

put together the bits of information that he could get he had to look to the Old Testament for his primary source to fit these evidences together and give an idea of the actual religion of the heathen Arabs in 500 A.D. His famous book on this subject was used as a source by the learned Scotch scholar, Robertson Smith, who was later editor of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. He assumed that the religion which Wellhausen, with much assistance from suggestions in the Old Testament, re-constructed as the Arabic religion of about 500 B.C. was actually the religion which the Arabs held two thousand years earlier. In his famous book on the religion of the Semites, published, I believe, in 1875, he tried to show how this Arabic religion was the source from which practically every element in the Old Testament religion was derived. This book went through two editions. Then the Pan-Babylonian movement came. It was thought that the actual origin of Hebrew religion was discovered and every one forgot about the claims of Arabic heathenism. Now that leading scholars have given up the Babylonian viewpoint, a third edition of Robertson Smith's book has been published within the last five years.

The other source which is alleged for the Hebrew religion is the Canaanite. Ten years ago we had absolutely no evidence regarding the religion of the Canaanites, except a few objects excavated in Palestine about thirty years ago. There was no writing in connection with any of these objects. However, that did not deter learned scholars from writing books hundreds of pages long to show how the Israelites derived their religion from the ancient Canaanites. One interesting feature of this was the emphasis placed on the so-called "massabas" found at many points in Palestinian excavation. A massaba is a column. These columns were