

these food regulations were formed under Jewish influence,¹ so that it is significant that the word in the Jewish legislation (Lev. xi) is **בהמה**.

The root of the word is probably a form **בהם** which we find in

Eth. **ህህህ** to be dumb, connected with Ar. **أبهم** and **استبهم**, both of which refer to incoherence or ambiguity of speech. The Lexicons, however, are troubled about the word (cf. *LA*, xiv, 323), and there is little doubt that it was a direct borrowing from the Jewish **בהמה**.²

بُور (*Būr*).

xxv, 19 ; xlviii, 12.

Ignorant.

The phrase **قَوْمٌ بُورٌ** in these two passages was a complete puzzle to the Commentators. As we find a verb **بَار** to perish in xxxv, 11, 26, and the noun **بَوَارٌ** in xiv, 33, most of the early authorities endeavoured

to explain **بور** from this and make it mean *destruction*, cf. Ṭab., Zam., Baiḍ., and Bagh. on the verses. There was some philological difficulty over this, however, which as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 311, endeavours to avoid by claiming that it is a dialectal form, meaning **هلاک** in the dialect of 'Umān, a theory which seems also to have been held by al-Akhfash (*LA*, v, 153).

Hirschfeld, *Beiträge*, 40, suggests that it is the Aram. **בור** and like **אִמְסִי** (vii, 156, 158, etc.), is a translation of **עַם הָאָרֶץ**.³ In the Rabbinic writings **בור** means a boorish, ignorant, and uncultured

¹ Rudolph, *Abhängigkeit*, 61 ; Horovitz, *JPN*, 193.

² Addai Sher, 30, suggests that it is from the Pers. **بهمن**, which is absurd.

³ "Im Munde der Juden war **עַם הָאָרֶץ** zweifellos ausserordentlich gelauf, nicht minder häufig wohl auch das aram. **בור**. Die Seltenheit des Ausdrucks im Korān trotz zahlreicher Gelegenheit ihn zu brauchen, zeigt aber, dass derselbe Muḥammad nicht sehr gelauf geworden ist, er wendet oft das dasselbe besagende 'Umniḡ an, welches, wie Geiger bereits gefunden hat, die eigentliche arabische Übertragung von 'Am hā'ārez darstellt," cf. Geiger, 28.