

## The Toledo Qur'ān and Islamic Eschatology: Translating the Names of Hell in Aljamiado Literature

El Corán de Toledo y la escatología islámica: traducir  
«infierno» en la literatura aljamiada

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The introduction of the Toledo Qur'ān states that the text in the Latin alphabet was copied from an Aljamiado translation. In fact, the translation of terms and expressions relating to hell shows some specific characteristics of Aljamiado literature, such as the privileged use of calques from Arabic and a preference for the term Jahannam, though the most quoted term *al-nār* (“fuego”) is also attested. These characteristics are more evident when compared to Latin translations prior or contemporaneous to the Toledo Qur'ān. It is clear that in the translation of terms related to hell, these works display greater attention to Latin style and final result thus evidencing another perspective and consequently another audience.

The preference given to the term Jahannam is closely linked to the evidence emerging from the Aljamiado eschatological literature, where Jahannam is generally preferred to *al-nār*/“fuego.” This preference reflects more than specific characteristics of the literature of the Moriscos, an evolution of Muslim literature as a whole, which is reflected in the kind of literary materials circulating and transmitted. Further, along with this, Aljamiado literature on hell and also the Toledo Qur'ān reflect similar developments in the late medieval Muslim Arabic literature, and therefore also in eschatological traditions, in which Jahannam emerges

La introducción del Corán de Toledo dice que el texto en alfabeto latino se copió de una traducción aljamiada. De hecho, la traducción de términos y expresiones relacionadas con el infierno muestra algunas características muy especiales de la literatura aljamiada, como la preferencia por el uso de calcos del árabe o del término *Āhannam*, aunque el término más citado, *al-nār* (“fuego”), está también atestiguado. Estas características son incluso más evidentes cuando se comparan con las traducciones latinas previas o contemporáneas al propio Corán de Toledo. Parece claro que estas obras conceden mayor atención al estilo latino en la traducción de términos relacionados con el infierno, lo que indica que tenían una nueva perspectiva y, consecuentemente, debían buscar otra audiencia.

La preferencia dada al término *Āhannam* está íntimamente relacionada con los casos encontrados en la literatura escatológica aljamiada, en la que *Āhannam* se suele preferir a *al-nār* (fuego). Pero más que una característica de la literatura de los moriscos, esta preferencia muestra una evolución de la literatura musulmana en general, tal y como queda reflejado en los materiales literarios que circulaban y se transmitían. Por tanto, en esta línea, la literatura aljamiada y el Corán de Toledo muestran desarrollos similares en la literatura árabe me

strongly as the term used to describe hell in narratives.

dieval y, por tanto, en las tradiciones escatológicas en las que ʿĪhannam emerge fuertemente como el término utilizado en la narrativa para describir el infierno y sus muchas etapas.

*Key words:* Islam; Qurʿān translation; Aljamiado; Eschatology; Hell.

*Palabras clave:* Islam; traducción del Corán; Aljamiado; Escatología; Infierno.

## 1. Introduction

Among the medieval and early modern translations of the Qurʿān, the Toledo Qurʿān stands out with a few unique features. Translated into Spanish at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it is not only a significant early attestation of a complete translation of the Muslim holy text into a European language, but also the work of a Muslim translator for a Muslim audience. Therefore, the Toledo Qurʿān is a translation which lies on the border between Europe and the Muslim world. It testifies to the activity of the translators of the Qurʿān across Europe, which started in the Iberian peninsula – especially in Spain – in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Likewise, it can be regarded as a product of Morisco literary activity, characterized by an activity of translation whose most typical expression was Aljamiado literature. In order to better appreciate the peculiarity of this translation in relation to this double context, I deemed it useful to analyze the terminology used to mention hell in the Qurʿān, and the way it is translated, discussing this specific aspect in relation to other Qurʿān translations and to Aljamiado literature as a whole. Through this analysis, I hope to be able to illustrate some significant features of this translation, and its relation to Aljamiado and Islamic literatures.

