

Persian it passed directly into Arabic. Grimme, *ZA*, xxvi, 164, 165, suggests S. Arabian influence, but there seems nothing to support this.

سِجِّينَ (*Sijjīn*).

lxxxiii, 7, 8.

The early authorities differed widely as to what the *Sijjīn* of this eschatological passage might be. It was generally agreed that it was a place, but some said it meant the lowest earth—الارض السابعة, or a name for hell, or a rock under which the records of men's deeds are kept, or a prison.<sup>1</sup> The Qur'ān itself seems to indicate that it means a document كتاب مرقوم, so as-Suyūṭī, *Mutaw*, 46,<sup>2</sup> tells us that some thought it was a Persian word meaning *clay* (tablet). Grimme, *ZA*, xxvi, 163, thinks that it refers to the material on which the records are written, and compares with the Eth. ጽጌጌጌ or ጽጌጌጌ meaning clay writing tablets. It is very probable, however, as Nöldeke, *Sketches*, 38, suggested long ago, that the word is simply an invention of Muḥammad himself. If this is so, then كتاب مرقوم is probably an explanatory gloss that has crept into the text.

سُحْتٌ (*Suḥt*).

v, 46, 67, 68.

Unlawful.

The reference is to usury and to forbidden foods. It is clearly a technical term, and the passages, it will be noted, are of the latest Madinan group.

Sprenger, *Leben*, iii, 40, n., suggested that it was a technical term borrowed from the Jews, and there certainly is an interesting parallel from the Talmud, *Shabb*, 140b, where שחית is used in this technical sense. It is, however, the Syr. ܫܚܝܬ *depravity, corruption*, etc.,

<sup>1</sup> See Vacca, *EI*, sub voc., who suggests that it was this idea that the word was connected with سجن that gave rise to the theory that it was a place in the nethermost earth where the books were kept, rather than the books themselves.

<sup>2</sup> See also *Itq*, 321.