fin.) or decision, must be combined with massa'or, saw; cf. Syr. ma'agzara, ax, saw, and gezirta, decree, from gezár, to cut. In Hebrew we have ma'agzerá, ax (also garzén = gazrinn) and in Dan. 4: 14. 21 Aram. gezérá means decree. Cf. also Sum. kut and tar (SGl 126. 155). I shall discuss the term Masora in a special paper.

THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF SHEOL

Heb. še'ol should be written še'ol with Ceré in the first syllable: it is a form qittál (cf. the Ethiopic form Si'ol) from the stem sa'al, derived from the root sal which we have in Arab. nātalá- 'r-raqiğata and tálá- '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 tal appears in šalâ, to sink; see Kings (SBOT) 175, 2 and cf. Heb. šúhâ and šahî, pit, from šâh, to sink (Arab. sa'xa, jasâxu). From the same stem we have šilân (= šilyânu) sunset (KAT³ 636; cf. AJSL 33, 48). Arab. nátal is said to mean pit, and tillah signifies annihilation, death; so Heb. še'ol is a synonym of šahî (GB² 821²; cf. JBL 34, 81).

For the Aleph in še'ol cf. AJSL 21, 205 and the remarks on Heb. nahâg = Arab. ná'aja = Assy. nagâgu in Nah. 46. Hitzig's combination of še'ol with šâ'ôl, fox (see his Jesaia, 1833, p. 52) is not impossible: the original meaning of šâ'ôl may be burrower, and the middle 'Ain may be secondary (see AJSL 23, 245; contrast 34, 210).

TÔRA = TAHRIRTU

Twenty-three years ago I pointed out in Chronicles (SBOT) 80, 48 that Heb. tôrâ corresponded to Assy. têrêtu, oracle (IIW 51; AkF 68). For the Heb. õ = Assy. ê see Proverbs (SBOT) 33, 51; Est. 7; JBL 36, 90. Assy. têrêtu, however, is not identical with Ethiopic lemhért, instruction (JBL 19, 58): the original meaning of têrêtu is entrails; cf. Syr. têrât, internal parts of animal bodies, especially midriff (see AJSL 4, 214, 1. 218) which is used also for mind (cf. Heb. me'îm, Assy. kabîltu, GB² 33b). Assy. têrêtu, oracle, denotes originally interpreta-

¹ Heb. šalâ, to be quiet, is not connected with Assy. šulâ, to sink; this Hebrew stem has not a š, but a š (JAOS 28, 115).