The choice of this topic is connected to a study I carried out on eschatological narratives regarding hell in Aljamiado literature. In another paper, I discussed the contents of the narratives in which hell is mentioned and described.<sup>1</sup> Eschatological details and direct references to hell are in fact ubiquitous in many texts written by Moriscos. From the “Tale/story/*Ḥadīth* of the Day of Judgment” to other well-known Islamic motifs or stories – such as the night journey and the ascension to heaven (*miʿrāj*) by Muḥammad, or the stories of the colloquy between Moses and God, of Jesus and the skull, of the *Donzella Carcayona*, and others – various Aljamiado texts

<sup>1</sup> See Tottoli, “The Morisco Hell: Significance and Relevance of the Aljamiado Texts for Muslim Eschatology and Islamic Literature.”

mention hell, or describe it in detail, defining it with different names and terms. Significantly, details and textual evidence of these stories show that the Aljamiado hell is perfectly in line with the Islamic descriptions, and closely related to Quranic and Hadith images. Where some small detail is added, it is perfectly consistent with the reinterpretation of Islamic literature during the Middle Ages. Furthermore, the existence of families and of several copies of the same narrative in Aljamiado versions attest a more conservative attitude towards the translated texts if compared to the body of Arabic versions which I was able to consult.

With this in mind, the translation of the terms and description of hell in the Toledo Qur'ān is certainly a significant aspect, which could shed further light both on this text, and on the analysis of the religious terms used in Aljamiado literature. Islamic terminology in Aljamiado literature, along with the discussion on the contents of the narratives is, in fact, the other main issue concerning the translation of Aljamiado literature, and its relationship with Islamic Arabic literature.

## 2. The Toledo Qur'ān and Western Translations of the Qur'ān on Muslim Hell

The Toledo Qur'ān is a complete translation of the Islamic holy text into Spanish, which has survived in one single manuscript preserved in the Biblioteca de Castilla-La Mancha in Toledo (no. 235). The text has been comprehensively studied and recently re-edited by Consuelo López-Morillas, who has carried out various studies on the Aljamiado Qur'āns, and on this text in particular.<sup>2</sup> Besides mentioning previous studies, in her edition of the Toledo Qur'ān, López-Morillas also examines the most recent research on this subject, providing a general overview on the Qur'ān in Aljamiado literature, and on the questions posed by this text. Copied in 1606 by an anonymous Morisco from Aragon (or supposedly Muḥammad Rubio, as suggested by López-Morillas), the Toledo Qur'ān is a complete translation of the Qur'ān in Latin characters. As the text itself states, it was copied from an original which included the holy text in both Arabic and Aljamiado.<sup>3</sup> The identity of the author of this translation, as well as

<sup>2</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo. Edición y estudio del manuscrito 235 de la Biblioteca de Castilla-La Mancha*.

<sup>3</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, pp. 13, 21f.

its relation to the lost Qur'ān by Yça de Segovia, who translated the text in 1456 – have been questioned by López-Morillas, and dismissed in another recent study by Ulli Roth and Reinhold Glei.<sup>4</sup> As regards the translation itself, in her introduction, López-Morillas exhaustively discusses the main linguistic features of the text, focusing on flaws, traits and peculiarities in syntactic, morphological and lexical choices.<sup>5</sup>

There are different possible ways to analyze a Quranic translation, and many are the questions arising from the various perspectives. One interesting aspect is the analysis of the choices of the translator concerning specific topics, to be considered not only in relation to other translations of the Qur'ān, but also to literature as a whole. In this paper, I will make reference to the other Medieval and Early Modern European translations of the Qur'ān, and to Aljamiado literature.<sup>6</sup> For the purpose of this study, the analysis of the way the names and the descriptions of hell are translated in the Toledo Qur'ān may prove to be extremely useful, given the relevance of the topic in the holy text, and the questions connected to it. Hell is in fact mentioned in many passages, mostly with the term *al-nār*, meaning “fire,” and with *Jahannam*, which is the Arabic for Gehenna. Among the other names or expressions, there is the more frequent *al-Jahīm*, along with other terms (*Sa'ir*, *Lazā*, *al-Hutama*, *al-Hāwiya*) which, in some cases, puzzled exegetes and consequently translators as regards their exact meaning related to fire, flames, etc.

