

names that occur in the Qur'ān.¹ It is probable that in the Qur'ān there is evidence that Muḥammad attempted to purchase information about the Scriptures from certain Jews of the city only to find later that they had deceived him,² and Geiger seems to suggest³ that perhaps Muḥammad deliberately sought for and incorporated Jewish terminology into his revelation in order to win over the Jews before he made his final break with them.

as-Suyūṭī sometimes uses *عبرانية* or *عبرية* to denote Hebrew, and sometimes *لغة اليهود*, and once, in discussing *لينة*, he says that the word was *بلسان يهود يثرب* "in the tongue of the Madinan Jews".⁴ Dvořák, *Fremdw*, 19, would draw a distinction from as-Suyūṭī's use of these terms, taking *عبرانية* and *عبرية* to mean classical Hebrew, and *لغة اليهود* as the language of the Jews of later times, perhaps the dialectal Hebrew used in Arabia.⁵ One is inclined to doubt, however, whether the Arab philologists had sufficient knowledge to make such a distinction between the earlier and later forms of Hebrew, and an examination of the words which as-Suyūṭī's authorities place in the two classes,⁶ makes it perfectly clear that there is nothing more in this distinction than there is in his varying use of *بالنبطية* and *بلغة النبط*.

Moreover, from *Muzhir*, i, 105, it would seem that the term *عبرانية* was used somewhat vaguely by the philologists.

(vii) *Nabataean*.—We find in as-Suyūṭī's lists quite a number of words which various authorities claim to be of Nabataean origin. The Nabataean kingdom, which from about the sixth century B.C. had stretched over the territory from the old Edomite kingdom in the

¹ See herein under *اسماعيل*, *يونس*, *سليمان*, *الياس*, etc. Mingana, *Syriac Influence*, 82, goes so far as to say that there is not a single Biblical name in the Qur'ān which is exclusively Hebrew in form.

² Sūra, ii, 74, 169.

³ *Was hat Mohammed aus dem Judenthume aufgenommen*, p. 36.

⁴ *Itq*, 324.

⁵ Especially in view of the phrase : *لغة يهود يثرب*.

⁶ *Vide Mulaw*, pp. 56-9.