

هَآوِيَّة (Hāwiya).

ci, 6.

The verse is early Meccan, and *Hāwiya* is apparently one of the names of Hell.

The passage reads : “ and as for him whose balances are light—*Hāwiya* is his mother. And who shall teach you what that is ? It is a raging fire.”

The common explanation is that هَآوِيَّة is إِسْمُ النَّارِ, but this obviously depends on the نَارِ حَامِيَّة at the end of the verse, and makes the أُمُّ difficult,<sup>1</sup> so some Commentators said that أُمُّ in this passage means *skull* and that هَآوِيَّة is the participle of هَوَى to *fall*, the verse meaning that he was to be cast into the abyss (Zam. and ar-Rāzī in loc.).<sup>2</sup> Others, however, insisted that أُمُّ must have its natural sense of *mother*, and هَآوِيَّة must mean *childless*, as in the old poetry هَوَتْ أُمُّهُ means “ his mother is bereft of him ” (Ṭab. and *LA*, xx, 250).

Sprenger, *Leben*, ii, 503, claims that this latter was the only natural explanation of the word, and Fischer in the *Nöldeke Festschrift*, i, 33 ff., makes an elaborate defence of it.<sup>3</sup> If this is correct, then the two later clauses are meaningless, and Fischer takes them as a later interpolation by someone who had no clue to the meaning.<sup>4</sup> This is a tempting solution, but a little difficult, as the concluding clauses are quite characteristic, and as Torrey points out (*Browne Festschrift*, 467), the curious lengthened form of the pron. in هِيَه which is paralleled by such forms as كِتَابِيَه and سُلْطَانِيَه in lxix, is unlikely to have been the work of a later interpolator.

<sup>1</sup> The usual way out is to make أُمُّ mean مَأْوَاه ; cf. Shaikh Zade's super-commentary to Baiḍ. in loc.

<sup>2</sup> *BDB*, 217, equate هَآوِيَّة meaning *pit of hell* with ٱٓٓٓٓٓ a *chasm* ; cf. Syr. ܠܗܘܝܬܐ a *gulf* or *chasm*.

<sup>3</sup> His arguments have been accepted by Goldziher, *Vorlesungen*, 33, and Casanova, *Mohammed et la Fin du Monde*, 153.

<sup>4</sup> He thinks that the نَارِ حَآوِيَّة was borrowed from lxxxviii, 4.