In the Toledo Qur'ān the most common term *al-nār* is translated as *fuego*, i.e. Spanish “fire.” In fact, all the occurrences of the term *al-nār*, without exception, are translated in this way.<sup>7</sup> As regards the translation

<sup>4</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 33, underlines that, at the beginning, the copyist of the Toledo Qur'ān states that he copied into Latin script starting from an Aljamiado (i.e. in Arabic script) copy, while Yça de Segovia might have written his translation directly in Latin script. On this, see Roth and Glei, “Die Spuren der lateinischen Koranübersetzung des Juan de Segovia – alte Probleme und ein neuer Fund,” who dismissed the possibility of a connection between the Toledo Qur'ān and the translation by Yça de Segovia.

<sup>5</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 83f.

<sup>6</sup> The other existing Aljamiado translations are incomplete and, in general, refer to different traditions and only have few elements in common with the Toledo Qur'ān, see López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, pp. 46-81, and also López-Morillas, “The genealogy of the Spanish Qur'ān.”

<sup>7</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 140 (Q 2:24), p. 142 (Q 2:39), p. 145 (Q 2:80-81), p. 149 (Q 2:126-127), p. 150 (Q 2:174-175), p. 157 (Q 2:201), p. 159 (Q 2:217), p. 159 (Q 2:221), p. 163 (Q 2:257), p. 165 (Q 2:266), p. 166 (Q 2:275), p. 168 (Q 3:10), *passim*.

of the second most frequent term, *Jahannam*, the Toledo Qur'ān displays one of the most common features of Aljamiado literature – that is, the use of calques from Arabic for significant religious terms. All the occurrences of the Arabic *Jahannam* are translated as *chehannam*.<sup>8</sup> This term also appears in the expression “fire of Jahannam,” attested in some verses, which is always rendered as *fuego de chehannam*.<sup>9</sup> Although the translation of the two main Quranic terms is consistent and systematic, *chehannam* seems to be preferred in some passages, and in the translation of other terms related to hell. Firstly, *chehannam* appears in relation to the translation and glossing of some verses where the term is not explicitly present in the Quranic text.<sup>10</sup> Secondly, *chehannam* is the favorite choice when translating the other expressions in the Qur'ān related to hell, which exegesis and later narratives usually consider as different names of it. *Al-Jahīm* is mostly translated as *chehannam*<sup>11</sup>; only in a few cases it is translated as *fuego*<sup>12</sup> or, in one case, adopting the calque of Arabic *alchahim*.<sup>13</sup> The use of calques is also attested for the purpose of rendering other names, reflecting the Aljamiado tendency to preserve significant Arabic expressions from the original text. Even in this case, however, along with the transcription of the Quranic terms, the favorite choice appears to be *chehannam*, and not the more frequent Quranic *fuego*. In the

<sup>8</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 157 (Q 2:206), p. 168 (Q 3:12), p. 183 (Q 3:197), p. 189 (Q 4:55), p. 193 (Q 4:93), p. 194 (Q 4:97), p. 195 (Q 4:105), p. 196 (Q 4:121), p. 198 (Q 4:140), p. 200 (Q 4:169), p. 234 (Q 7:18), p. 248 (Q 7:179), p. 251 (Q 8:16), *passim*.

<sup>9</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 259 (Q 9:35), p. 262 (Q 9:63), p. 262 (Q 9:68), p. 264 (Q 9:81), p. 266 (Q 9:109), p. 429 (Q 35:36), p. 492 (Q 52:13), p. 529 (Q 72:23), p. 551 (Q 98:6). See “Jahannam” and “Fire” occurring together: p. 251.

<sup>10</sup> See the verse dealing with the punishment of misbelievers (Q 3:88): *chehannam* appears in the translated text but not in the original Arabic, López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 174; the same tendency appears when dealing with other details and elements of hell: *ghayyan* in Q 19:58 is glossed and explained as *Gaye un bal de fuego en chehannam*, see López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 336.

<sup>11</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 203 (Q 5:10), p. 356 (Q 22:51), p. 436 (Q 37:23), p. 437 (Q 37:55), p. 438 (Q 37:64), p. 438 (Q 37:68), p. 453 (Q 40:7), p. 473 (Q 44:47), p. 473 (Q 44:56), p. 492 (Q 52:18), p. 502 (Q 56:49), p. 504 (Q 57:19), p. 525 (Q 69:31), p. 530 (Q 73:12), p. 539 (Q 79:36), p. 539 (Q 79:39), p. 541 (Q 81:12), p. 542 (Q 82:14, but *fuego de chehannam*), p. 553 (Q 102:6).

