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AN ARAMAIC FRAGMENT OF THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

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THE Apocryphal Books left relatively few traces in Jewish literature. Still there is evidence that some of the books at least were current in Spain in the 12th and 13th centuries in Syriac texts transcribed into Hebrew characters.¹ Of such transliterations of a book of the Peshiṭa we have a much earlier specimen in the so called Targum on Proverbs. Of the Apocryphal Books only one small text of the kind has come down to us in tolerable completeness, namely, the story of Bel and the Dragon which has been published by Neubauer as an appendix to the *Book of Tobit, a Chaldee text*, Oxford 1878.²

¹ Under this category we cannot count the quotation from the Peshiṭa on Psalms which Ibn Akfir in his commentary on Canticles mentions in the name of Maṣliḥ ben El-Basaḥ. The latter had been sent by the Gaon Hai to inquire from the Catholicos how his Syriac version translated Psalm 141:1. The reading given ררשיצי לא עני ררשיה (Neubauer, *Notice sur la Lexicographie Hébraïque*, p. 168, 171) was evidently gathered from a Syriac copy in the possession of the Catholicos. The reading of the word עני Neubauer declared doubtful. Steinschneider reads it ער and Geiger, *Jüdische Zeitschrift*, II, 1866, p. 152-3, note *, corrects it into ער; our Peshiṭa reads *ܥܢܝܢܐ ܕܥܢܝܢܐ ܕܥܢܝܢܐ* (*The Peshitah Psalter*, ed. Barnes, Cambridge 1904, p. 215).

Steinschneider does not mention these references to the Peshiṭa in his collection of quotations from the Vulgate and other Christian translations, *Monatsschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judenthums*, vol. 37, Breslau 1893, p. 230-231.

² Compare Nöfdeke, *Monatsberichte der Berliner Akademie*, 1879, p. 64.

Nahmanides knew similar texts of the book of Judith and the Wisdom of Solomon. Of the former he has a quotation (chap. 17, 8, 11) which he curiously ascribes to a Susanna Scroll. He says in his commentary on Deuteronomy 21 14³:

כמו שכתוב במגלת שושן ושדר	7 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300 310 320 330 340 350 360 370 380 390 400 410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560 570 580 590 600 610 620 630 640 650 660 670 680 690 700 710 720 730 740 750 760 770 780 790 800 810 820 830 840 850 860 870 880 890 900 910 920 930 940 950 960 970 980 990 1000
מלכא דאתור על כולהון עמוריא	...
דניגוה ועל כל דעמרין על יד	...
ימא ועל עמורא דכרמלא ודגלעד	...
ואהפיכו פתגמא דנכוכד נצר	...
כולהון עמורייא דארעא ולא	...
תדחלון מיניה.	...

Of the Wisdom of Solomon Nahmanides offers a more extended quotation (chapter 7 5-8, 17-21) in the introduction to his commentary⁴:

וראיתי הספר המתורגם הנקרא	5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370 375 380 385 390 395 400 405 410 415 420 425 430 435 440 445 450 455 460 465 470 475 480 485 490 495 500 505 510 515 520 525 530 535 540 545 550 555 560 565 570 575 580 585 590 595 600 605 610 615 620 625 630 635 640 645 650 655 660 665 670 675 680 685 690 695 700 705 710 715 720 725 730 735 740 745 750 755 760 765 770 775 780 785 790 795 800 805 810 815 820 825 830 835 840 845 850 855 860 865 870 875 880 885 890 895 900 905 910 915 920 925 930 935 940 945 950 955 960 965 970 975 980 985 990 995 1000
חכמתא רבא דשלמה וכתוב בו	...
ולא ממתום הות תולדתא חדייתא	...
למלך או לשליט דחדיו מעלנא	...
דכל נש לעלמא ומפקאנא שויאת	...

³ I quote from a beautiful fifteenth century MS. of the Seminary Library compared with the three incunabula editions going back to different MSS., Rome before 1480, Lisbon 1489, Naples 1490. Compare Brüll, *Jahrbücher für Jüdische Geschichte und Literatur*, Frankfurt a. M. 1877, vol. iii, p. 6, note 12. The Syriac is found in Lagarde's edition, *Libri Veteris Testamenti Apocryphi Syriace*, Leipzig 1861, p. 104-5, and Ceriani's photolithographic reproduction of the Ambrosianus, fol. 218 recto.

⁴ According to Wolf, *Bibliotheca Hebraea*, Hamburg 1715, vol. i, p. 1047, Mublius reprinted a corrected text of this passage according to a MS. His book however is inaccessible to me. I follow Ceriani fol. 139 verso in the Syriac text which in a few minutiae agrees more closely with Nahmanides' version than Lagarde.

