxviii, 1–13.

³ So the Commentators admit that it means *tranquillity* in all passages save ii, 249.

⁴ Cf. *LA*, xvii, 76.

⁵ Geiger, 54 ; Weil, *Mohammed*, 181 ; Pautz, *Offenbarung*, 251 ; Horovitz, *JPN*, 208 ; von Kremer, *Ideen*, 226, n. ; Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 23 ; Joel, *EI*, sub voc. ; Grunbaum, *ZDMG*, xxxix, 581, 582.

⁶ Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 24. It was doubtless through the Syr. that we get the Mand. ܫܟܝܢܐ. See Lidzbarski, *Mand. Liturgien* (1920), Register, s.v. ; Montgomery, *Aramaic Incantation Texts*, Glossary, p. 304.