<sup>12</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 149 (Q 2:119), p. 210 (Q 5:86), p. 440 (Q 37:163) and cf. *fuego* in translating Q 37:97 (not in an eschatological setting), p. 542 (Q 83:16).

<sup>13</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 266 (Q 9:113).

case of *Sa'ir*, along with *la valle de Çayr* (Q 22:4),<sup>14</sup> or *fuego* (Q 34:12),<sup>15</sup> the preferred translation is *channaham* (Q 31:21, 35:6, 42:7, 67:5, 10, 11).<sup>16</sup> *Saqar* is transcribed simply as *Çacar*,<sup>17</sup> or glossed as *el fuego de Çacar*<sup>18</sup> but, again, also translated as *channaham*.<sup>19</sup> As regards the other less frequent terms – along with the prevalent transcription from Arabic, such as in the case of *Alhóttama*<sup>20</sup> and *Alhéggüiyah*<sup>21</sup> – the Arabic *Lazā* in Q 70:15 is translated as *channaham*.<sup>22</sup>

This situation can be partly compared to what is found in other Aljamiado partial translations of the Qur'ān. These texts show a tendency to give a clear-cut definition of hell in the Spanish translation, mentioning it with the terms “jahannam” and “fire.” For instance, in one passage the Arabic *al-nār*, such as in the case of *al-nār al-kubrā* in Q 87:12, is translated as *en el fuego mayor de jahannam*.<sup>23</sup> This tendency is mostly evident in relation to other terms or concepts connected to hell. Where there is mention of *Sijjīn*, it is glossed and translated as *qu-es la presión en jahannam*.<sup>24</sup> The use of *Jahannam* when the translator needs to include an exegetical hint to hell appears in some other passages: *al-'adhāb al-kabīr* (Q 88:24) is translated as *el tormento mayor de jahannam* (“the great torment of Ja-

<sup>14</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 352.

<sup>15</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 422.

<sup>16</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, pp. 410, 427, 463 and 520 (here also *channaham* from ar. *Jahannam* appearing in Q 67:6).

<sup>17</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 531 (Q 74:26-27), p. 532 (Q 74:42).

<sup>18</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 532.

<sup>19</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 497 (Q 54:48).

<sup>20</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 554 (Q 104:4-5).

<sup>21</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 553 (Q 101:9).

<sup>22</sup> López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, p. 526.

<sup>23</sup> “BRAH T19” (=Martínez de Castilla Muñoz, *Edición, estudio y glosario del manuscrito aljamiado T19 de la Real Academia de la Historia*), pp. 322, 550.

<sup>24</sup> “Junta 9” (=Laureano García, *Tradiciones musulmanas (Ms. IX de la Biblioteca de la antigua Junta para la Ampliación de Estudios de Madrid)*), p. 219; *Sijjīn* is also quoted in “BNM 4953” (=Hegyi, *Cinco leyendas y otros relatos moriscos (Ms. 4953 de la Bibl. Nac. Madrid)*), pp. 124, 125. Even if it is rare, we must also mention the term *zabāniya* which appears for instance in Ms “Junta 9” in a version of the story of the Day of Judgment attributed to Ka'ab, see “Junta 9,” pp. 321, 323. A passage in “BNM 4953” suggests that there could have been some problems of comprehension of the proper meaning of the term indicating the angels of hell. There, the expression *y sera lançado en Zabāniya*, followed by an analogous expression where *Jahannam* is used, seems to point to it as the name of a place, while the original meaning must have been “being thrown amongst the angels *Zabāniya*”; see “BNM 4953,” p. 204.