⁵ Grimm, *Das Buch der Weisheit erklärt*, Leipzig 1860, p. 9, understands this word to mean "translated" instead of "written in Aramaic" as Voisin rightly put it (*Observationes*, in Raymund Martini, Pugio Fidei, Leipzig 1687, p. 126); "vidi librum Caldaice descriptum." See the text quoted in note 7.

חדיו מטול כן עלית ואתיהיבת
 לי רוחא דחכמתא וקרית ואתת
 לי רוחא דאידעתא צבית בה יתיר
 מן שבטא וכורסוותא (אמר כי לא
 מדבר תהיה תולדת מיוחדת למלך
 או לשליט אחד הוא ביאת כל
 איש לעולם ויציאה שוה לכלב
 יחד ובעבור כן התפללתי ונתן לי
 רוח חכמה וקראתי ובא לי רוח
 דעת בהרתי בה יותר מן השבט
 והכסא) ונאמר שם והוא דיהב
 אדעתא דלא לגלותא למידע היכן
 קם עלמא ועובדיהון דמואלתא
 שוריא ושולמא ומצעתהון דזבני
 שולחפי דזנבותא ודהיכן עבדי
 זבני ריהטהון דשמיא וקבעיהון
 דכוכבא מתנא דבעירא וחימתא
 דחיותא עזיהון דרוחי ומחשבתהון
 דבני נשא גינסי דנצבתא וחיליהון
 דעקרי כל מדם דכסי וכל מדם
 דגלי ידעית.

ܕܚܝܘ ܡܬܘܠ ܟܢ ܥܠܝܬ ܘܐܬܝܗܝܒܬ
 ܠܝ ܪܘܚܐ ܕܚܚܡܬܐ ܘܩܪܝܬ ܘܐܬܬ
 ܠܝ ܪܘܚܐ ܕܐܝܕܥܬܐ ܥܒܝܬ ܒܗ ܝܬܝܪ
 ܡܢ ܫܒܬܐ ܘܟܘܪܫܘܘܬܐ (ܐܡܪ ܟܝ ܠܐ
 ܡܕܒܪ ܬܗܝܐ ܬܘܠܕܬ ܡܝܘܚܕܬ ܠܡܠܚ
 ܐܘ ܠܫܠܝܬ ܐܚܕ ܗܘܐ ܒܝܐܬ ܟܠ
 ܐܝܫ ܠܥܘܠܡ ܘܝܥܝܐ ܫܘܗ ܠܟܠܒ
 ܝܚܕ ܘܒܥܒܘܪ ܟܢ ܬܦܠܠܬܝ ܘܢܬܢ ܠܝ
 ܪܘܚ ܚܚܡܐ ܘܩܪܝܬܝ ܘܒܐ ܠܝ ܪܘܚ
 ܕܥܬ ܒܗܪܬܝ ܒܗ ܝܘܬܪ ܡܢ ܫܒܬ
 ܘܗܚܫܐ) ܘܢܐܡܪ ܫܡ ܘܗܘܐ ܕܝܗܒ
 ܐܕܥܬܐ ܕܠܐ ܠܓܠܘܬܐ ܠܡܝܕܥ ܝܝܚܢ
 ܩܡ ܥܠܡܐ ܘܥܘܒܕܝܗܘܢ ܕܡܘܐܠܬܐ
 ܫܘܪܝܐ ܘܫܘܠܡܐ ܘܡܥܥܬܗܘܢ ܕܙܒܢܝ
 ܫܘܠܚܦܝ ܕܙܢܒܘܬܐ ܘܕܗܝܚܢ ܥܒܕܝ
 ܙܒܢܝ ܪܝܗܬܗܘܢ ܕܫܡܝܐ ܘܩܒܥܝܗܘܢ
 ܕܟܘܚܒܐ ܡܬܢܐ ܕܒܥܝܪܐ ܘܚܝܡܬܐ
 ܕܚܝܘܬܐ ܥܘܝܗܘܢ ܕܪܘܚܝ ܘܡܫܒܬܗܘܢ
 ܕܒܢܝ ܢܫܐ ܓܝܢܫܝ ܕܢܥܒܬܐ ܘܚܝܠܝܗܘܢ
 ܕܥܦܩܝ ܟܠ ܡܕܡ ܕܚܫܝ ܘܟܠ ܡܕܡ
 ܕܒܠܝ ܝܕܥܝܬ.

