A BIBLICAL PARALLEL TO A LEGAL FORMULA FROM UGARIT

The legal documents from Ugarit recently published by J. NOUGAYROL 1) contain a legal formula which has a striking parallel in the Bible. In a large number of conveyances of property it is stated that the transfer is made in perpetuity, the formula being *samid adi dariti* which the editor and translator renders as *lié pour toujours* 2). This formula is strikingly similar to *לצימתו לדורים* of Lev. xxv 30.

I do not profess to know what precisely the significance of the above parallelism is. It does seem to me, however, that it speaks volumes against those who would assign a late date to the sections of Leviticus relating to the year of the jubilee 3).

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DS GENESIS APOCRYPHON AND TARGUM JERUSHALMI I
ON GEN. XIV 24

The passage Gen. xiv 24óbכע רכ אָשֶׁר אָכַל הָעָרִים הָהָלָקִים אָכַל הָלָקִים אָכַל עַד גֵּרֵם מִמֶּה הָיָה לָקִים is rendered in Targ. Jer. I (Pentateuch, Vienna, 1859, and “Targum Jonathan”, Warsaw, 1861-7, as well in the subsequent editions of the Rabbinical Bible) as follows: *ואלה לית לע רוש ובכע* 4) ארעה דבור מי אכאל שולמה והליקה ויברה דאואל תמי עגריואל ממעי אָכַל שולמה והליקה.


4) Warsaw בּוֹכּלָה.
6) Ed. princ. בּוֹכּלָה.
At first sight the reading "booty" seems to be preferable to the reading "country". But, as I have tried to show in my article "Das Targum Jonathan zu Gen. 45 : 24 und 14 : 24", AJSL, LVI, 1939, 251-255, the reading "country" can be justified in view of the rendering by Targ. Jer. I of Gen. xii 6 and Gen. XIII, 7. I should like now to submit that the following considerations give some support to this conclusion: 1) It is somewhat strange that, while in verse 21 the term employed by Targum is "country", the expression "booty" should have been chosen in v. 24. 2) The difference of spelling and "country" concerns not only the change of daleth and resh, but also the transposition of the letters a and v. 3) The apparently redundant circumlocution re-echoes the rendering of Gen. xiii 7. The original and correct reading is, therefore, in my opinion, "country". The variant "booty" must be regarded as a copyist’s error, or an emendation introduced by a copyist, who was baffled by the term in this context and “corrected” it into "country
type", re-echoed by the Targum Jer. I elsewhere, as for example, Nu. xxxi 11 and 12; Dt. iii 7. This expression appears also in the Hebrew of Gen. xlix 27.

Regarding the words of the Targ. 5) I have written in my article (p. 255): “Als Vermutung sei schliesslich ausgesprochen, ob nicht im Targum Jonathan statt dbr mny zu lesen ist: br mny = “fern von mir”. Das d von dbr wäre aber dann vor ’lkw zu setzen: d’lkw. Fehlt ja nach unserer Lesart die Übersetzung des Wortes ’r im Targum”.

This supposition appears to me no longer tenable, because the idea “far from me” is already expressed by the Targum in the words "country"—a paraphrase of the Hebrew "far from me". I should like to propose now a slightly different emendation of the Targum text and read "country", “apart from what they have

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1) MS. Br. M. Add. 27031 (photocopy in my possession) reads: בך; GINSBURGER printed בך.
2) MS. וך; GINSBURGER וך.
3) MS., Ed. princ., and Vienna GINSBURGER and Warsaw "country".
4) MS. and ed. princ. תבון.
5) MS. וך.