hannam”),<sup>25</sup> but also *fire* is used; ‘*adhāb al-sa‘īr* (Q 67:5) is translated as *la pena del fuego* (“the punishment of Fire”).<sup>26</sup> There are two more passages, in the first of which *al-Jahīm* is translated as *jahannam*, while in the second occurrence as *fuego*.<sup>27</sup> The term *al-ghāsiya* in Q 88:1 is also rendered with *fuego*;<sup>28</sup> in this case Jahannam and fire are used to mean hell. Other texts take a different direction; in the Qur’ān commentary discussed by Vernet, *jahanna(m)* stands alone, with no indication of fire.<sup>29</sup> In general, the various renderings appear unsystematic, but point to the more common use of Jahannam and Fire, although there is a clear tendency to gloss and simplify.<sup>30</sup> In general, the translation of the two major terms to indicate hell is faithful, i.e. Fire for *al-nār* and Jahannam for *jahannam*, but when there is a need to insert glosses or further explanation, Jahannam and Fire are sometimes used interchangeably, while other times Jahannam is preferred.

In this regard, and in relation to these other partial translations from Aljamiado literature, the Toledo Qur’ān seems to display similar features, using the two most common terms Jahannam and Fire (*al-nār*) for the most part. However, even more than in these translations, Jahannam, in the form *chehannam* – which is a calque from Arabic and not of the Biblical Gehenna – seems to be the favorite term. This, as we shall see, attests to the use of this term in Aljamiado sources, and stands out in comparison to the other Western translations. A brief comparison of the Aljamiado translation to some of the early and coeval translations into Latin will suffice to better understand its main features.

In the Bibliander edition of the translation by Robert of Ketton, for instance, where it is possible to trace the verses, *gehenna* is given as the corresponding translation of the Arabic Jahannam in most passages, but it is

<sup>25</sup> “BRAH T19,” p. 324.

<sup>26</sup> “BRAH T19,” pp. 337-338; see also p. 338: *aṣḥāb al-sa‘īr* transl.: *compañías del fuego*.

<sup>27</sup> “BRAH T19,” p. 347.

<sup>28</sup> “BRAH T19,” p. 551.

<sup>29</sup> Vernet, “La exegesis musulmana tradicional en los coranes aljamiados,” pp. 135-137; in the passage at p. 135 *pena de fuego* is mentioned just after the term *jahannam*.

<sup>30</sup> Cf. in fact the tables of the various translations made by López-Morillas, *The Qur’ān in Sixteenth-Century Spain: Six Moriscos Versions of Sūra 79: al-jahīm* is rendered as *fuego* or alternatively *jahannam*, pp. 78, 79. In the exegetical parts *chehannam* appears alternatively as *fire* to refer to hell, see López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, pp. 321, 336, 373, see also p. 413 where Jahannam is inserted just after *al-nār*, which is rendered in the same verse as *fire* (Q 32:19); but cf. p. 396: *fuego*, p. 407: *alchanna / fuego*.

also translated as *infernus*,<sup>31</sup> and even as *ignis*.<sup>32</sup> At the same time, *al-nār* is translated as *ignis* all over the text. Interestingly, this translation highlights the different approach and focus of a non-Muslim translator, who was more concerned about the final result of the Latin version. Rather than a matter of inconsistency, there seems to be a problem of comprehensibility of the Latin text, resulting in the choice of terms belonging to Biblical tradition. A clear example of this is the translation of all the other terms connected to hell: *ignis* (or alternatively *focus*, which is never connected to *al-nār*), Gehenna and *infernus* are used alternatively.<sup>33</sup>

Similar cases of calques from Arabic can be found in some passages of Egidio da Viterbo's translation: *Alchumatu* of *al-Ḥuṭama* in Q 104-105, and *al-Giazim* of *al-Jaḥīm*.<sup>34</sup> However, where the two occurrences of *al-Ḥuṭama* appear together, the puzzling term is given as "infernum, Alchumatu";<sup>35</sup> as regards *al-Jaḥīm*, it appears in other occurrences alternatively as *ignis*<sup>36</sup> or, preferably, in the second part of the Qur'ān, as *infernus*.<sup>37</sup> Different solutions are also adopted to render *Sa'ir*, which is translated or transcribed as Zangris/Zaigr,<sup>38</sup> or as *infernus*,<sup>39</sup> and even

<sup>31</sup> Bibliander, *Machumetis Saracenorum principis, eiusque successorum vitae, doctrina, ac ipse Alcoran* (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1543), p. 76 (Q 11:119), p. 85 (Q 15:43), pp. 91, 94 (Q 17:8, 17:97), while in the rest of the *sūra* the term is translated as "gehenna", p. 98 (Q 18:102), p. 100 (Q 19:86), p. 142 (Q 38:85), p. 144 (Q 39:71), p. 154 (Q 45:10), p. 160 (Q 50:24, 30), p. 165 (Q 55:43), p. 181 (Q 78:21).