ܕܚܝܘ ܡܬܘܠ ܟܢ ܥܠܝܬ ܘܐܬܝܗܝܒܬ
 ܠܝ ܪܘܚܐ ܕܚܚܡܬܐ ܘܩܪܝܬ ܘܐܬܬ
 ܠܝ ܪܘܚܐ ܕܐܝܕܥܬܐ ܥܒܝܬ ܒܗ ܝܬܝܪ
 ܡܢ ܫܒܬܐ ܘܟܘܪܫܘܘܬܐ (ܐܡܪ ܟܝ ܠܐ
 ܡܕܒܪ ܬܗܝܐ ܬܘܠܕܬ ܡܝܘܚܕܬ ܠܡܠܚ
 ܐܘ ܠܫܠܝܬ ܐܚܕ ܗܘܐ ܒܝܐܬ ܟܠ
 ܐܝܫ ܠܥܘܠܡ ܘܝܥܝܐ ܫܘܗ ܠܟܠܒ
 ܝܚܕ ܘܒܥܒܘܪ ܟܢ ܬܦܠܠܬܝ ܘܢܬܢ ܠܝ
 ܪܘܚ ܚܚܡܐ ܘܩܪܝܬܝ ܘܒܐ ܠܝ ܪܘܚ
 ܕܥܬ ܒܗܪܬܝ ܒܗ ܝܘܬܪ ܡܢ ܫܒܬ
 ܘܗܚܫܐ) ܘܢܐܡܪ ܫܡ ܘܗܘܐ ܕܝܗܒ
 ܐܕܥܬܐ ܕܠܐ ܠܓܠܘܬܐ ܠܡܝܕܥ ܝܝܚܢ
 ܩܡ ܥܠܡܐ ܘܥܘܒܕܝܗܘܢ ܕܡܘܐܠܬܐ
 ܫܘܪܝܐ ܘܫܘܠܡܐ ܘܡܥܥܬܗܘܢ ܕܙܒܢܝ
 ܫܘܠܚܦܝ ܕܙܢܒܘܬܐ ܘܕܗܝܚܢ ܥܒܕܝ
 ܙܒܢܝ ܪܝܗܬܗܘܢ ܕܫܡܝܐ ܘܩܒܥܝܗܘܢ
 ܕܟܘܚܒܐ ܡܬܢܐ ܕܒܥܝܪܐ ܘܚܝܡܬܐ
 ܕܚܝܘܬܐ ܥܘܝܗܘܢ ܕܪܘܚܝ ܘܡܫܒܬܗܘܢ
 ܕܒܢܝ ܢܫܐ ܓܝܢܫܝ ܕܢܥܒܬܐ ܘܚܝܠܝܗܘܢ
 ܕܥܦܩܝ ܟܠ ܡܕܡ ܕܚܫܝ ܘܟܠ ܡܕܡ
 ܕܒܠܝ ܝܕܥܝܬ.

The last verses Nahmanides quotes again in a lecture delivered in the Synagogue at Barcelona about 1265⁶:

כמו שאמר שלמה המלך עליו השלום בספר הנקרא חוכמתא רבתא
 דשלמה ששם כתב והוא בידע אירעתא דנא בגלותא למידע היכן קם
 עלמא ועובדיהון דמולותא שוריא ושוליתא ומציעתהון דזבניה

⁶ Jellinek, *Rabbi Mose ben Nachman's Dissertation über die Vorzüge der Mosaischen Lehre*, gehalten in der Synagoge zu Barcelona. Zweite Ausgabe Wien, 1872, p. 22. The passage is not found in the earlier editions and was first published from a MS by Schorr, *He-Chalut* vol. viii, p. 158. The text is very corrupt and is only given here for the sake of completeness.

שולחפניה דזבדוּתא וד עברין זנבי ריהטיהון דשמיא וקבעיהון
 דכוכבי, מתנא דבעירא וחמתא דחגיאתא עוויהון רוּחי ומחשבתהון
 דבני נשא גינוי דנציבתא וחליהון דעיקרי כל מידם נכסי וכל מידם
 דגלי דמות.

We find a more interesting reference to the book of Wisdom in another lecture of Nahmanides dealing with Ecclesiastes which he delivered in Gerona 1266 or 1267 shortly before he left Spain to settle in Palestine.⁷ Here he gives us a clear statement of his opinion of this book and the reason of its non-inclusion in the Canon. Of the authenticity of the book he evidently has not the least doubt. After speaking of the three Solomonic writings of the Bible he continues: "We find another book called The Great Wisdom of Solomon which is written in difficult Aramaic and the Christians have translated it from that language. I believe that this book was not arranged by the Men of Hezekiah, the king of Judah,⁸ but that it went with the Jews to Babylon orally and there they fixed it in their language, for it only contains sayings of wisdom and has not been written by inspiration."

