

Columbia College



New York, Feb. 13 1895

My dear Goldziher -

I stand in need of your help. I am sure you will be able and glad to give it me. In a little think that I now have in hand these or a couple of lines which I do not understand and which may perhaps contain some mistake. In explaining the words $\text{وَرَّ$ and وَرَّ , my text (which is unique) runs

وَرَّ رَبِّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَرَّأَا قَالَ الرَّاجِزُ جَارَتَنَا مِنْ وَأَوَّلِ الْأَسْمَاءِ
 اسْمِي اسْقَيْتَ مَوْبَ الدَّيْمِ مَوْبَ وَيَبِيعُ بِأَكْرَمِ لَمْ يَنْتُمْ يُؤْتَرُ رَأَا مِنْ وَوَاءِ
 الْأَكْرَمِ وَرَّ الرَوَايَا بِالْمُزَادِ الْعَصَمِ

The last part is perfectly clear - meter and everything. What is not clear is the part which I have marked off with the pencil. I must either be "mit bestem Verstand" or the text must be wrong. Can you suggest any healing?

You must not chide me for not writing. I have 18 hours a week of instruction to give at the College. I am to give this semester in addition a short course upon Semitic Linguistics. You can imagine what work this entails. With my class in Palaeography I have gone through the kindji's inscriptions; and now we are studying the Corp. Ins. Semit.

part II. With my Syrians I am reading the Gilgamesh legends; with the Syrians Cuvier's Spicilegium; with the Hebrews Genesis, Deuteronomy, Hosae, Kin di to Palms and the Divan of Jehuda Hallel; with the Arabs Ibn Abi Athir and Mufasssal. That is enough to keep one more than busy. Sunday morning I teach Jewish History in Sunday School; Saturday morning give a private lesson in Jewish Religion. What remains for my work. I have also engaged to do the Hebrew Bards in Philadelphia, to write a book upon the settlement of the Jews in America for Watts Jewish Library, to contribute a volume on Phoenician Religion for a series of handbooks on Comparative Religions etc. etc. How happy you must be to read and work as you can. I have about 25 students this year. One has just handed me in a Dr. Thesis on "The influence of the LXX upon the Vulgate"; another is publishing the Arabic text of the $\text{I} \odot \text{S} \text{N} \text{S} \text{N} \text{I} \text{A}$ of Jehirol; a third is writing a history of Jewish Ethics.

Shall we not meet Somewhere next Summer. I have thought of going as far as Constantinople. I shall also spend some few weeks at Dora. I must finish a part of my Bow Ali. Allah wayzäh!!

Most cordially yours

Richard Gottheil