<sup>32</sup> Bibliander, *Machumetis Saracenorum*, p. 153 (Q 74), p. 178 (Q 72:15, 23), p. 184 (Q 85:10).

<sup>33</sup> *Ignis*: for *al-Jaḥīm* in Bibliander, *Machumetis Saracenorum*, p. 42 (Q 5:86), p. 67 (Q 9:113), p. 109 (Q 22:51), p. 118 (Q 26:91), p. 139 (37:68), *passim*; see also p. 154 (Q 44:56): *foco*, p. 183 (Q 82:14): *focus*, p. 187 (Q 102:6): *foci*. For *Sa'ir*: Bibliander, *Machumetis Saracenorum*, p. 107 (Q 22:4), p. 129 (Q 31:21). For *Saqar*: Bibliander, *Machumetis Saracenorum*, p. 164 (Q 54:48, but it is *focus*), p. 179 (Q 74:26-27), p. 179 (Q 74:42). For *Lazā*: Bibliander, *Machumetis Saracenorum*, p. 177 (Q 70:15). Gehenna: for *al-Jaḥīm*: Bibliander, *Machumetis Saracenorum*, p. 139 (Q 37:23, 64). For *Sa'ir*: Bibliander, *Machumetis Saracenorum*, p. 149 (Q 42:7). *Infernus*: for *Sa'ir*: Bibliander, *Machumetis Saracenorum*, p. 174 (Q 67:10, 11).

<sup>34</sup> Starczewska, *Latin Translation of the Qur'ān (1518/1621) commissioned by Egidio da Viterbo. Critical Edition and Introductory Study*, p. 342 (Q 22:51), p. 371 (Q 26:91).

<sup>35</sup> Starczewska, *Latin Translation of the Qur'ān*, p. 698.

<sup>36</sup> Starczewska, *Latin Translation of the Qur'ān*, p. 27 (Q 2:119), p. 133 (Q 5:10), p. 148 (Q 5:86), *passim*.

<sup>37</sup> Starczewska, *Latin Translation of the Qur'ān*, p. 442 (Q 37:23), p. 445 (Q 37:64, 68), p. 451 (Q 37: 163), p. 477 (Q 40:7), *passim*.

<sup>38</sup> Starczewska, *Latin Translation of the Qur'ān*, p. 337 (Q 22:4: Zangris), p. 411 (Q 31:21), p. 425 (Q 34:12).

<sup>39</sup> Starczewska, *Latin Translation of the Qur'ān*, p. 430 (Q 35:6), p. 498 (Q 42:7), p. 624 (Q 67:5), p. 625 (Q 67:10), p. 626 (Q 67:11).

*ignis*, while *Lazā* is *ignis ardens*,<sup>40</sup> and *Saqar* and *al-Hāwiya* are translated as *infernus*.<sup>41</sup>

In general, however, *al-nār* is always translated as *ignis* while Jahannam as *infernus*. The translation thus reflects the expected problems posed by the meanings of the various names of hell, showing a preference for *infernus*. It is somehow clear that the translator, whenever he is not able to find an exact equivalent for one term, opts for the term which can best recall hell in the target culture of the translated text. This is also evident in other coeval or slightly later translations, despite the different solutions adopted to render Jahannam. While, for example, in the Latin translations by Germanus de Silesia and Cyril Lucaris *al-nār* is always translated as *ignis*, the former translates Jahannam alternating *infernus* with a more frequent *gehenna*, while the latter always translates it as *infernus*.<sup>42</sup> In Lucaris *infernus* is his favorite solution for translating *al-Jahīm*.<sup>43</sup> *Infernus* is also the favorite solution by Germanus for translating *al-Jahīm*,<sup>44</sup> while he opts for different solutions to translate this term as well as other less frequent names.<sup>45</sup>

Although it must be clear that the matter at stake here is not the relation between these translations, this brief comparison points out that the Toledo Qur'ān appears first of all systematic in the translation of the two main terms for hell, in the use of *channaham* for Jahannam, and also as regards other less frequently quoted terms. Many other significant Islamic terms are transcribed from Arabic in the Qur'ān, not only when they are related

<sup>40</sup> Starczewska, *Latin Translation of the Qur'ān*, p. 635 (Q 70:15).