I doubt whether on the basis of these references one is justified in making the sweeping statement⁹ that "the Syriac version of the Apocrypha, transcribed in Hebrew characters, was known among the Jews in Spain."

But in Spain undoubtedly several Aramaic texts were current under the name of Solomon, and in the Zohar we find various references to such books. In one instance the Zohar quotes a passage which is ascribed expressly to the Book of Wisdom of Solomon but which probably belongs to a different circle of literature. The passage runs thus:

⁷ דרשת הרמב"ן על דברי קהלת, ed. A. Z. Schwartz, Vienna 1913, p. 9: ומצינו עוד ספר שנקרא חכמתא רבתא דשלמה והוא בלשון תרגום חמור מאד והגויים העתיקו[הו]ן מן הלשון ההוא ואני חושב שלא העתיקוהו אנשי הזקיהו מלך יהודה אלא ירד עמהם לבבל על פה ושם אמרוהו בלשונם כי היו חכמות ולא נאמר ברוח הקודש

⁸ Comp. Proverbs 25 1.

⁹ Neubauer, *The Book of Tobit*, Oxford 1878, p. xiv. On the other hand, Dukes' hypothesis, *Rabbinische Blumenlese*, Leipzig 1844, p. 33, that Nahmanides became acquainted with the Syriac text of Wisdom in Palestine turns out to be unfounded.

בספרא דחכמתא דשלמה מלכא הכי אמר תלת סימנין אינון.
סימן לעברה ירקון. סימן לשטות מילין. סימן דלא ידע כלום שבוחי.

“A sign for anger is paleness, a sign of foolishness is talk, and a sign of ignorance — boasting”.¹⁰

Two quotations from the Wisdom of Solomon which occur in the Zohar Ḥadash are even more foreign in subject-matter to our Wisdom. The first¹¹ runs thus:

דהכי אשבתן בספרא דחכמתא דשלמא מלכא ואלין ארבע כד
מתכנפי בכינופייא במטלניהון משתמעו בכל רקיעא קל מטלניהון
כקל מלאכין סגיאין עילאין (דאתקרון) אלף אלפין ורבו רבבן וכההוא
קלא דהוא שמשא חד דמשמש קמיה דמלכא עילאה וההוא כנופייא
דאינון מתכנפי בעידנא (דאתי) לאשפעה אליהון טיבו יקר מכלהון.

(For thus we find in the book of the Wisdom of Solomon:)
“And when these four (the חיות of Ezekiel) gather together in their journeys, the noise of their journey is heard in the whole heaven like the voice of many of the high angels who are called (Daniel 7 10) ‘thousand thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand’ and like the voice of the one servant who serves before the high king. And this gathering of theirs at the time when he is going to make goodness emanate upon them is the most important of all of them.”

The second¹² is:

ותגנין בספרא דחכמתא רבה דשלמה שמה דשמיטא מטול שזיפא
קרעני דמלכא קושטיוא דאטיל ביה בחתמא ועירתא למשלטא תחותיו.

¹⁰ Zohar, Numbers, fol. 193 b. Zunz, *Gesammelte Schriften*, I, Berlin 1875, p. 13, note, translates the first part “blasse Farbe ist ein Zeichen der Sünde”, but the above translation seems more in keeping with the context, in spite of the parallel in the Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 33a end, to which my colleague Dr. Ginzberg drew my attention.

¹¹ Zohar Ḥadash on Gen. 1 9, Salonica 1597, fol. 19 b. The words in brackets are added in later editions.

¹² *ib.* on Gen. 2 7, fol. 32 b seq. The late Dr. Kotkov suggested to me to correct the impossible קרעני into קרסא, the Syriac ܩܪܥܢܐ (see J. Payne Smith, *Compendious Syriac Dictionary*, Oxford 1903, p. 518) and קושטיוא into קשטרא which, he thinks, stands as an equivalent for the Sefira Hekal.

32b—33a Gen. 2 7. (And we learn in the Book of the Great Wisdom of Solomon:) "It is the divine name Shemita which, on account of the dark ink, the king, the castle puts on the small seal to give him rule under it."

These two passages evidently are derived from a Cabbalistic book which may be identical with the **ספרא דשלמא מלכא** repeatedly quoted in the Zohar. For the sake of completeness I add these passages in a foot note.¹³

¹³ See the list in Zunz, *l. c.*, Steinschneider, *Bodleian Catalogue*, p. 2288.

