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fin.) or *decision*, must be combined with *maššôr*, saw; cf. Syr. *mağzârâ*, ax, saw, and *gězîrtâ*, decree, from *gězâr*, to cut. In Hebrew we have *mağzerâ*, ax (also *garzén* = *gazrinn*) and in Dan. 4: 14, 21 Aram. *gězzerâ* means *decree*. Cf. also Sum. *kut* and *tar* (SGI 126, 155). I shall discuss the term *Masora* in a special paper.

THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF SHEOL

Heb. *šē'ôl* should be written *še'ôl* with *Çerê* in the first syllable: it is a form *qiṭṭâl* (cf. the Ethiopic form *Sî'ôl*) from the stem *ša'al*, derived from the root *šal* which we have in Arab. *nâṭala-r-rakîṭata* and *ṭalla-l-bi'ra*. In Syriac we have this stem in *tallil*, damp, moist, wet, while Syr. *tillâ*, hill, is an Assyrian loanword. In Assyrian this root *ṭal* appears in *šalû*, to sink; see *Kings* (SBOT) 175, 2 and cf. Heb. *šûhâ* and *šaḥt*, pit, from *šûh*, to sink (Arab. *sâxa*, *iasûxu*). From the same stem we have *šîlân* (= *šîluânu*) sunset (KAT³ 636; cf. AJSL 33, 48).¹ Arab. *nâṭal* is said to mean *pit*, and *tîllah* signifies *annihilation, death*; so Heb. *še'ôl* is a synonym of *šaḥt* (GB¹⁰ 821^a; cf. JBL 34, 81). For the *Aleph* in *še'ôl* cf. AJSL 21, 205 and the remarks on Heb. *nahâj* = Arab. *nâ'aja* = Assyr. *nagâgu* in *Nah.* 46. Hit-zig's combination of *še'ôl* with *šû'âl*, fox (see his *Jesaja*, 1833, p. 52) is not impossible: the original meaning of *šû'âl* may be *burrower*, and the middle *'Ain* may be secondary (see AJSL 23, 245; contrast 34, 210).

TORĀ = TAIRIRTU

Twenty-three years ago I pointed out in *Chronicles* (SBOT) 80, 48 that Heb. *tôrâ* corresponded to Assyr. *têrtu*, oracle (HW 51; AkF 68). For the Heb. *ô* = Assyr. *ê* see *Proverbs* (SBOT) 33, 51; *Est.* 7; JBL 36, 90. Assyr. *têrtu*, however, is not identical with Ethiopic *temhért*, instruction (JBL 19, 58): the original meaning of *têrtu* is *entrails*; cf. Syr. *têrtâ*, internal parts of animal bodies, especially *midriff* (see AJSL 4, 214, l. 218) which is used also for *mind* (cf. Heb. *me'îm*, Assyr. *kabiltu*, GB¹⁰ 333^b). Assyr. *têrtu*, oracle, denotes originally *interpreta-*

¹ Heb. *šalâ*, to be quiet, is not connected with Assyr. *šalû*, to sink; this Hebrew stem has not a *k*₁, but a *k*₂ (JAOS 28, 115).