<sup>41</sup> Starczewska, *Latin Translation of the Qur'ān*, p. 646 (Q 74:26-27), p. 647 (Q 74:42), p. 695 (Q 101:9).

<sup>42</sup> See for ex. Cruz Palma, *La traducción latina del Corán atribuida al Patriarca de Constantinopla Cirilo Lúcaris (1572-1638)*, p. 19 (Q 2:206: *Infernus*), *passim*; Germán de Silesia, *Interpretatio Alcorani Litteralis. Parte I: la traducción latina; introducción y edición crítica*, ed. García Masegosa, p. 56 (Q 2:206: *gehenna*), p. 65 (Q 3:12: *infernum*).

<sup>43</sup> Cruz Palma, *La traducción latina del Corán*, p. 13 (Q 2:119), p. 40 (Q 5:10: *ignis infernalis*), p. 169 (Q 22:51), p. 187 (Q 26: 91).

<sup>44</sup> Germán de Silesia, *Interpretatio Alcorani Litteralis*, p. 49 (Q 2:119), p. 101 (Q 5:86), p. 128 (Q 7:41), p. 141 (Q 7:179), *passim*.

<sup>45</sup> Germán de Silesia, *Interpretatio Alcorani Litteralis*, on other translation of *al-Jahīm*: p. 165 (Q 9:113: *gehenna*), p. 337 (Q 37:23: *Tartari*), p. 339 (Q 37:97: *ignis ardentis*), p. 341 (Q 37:163: *ignis inferni*), p. 353 (Q 40:7: *tormento tartari*), p. 374 (Q 44:47, 56: *Tartari*), p. 399 (Q 52:18: *supplicio orti*), p. 413 (Q 56:94: *ardentem barathri*), p. 442 (Q 69:31: *tartarum*), p. 462 (Q 79:39: *barathrum*). *Sa'ir*: p. 363 (Q 42:7: *ignem*), p. 437 (Q 67:5, 10, 11: *ignis, flamma, ignis*). *Saqar*: p. 404 (Q 54:48: *ignem*), p. 451 (Q 74:26-27: *Tartari... ignis*), p. 452 (Q 74:42: *barathrum Saccara*). *Lazā*: p. 443 (Q 70:15: *Agape... flamma*). *al-Hāwiya*: p. 505 (Q 101:9: *barathrum*). *al-Ḥuṭama*: p. 511 (Q 104:4-5: *orci infernalis*).

to eschatology (i.e. *alchanna* for paradise). The use of *channaham*, however, does not just illustrate the central concern of an Islamic translation – not only in comparison to the other European translations of the Qur’ān – but also a clear tendency to further emphasize the Islamic character of the terminology. This is more evident in the Toledo Qur’ān than in any other Aljamiado translation. However, as we shall see, it is not a specific feature of this Quranic translation, but is strictly connected to Aljamiado. In order to support this statement, we will briefly analyze Aljamiado literature in the following paragraph.

### 3. From Arabic to Spanish. The Names of the Muslim Hell in Aljamiado Literature

Hispanists and scholars of Aljamiado texts have carried out numerous studies on the linguistic questions raised by these texts, especially if relevant to the history of Iberian languages and vernaculars of the periods they were written in. The present analysis will rather focus on how Spanish writers or copyists translated Islamic eschatological words and concepts into Spanish, in particular regarding the Muslim Hell, so as to better understand the choices made by the translator of the Toledo Qur’ān.