A. Zohar I, fol. 7 b:

(אשכחנא בספרא דשלמה מלכא) שמה נליפא דשבעין ותריין שמהן אנליף עלוי בתבין ובנין דאתוןן באלפא ביתא דאנליף בה אבוי בקרמיתא כד מית פרתו מניה והשתא דאלישע חבב ליה אנליף ביה כל אינון אתוןן דשבעין ותריין שמהן ואתוןן דאלין שבעין ותריין שמהן נליפן אינון מאתן ושיתסרי אתוןן וכולהו אתוןן אנליף ברוחיה דאלישע בנין לקימא ליה באתוןן דשבעין ותריין שמהן וקרא ליה חבוקק.

(In connection with the son of the Shunnamite we find in the book of King Solomon:) "The engraved divine name of 72 names he engraved upon him in the form of words, for the letters of the alphabet which his father had engraved upon him originally had disappeared when he died. Now when Elisha embraced him he engraved all these letters of the 72 names, and the letters of these 72 names which are engraved are 262 letters and all of these letters were engraved by the breath of Elisha in order to revive him with the letters of the 72 names and he called him Habakkuk."

B. *ib.* 13 b:

רוא דנן המינן בספרא דשלמה מלכא דכל מאן דחס על מסכני ברעותא דלכא לא משתני דיוקניה לעלם מדיוקנא דארם הראשון וכיון דדיוקנא דארם אתרשים ביה שליט על כל בריין דעלמא בהווא דיוקנא דרא הוא דכתיב ומוראכם ותתכם יהיה על כל תית הארץ וגו' כלהו ועין ודחלין מהווא דיוקנא דאתרשים ביה בנין דרא הוא פקודא מעליא לאסתלקא בר נש בדוקניה דארם על כל שאר פקודין מנא לן מנבוכדנצר אף על גב דחלם ההוא חלמא כל זמנא דהוה מיתן למסכני לא שרא עליה כיון דאמיל עינא בישא למיחן למסכני מה כתיב עוד מלמא בפום מלכא וגו' מיד אשתני דיוקניה ואמריר מן בני נשא.

(This secret we see in the book of King Solomon:) "Whosoever takes pity on the poor whole-heartedly, his countenance will never be changed from the likeness of Adam, and when the countenance of Adam is marked upon him he rules over all the creatures of the world by the power of countenance; that is the meaning of the words 'and the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth' etc. (Genesis 9 2). They all fear and tremble before this image which is marked on him. For this law (*viz.* charity) more than any other law helps to bring men into the likeness of Adam. How do we know that? from Nebuchadnezzar; although he dreamt that dream, as long as he took pity on the poor, it did not come upon him. When he looked with an evil eye upon giving

What freedom the Cabbalists permitted themselves in making up "quotations" from the Wisdom of Solomon can best be seen from the Apocalypse prophesying the movement of Sabbatai

alms to the poor then the Bible says (Daniel 4 28). 'To thee it is spoken' etc.. at once his countenance changed and he was driven away from men.

The same quotation is found in a Hebrew translation in Meir Ibn Gabbai, הולעת יעקב, in the chapter on the Sukkah as taken from the Book of Solomon's Great Wisdom. ספרא דהכפתא רבא. דשלמה מלכא. See Chones' note in his edition of Abraham ben Elijah Wilna, רב פעלים, Warsaw 1894, p. 63—64.

C. *ib.* I appendix 2 b:

הכי אולפנא בספרא דשלמה מלכא דבליילא בתראא דהנא אי יסתבל בר נש בעלמא דיליה
חזוי ליה שלים לא אתגור עלוי מיתה.

(We are thought in the book of King Solomon:) "If on the last night of the Feast of Tabernacles one looks at one's shadow and sees it complete, death has not been decreed upon him for that year."

D. *ib.* vol. II, 67 a:

אשכחנא בספרא דשלמה מלכא דכל סאן דארים ידוי לעילא ולא אינן בעלותין ובעותין האי
איהו בר נש דאתלטייא פשירה שלמנן כמנן ואנן עשרה שלמנן אשר היו בעיר.

(We find in the book of King Solomon:) "Whoever raises his hand upward but not in prayer and devotion he is a man who is cursed by the ten rulers appointed and they are the 'ten rulers that are in a city' (Ecclesiastes 7 19)."

E. *ib.* 125 a—b:

רוא דספרא דשלמה מלכא . . . תו אשכחן דכל סאן דאביל היא מכלא דאתחבר כחרא או
בשעתא חרא או בסעודתא חרא ארבעין יומין אתחויא נדיא מקלמא בקלפוי לנביי אינן דלעילא
וכיעתא מסאבא מתקרבין בהדיא וגרים לאתערא דינן בעלמא דינן דלא קרשין ויא אוליד
בר באינון יומין אופין ליה נשמתא כסמרא אחרא דלא אצטרבא.

