

the widest divergences as to its meaning. Some take it as a place-name, whether of a village, a valley, or a mountain. Some think it was a document, a **كتاب** or a **لوح**. Others consider it the name of the dog who accompanied the Sleepers: others said it meant an inkhorn, and some, as Ibn Duraid, admitted that they did not know what it meant.

Their general opinion is that it is an Arabic word, a form **فمیل** from **رقم**, but some, says as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 321, said that it was Greek, meaning either *writing* or *inkhorn* in that tongue.

The probabilities are that it is a place-name, and represents **نصف صفا: حنا دوى**, otherwise known as **نصف دوى**, a place in the desert country of S. Palestine,¹ very much in the same district as the Muslim geographers place **الرقیم**.^{2, 3}

رُمَّان (*Rummān*).

vi, 99, 142; lv, 68.

Pomegranate.

The generally accepted opinion among the Muslim authorities is that it is a form **رَمَّ** from **فَعْلَان** (cf. Rāghib, *Mufradāt*, 203), but some had considerable doubts about it as we see from *LA*, xv, 148; and Jawharī, sub voc.

Guidi, *Della Sede*, 582, noted it as a loan-word in Arabic, and Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 142, suggested that it was derived from the Syr.

رَمَّ, the Arabic form being built on the analogy of **تَفَاح**. As the

¹ Cf. the Targumic **רָקִים דְּנִיעָא**.

² Ibn Athīr, *Chron*, xi, 259; Yāqūt, *Mu'jam*, ii, 804.

³ Torrey in *Ajeb Nameh*, 457 ff., takes **רָקִים** to be a misreading of **דָּקִים** and to refer to the Emperor Decius who is so prominent in the Oriental legends of the Seven Sleepers. Such a misreading looks easy enough in the Heb. characters, but is not so obvious in Syr. **رَمَّ** and **رَمَّ**, and as Horovitz, *KU*, 95, points out, it does not explain the article of the Arabic word. Horovitz also notes that names are carefully avoided in the Qur'ānic story save the place-name **الكهف**, which is at least a point in favour of Raqīm being also a place-name. (Torrey's remarks on Horovitz's objection will be found in *Foundation*, 46, 47.)