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A table of contents for *Journal of Biblical Literature* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_jbl-01.php

Now one of the rivers in Babylonia by which the exiles dwelt is called in Ezra 8 15, 21, 31 מִיָּבֵן. The Greek transliteration of this is either ΑΟΥΑ or ΕΟΥΕ or ΕΟΥΑ.³ This was misread by a scribe as COΥΔ.

Thus the riddle of the river SUD is solved. Sud was originally nothing else but Ahawa.

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These twenty years, etc.

To the beginner in Hebrew such a phrase as הַעֲשִׂים עֲשֵׂה הַיּוֹם Gen. 31 38, which he finds universally translated "these twenty years," is a stumbling-block, defying, according to the translation, all laws of syntax. Have our grammarians done much better? In Gesenius-Buhl, p. 193 b, which may be cited as giving the latest pronouncement, הַיּוֹם in such cases is understood as "jetzt," with comparison of הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה "now then." But in the latter case הַיּוֹם is purely enclitic and so necessarily postpositive (cf. *cet homme-ci*), as is also the pronoun in the Greek parallel adduced, τρίτον ἢ τέταρτον ἔτος ταυτί. But הַיּוֹם is simply what Nöldeke calls a "demonstrative-relative-pronoun," *SG* § 209. It is both here and in Syriac the exact equivalent of the ancient Arabic كُو "that-of," for the survival of which in classical Arabic see Wright, *Arabic Gr.* 2, p. 203. Reckendorf, *Arabische Syntax*, p. 152, cites an entirely parallel phrase to the Heb. idiom, ذَا صَبَاح "eines Morgens." Cf. also the preposition مُنْذُ of time, "since," = *min dā*, see Wright, 2, § 61. The idiom is frequent in Syriac, e. g. Gen. 43 10 ܘܠܐܝܢ ܘܚܝܬܝܢ ܗܝܘܢܝܢ ܗܝܘܢܝܢ exactly. Cf. ܗܘܝܘܡܝܢ "to-day," ܠܗܝܢ "now," and ܗܘܚܝܢ "temporal" (*Clem. Rom.* ed. Lagarde, p. 28, l. 21). The Biblical phrase equals the English "a matter of 20 years."

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³ See Beyer, *Der Text des Buches Ezra.* (1922), p. 76.