(We find in the book of King Solomon:) "Whoever partakes of such food either mixed (of milk and meat) together, or at the same time or at one meal, for 40 days there appears a kid with a helmet on its skin perceptible only to those above (angel-) and a company of the Unholy Side approach him and he thus provokes visitations upon the world, unholy visitations, and if he begets a son during this time they lend him a soul from the Other Side (that of impurity . . .)."

סקולס is the technical term for a kid roasted in its entirety with entrails and lungs on its head like a helmet.

F. *ib.* 139 a:

בספרא דשלמה מלכא אית נו האי סוכה הנחשת דקאטרן ריון עלאין.

In the book of King Solomon there are in reference to this altar of brass secrets about the higher world.

G. *ib.* III, 10 b:

בספרא דשלמה מלכא אמר מכוון דיי בקמורא דתלחא דכלילן בקמורא דנפיהה דר דחילו
דכלא חר סתים שבילין חר נהר עמיא.

Zevi which was written by the Constantinople preacher Abraham Jakhini and circulated by Sabbatai's prophet Nathan of Gaza as an old quotation from the "Book of the great Wisdom of

(In the book of King Solomon he says:) "The meaning of the Yod with three knots which are contained in its own knot, is one the most awful one (the Sefira Keter), one of hidden paths (the 32 Paths of Wisdom), one of the deep river (the Sefira Binah)."

The text is partly corrected according to a quotation in Meir Ibn Gabbai, *דרך אמונה*, Berlin 1850, fol. 10 a; בקטורא, is a correction suggested by the late Dr. Kotkov for בקטפורה and בקוטפין respectively; to him I also owe the interpretation of the Sefiroth.

H. *ib.* 65 b:

ואשכחנא בספרא דשלמה מלכא אשר בקטורא דעדינא [ו]קטפורה בחכרותא עלאה אשתכח.

(And we find in the book of King Solomon:) "The word Asher (אשר) alludes to the combination of the Eden and the Castle in a celestial union."

I. *ib.* 104 a—b:

בספרא דשלמה מלכא אשתכחנא דבשעתא דוונא אשתכח לתתא שרר קב"ה חד דיוקנא כפרצופא דבר נש רשימא חקקא בצולמא וקיימא על ההוא ווונא ואלמלא אתידיכ רשו לעינא למחזי חמו בר נש על רישיה חד צולמא רשימא כפרצופא דבר נש ובההוא צולמא אתברי בר נש ועד לא קיימא ההוא צולמא דשרר ליה מסירה על רישיה וישתכח תמן לא אתברי בר נש הדא הוא דכתיב ויברא ה' את האדם בצלמו ההוא צלם אודמן לקבליה עד דנפיק לעלמא.

(In the book of King Solomon we find:) "At the time when copulation takes place below, the Lord sends a form like unto the face of a man impressed and engraven in an image, and it hovers over this union, and if the power were given to the eye to see, a man would see over his head an image formed like unto the face of men. By this image man is formed, and when this image which the master sends does not hover over his head and is not found there, man is not formed. This is what the Bible means (Genesis 1 27) 'and God created man in his own image'. This image precedes his entrance into the world".

J. *ib.* 164 a:

בספרא דשלמה מלכא איהו כדקא יאות והכי הוא אדם וזהו בקדמיתא ושרה ואברהם סמיך לון יצחק ורבקה לוויא אתרא באורה מישר בשורה חדא יעקב ולאח באמצעיתא ואינון נשין לגבי נשין ודבורין לגבי דבורין ואדם וזהו שרה ואברהם יעקב ולאח רבקה ויצחק אדם בסטרא דא ויצחק בסטרא דא ויעקב באמצעיתא יצחק לגבי אבוא לאו ארח עלמא.

(In the book of King Solomon the order in which the patriarchs are buried in the cave of Machpelah is given as it ought to be and is this way.) "Adam and Eve first, Sarah and Abraham next to them, Isaac and Rebekkah in the other corner of the straight line in the same row. Jacob and Leah in the middle. Thus women are next to women and men next to men: Adam and Eve, Sarah and Abraham, Jacob and Leah, Rebekkah and Isaac. Adam on the one side and Isaac on the other and Jacob in the middle. Isaac next to his father would not be according to propriety."

Solomon" which he had discovered.¹⁴ It begins: I Abraham, having been in seclusion for 40 years and being worried by the power of the great crocodile which dwells in the Nile and wondering when the end would arrive, heard a voice calling: Lo! a son will be born to Mordecai Zevi in the year 5386 (1626) and he shall call his name Sabbatai. He will humiliate the great crocodile and take away the power of the flying snake and of the crooked snake and he is the true Messiah and he will make war without hands until the donkey will mount the ladder . . .

