

**A Re-examination of the Term HaNaḥ HaNe'elam (as-Sākin al-Layyin) in
HaMaslul Book of Abū Ishāq Ibrāhīm bin Faraj bin Mārūth
Ali Watad**

HaMaslul book, or in its Arabic name "Kitab Altawtiya", written by the "old" scholar Abū Ishāq Ibrāhīm bin Faraj bin Mārūth is a Hebrew grammar book which was written according to the Samaritan Tradition. Z. Ben-Ḥayyim published it in his book titled "Hebrew and Aramaic Amongst the Samaritans" (Ben-Ḥayyim, 1965, Volume A, P. 3–127). Originally, Ben-Ḥayyim published this book in Arabic and attached to it a translation in Hebrew.

It is most likely that the book was written during the first part of the 12th century. The book is an old systematic Samaritan grammar book and it appears to be the oldest and the only one of what we have obtained from the Samaritan linguistic literature.

Abū Ishāq, the author of "HaMaslul book", does not mention Samaritan linguists and or other grammar books that could have preceded him. However, and according to the grammatical and linguistic principles on which the book is based, the way the content flows and based on the grammatical terminology we can safely conclude that "HaMaslul book" was not the first composition within the Arabic and the Hebrew linguistic richness and sophistication of the time. It is worth noting that the author mentions very few Hebrew linguists in very general terms while he does not mention Arab linguists at all.

The author's linguistic theory is based on the recognition of the **triadic consonantal root approach**. According to him: "there is no way that a verb could consist of less than (3) three consonants and when we find a verb consisting of two consonants only, in such a case a consonant would have been dropped from it as shall be explained later on".

One of his explanations to the missing consonant in the root is the use of the concept of "HaNaḥ HaNe'elam", "as-Sākin al-Layyin". Ben-Ḥayyim alluded to the concept of "Sākin Layyin" a number of times in his publication. With that, he was not totally sure that he was using the concept of "Sākin Layyin" the same way intended by the linguist Ḥayyuj.

On the other hand, G. Goldenberg in his article "The 'Weak Quiescent' and the Hebrew Root", *Léšoněnu* ,44 ,4, (1980), p .289, says: "if as-Sākin al-Layyin is found in HaMaslul book of the Samaritan linguist of the 12th century, Abū Ishāq Ibrāhīm bin Farag bin Māruth, that constitutes the solid evidence that the theory of Ḥayyuj has reached him".

In my presentation, I would like to re-examine the concept of "HaNaḥ HaNe'elam", "as-Sākin al-Layyin", according to the grammatical approach of the Samaritan linguist Abū Ishāq and shall try to determine whether it is similar to the approach of the Jewish/Hebrew linguist Judah Ḥayyuj or not.