The quotations from the Book of Wisdom which I propose to discuss here are quite different in their character from all those mentioned before and I think are much more interesting in many respects. They are found in a commentary on the Zohar which was written in Spain, perhaps in Saragossa, in 1325 and has the title *לבנת הספיר* (Pavement of Sapphire). According to G. Margoliouth¹⁵ the author is Joseph Angelino.

K. Besides these quotations we find in I 225 b a reference to the book of King Solomon, the book which treats of the higher world which he calls the all-inclusive wisdom.

אשכנא מלי בספרא דשלמה מלכא הווא עלאה דקרא ליה עינא דחכמתא דבולא and III 78 b to the *שלמה עלאה* for the divine names found in the crown.

L. Finally a quotation belonging to a different kind of book occurs in II, 171 b—172 a.

בנונא דא רמזו בספרא דשלמה מלכא בחכמתא דאבנין קרון דאי חסר מנהון נהא הנציצו או להישו דכבנין יריעין לא מגדלין ולא מתקנין לון לעלמי.

(Similarly it is hinted in the book of King Solomon where it treats of the science of the precious stones) that if the shine of the spark and glow of certain stars are missing in them they will never grow and develop.

M. A hidden Book of King Solomon, *ספרא נניא דשלמה מלכא*, is quoted II 70 a as source of a treatise on physiognomy; see Steinschneider, *Die Hebräischen Übersetzungen des Mittelalters*, Berlin 1893, p. 971, note 135.

In the interpretation of these passages I have consulted my colleagues Dr. Ginzberg and the late Dr. Kotkov. It is a source of regret that the very important study on the Zohar has been interrupted by Dr. Kotkov's untimely death.

¹⁴ The prophecy is printed in full in Jacob Sasportas *צבי נובל עצי קצור*, Odessa 1867, fol. 13 a and b and, from MS. Oxford 1777, by David Kahana in *Hashloah*, II, 327-28; *הולדת הפקבלים השבטאים והחכמים*, Odessa 1913, p. 61-62.

¹⁵ *Cat. of the Hebrew and Samaritan MS. in the British Museum*, iii, 1915, p. 71-74.

This book of which only a few MSS. are known was published for the first time in Jerusalem in 1913. The edition covers Genesis and the greater part of Exodus. The British Museum MS. contains Genesis and Leviticus. Here I found the following two quotations which while not likely to have been derived from an authentic text of the Wisdom of Solomon seem to me without doubt to go back to some old Apocryphal text. The author adds the Hebrew translation to the Aramaic text. One of the passages occurs folio 6 a of the edition on Genesis 1 12. It reads:

שמצאתי בספר חכמתא רבתי דשלמה ששנינו שם מייתי מן שאול
 תקים דאיתקטלו על רחמוך, מייתי מן שאול תקים בנבורתך ה,
 מייתי מן שאול תקים דהימנו בך ואולו מיתין, מייתי מן שאול תקים
 ותחיה דצפיאו לך ולא הזיונך חיי מן רחיק תייתי בנזורת דמחיית לן
 כספיהון ודהביהון עמהון.

(I found in the book of the Great Wisdom of Solomon, where we read:) "The dead thou revivest from Sheol who have been killed for the love of thee; the dead thou revivest from Sheol by thy power. o Lord! the dead thou revivest from Sheol who hoped for thee and saw thee not; bring life from afar by the order of him who reviveth us, their silver and their gold is with them".

The last sentence is not at all clear and the text no doubt has been corrupted. The author interprets the four repetitions to refer to those who were killed during the Egyptian exile and the Babylonian exile adding in this instance the word "who have been killed" so that the sentence would read "the dead thou revivest from Sheol who have been killed for the sake of thy power" instead of "the dead thou revivest from Sheol by thy power". The third sentence he refers to those who were killed during the Hasmonean struggle and the fourth to the Roman exile.

The pronounced belief in resurrection contained in these sentences we find also in the longer and more interesting quotation which occurs a little earlier in our book (fol. 5 a or Genesis 1 5). It sounds like a Messianic psalm and, as the author

informs us, formed the end of the book of the Wisdom of Solomon.¹⁶

וכן מוכח בסוף ספר חכמתא רבתי דשלמה וזה לשונו טאבוי לעמא^a
 דישרי בה^b בירושלם דטאבותהון לא יפסוק ויקריהון לא אשתלים ולא
 תעדי מלכותהון זיוהון לא יעמי ולא יחשך נהוריהון מלכותיהון קיימא
 ושלטניהון לכל עלמין עמא דכדין^c תוקפיה מה יאה ליה גאותיה מה
 רגיג^d שופריה והדיר הוא ושביח לחדא לחדא שביק חטאה לחטייא^e
 וחובין^f כבדין עד^g בהקרבא לך קורבנא דכייא בתרעיתא דירושלם
 משבחין דרייא קדמאי ובתראי לא נשתקון אודין ליה לגיברא^h
 ושבחוהי בכל פומכון דאפיק לןⁱ מן חשוך סניא ואנהור לן בנהור
 עלמא דאפיק לן מן בית אסירי ותבר כבלינן ואיסורינן אקים לן מן
 עפרא לרבנותא סניאה אמטי לן מיתנינן מן שאול אקים סהדי לעללי
 עלמא אתחדתו פגריהון דבגבורתיה^k עבדוהי לייחדא^l כולהון יהודון
 ליה יומם וליליא ולא ישתקון דחדית לן ואקים לן ויקר סניאה אלביש
 לן אסניא עלאן^m מן טוביה ושויב לן בעזקותיה רבתא נודה ליה
 לגיברא דלבר מיניה לית לן ע"כ לשון הספר.

B a לעלמא b B adds פ" בירושלם דבי למכלה c J דהרון d J רגיג e B הוא מכפי
 השאין B f ופויין B adds g מנהון B h לאלהא רבא גיברא i B לכן J. דבנבארותיה
 B l לחדא m B עילין.

(And this is evident from the end of the book of the Great Wisdom of Solomon which speaks thus:) "Blessed are the people who died in Jerusalem, whose blessedness will not end, and their honor will not cease; their kingdom will not be removed, their splendor not be dimmed and their light not be darkened; their kingdom is ever lasting, and their rule is for all times. A people whose strength is thus, how fitting for it is its pride, how agreeable its beauty. It is honored and praised very much; sin is forgiven the sinner and weighty offences they remove by

¹⁶ Margoliouth gives the page of the British Museum MS. (14 a) on which this passage occurs. I procured a rotograph of this page of the MS. which is referred to among the *Variae lectione.* under the text with B while J refers to the Jerusalem edition. The beginning of the quotation in another MS. Catalogue Schweitzer and Fraenkel XI, Husiatin 1906, p. 71. No. 446, literally agrees with B.

sacrificing unto Thee pure sacrifices in the gates of Jerusalem. The early generations praise and the latter are not silent; they acknowledge the Lord, praise Him with all their mouth, Him who brought us out of great darkness and enlightened us by the eternal light, who brought us out of the house of prison and broke our fetters and shackles, and He raised us from the dust, to great glory He brought us, our dead from Sheol He raised as witness unto those who come into the world, renewed are the bodies of them who served His might alone; they all praise Him by day and remain not silent by night, for He gave us joy, and He established us, and with great honor He clothed us, He did much good unto us and saved us in His great charity, let us praise the Almighty, for beside Him we have none”.

This text is interesting in more than one respect. It proves that it cannot have formed part of the Apocryphal Wisdom of Solomon. The attitude of this book to the belief in resurrection is still a matter of dispute. But it surely cannot have contained an unequivocal formulation of the belief in resurrection of the body from Sheol such as we find in our fragment. The brief reference to the sacrifices in the gates of Jerusalem sound as if the author wrote at a time when the temple was still in existence. If he had written after the destruction, the hope of restoration would in all likelihood have been included in his picture of the Messianic times. The Aramaic text undoubtedly is a translation from the Greek, for we find repeatedly **גבור** as a name of God. Now *Gibbor*, while used frequently as an attribute of God, never, to my knowledge, occurs independently. It is, however, the equivalent of the Greek *ἰσχυρός* which in *Aquila*, as Dr. Reider has shown in his *Prolegomena to an Index to Aquila*, p. 30, is the regular translation for *El*. It is sometimes used in the same way by the Septuagint, see also the *Apocalypse of Abraham*, chapter 8. The Aramaic is not of a uniform character but here later corruption by copyists is to be expected. The larger piece according to the statement of our commentator is taken from the end of the book and the possibility cannot be overlooked that an extraneous piece might have been added at the end of a copy of the Wisdom at some time or other; but no such information is given about the shorter quotation

mentioned before.¹⁷ The possibility therefore remains that we have before us the remnant of an unknown apocryphal book equally ascribed to Solomon. The Messianic conclusion found in the last chapter of the Psalms of Solomon is quite different from our passage.

Perhaps some one more familiar with this literature can point out parallels elsewhere and define the proper place of our fragment. It certainly is an interesting remnant of apocryphal literature.

¹⁷ A third reference, fol. 54 a of the edition, does not quote any text of the Wisdom.