Aljamiado and Morisco literature is Islamic literature written in Iberian languages between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and – as it has been rightly defined – it is mainly based on faithful translations of original Arabic works.<sup>46</sup> This faithfulness is undoubtedly related to the necessity to preserve the essence of the original, but also to characterize the specificity of these texts with Arabisms and formal devices.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>46</sup> The connection of the Aljamiado texts with the Arabic originals is still awaiting comprehensive discussion and research. The *locus classicus* on this point is the PhD thesis by L.P. Harvey, *The Literary Culture of the Moriscos, 1492–1609: A Study Based on the Extant Manuscripts in Arabic and Aljamia*. Using the words by Alberto Montaner, these translations were made with *gran fidelidad*; see Montaner Frutos, “La Aljamia: una voz islámica en Aragón,” p. 100; on the point see also Barletta, *Gestos clandestinos: la literatura aljamiado-morisca como práctica cultural*, p. 119; Reuter, *Aljamiado narratives of Muhammad’s ascension to heaven: the Moriscos and the mi’raj*, p. 10; López-Baralt, *Tratado de los dos caminos: (ms. S2 de la Colección Gayangos, Biblioteca de la Real Academia de la Historia) por un morisco refugiado en Túnez*, pp. 163–164; Suárez García, “Las demandas de Ḥatim al-‘Aṣam: una traducción de Algazel y otras versiones morisca” (forthcoming).

<sup>47</sup> On the topic of Arabism and style as a cultural reference in texts not translated from Arabic, see Harvey, *Muslims in Spain 1500 to 1614*, p. 141.

### 3.1. *Jahannam*

This necessity to preserve the original and further characterize significant Islamic words emerges in the terminology used to mention hell and its features. This is in fact a significant example of the ways Aljamiado texts read, translate and interpret the corresponding Arabic terms for their audience. As already noticed in other studies, the first evidence is that *Jahannam* is also in this case the preferred term to mention hell, rather than the corresponding *fuego* (“fire”). *Fuego* translates the Arabic *al-nār*, which is the most common term in Islamic Arabic literature but appears in Aljamiado texts as second in frequency after *Jahannam*.<sup>48</sup> *Jahannam* appears as the most common name to mention hell in various passages in the texts taken into consideration, alone<sup>49</sup> or alongside *aljanna*, which is the Aljamiado loanword from the Arabic *al-janna*, the most frequent name of paradise in the Qur’ān and Muslim traditions.<sup>50</sup> The transliteration of *aljanna* for

<sup>48</sup> The proportion already appears in the Qur’ān, where *Jahannam* is mentioned 77 times, while fire is mentioned, apart from the occurrences in its first meaning, about 125 times; see Gwynne, “Hell and Hellfire,” in *Encyclopedia of the Qur’ān*, p. 414.

<sup>49</sup> “Paris 774” (=Sánchez Álvarez, *El manuscrito misceláneo 774 de la Biblioteca nacional de París*), pp. 166-168, 170, 182, 202, 226-27, 263: *tormento de jahannam*, pp. 275-277; “Aitona” (=Roza Candás, *Narraciones aljamiado-morisca en el manuscrito de Aitona*), p. 292; “Junta 57” (=Mauries Boumehdi, *Miscelanea aljamiada narrativa y doctrinal: edición y estudio del manuscrito Junta 57 del CSIC Madrid*), f. 99r, 102r, 109r; “BRAH T19,” pp. 348, 349: mentioning *al’adhab doloroso de jahannam*; “BRAH T19,” pp. 416, 419, 421, 423, 439, 445; “Junta 9,” pp. 241, 354, 460; Wieggers, *Islamic Literature in Spanish and Aljamiado. Yça de Segovia (fl. 1450), his Antecedents and Successors*, pp. 252, 255, 262f.; “ABN 614” (=Bouras, *La Waṣīyya de ‘Alī del Manuscrito Aljamiado 614 de la Bibliothèque Nationale de Algérie [Estudio, Edición y Materiales]*), pp. 355, 366; Mancebo de Arévalo, *Sumario de la relación y ejercicio espiritual sacado y declarado por el Mancebo de Arévalo en nuestra lengua castellana*, pp. 179, 266, 271, 287, 302; “Junta 13” (=Código aljamiado de varias materias (Manuscrito N.º XIII de la Antigua Junta para la Ampliación de Estudios)), pp. 252, 289; Vespertino Rodríguez, *Leyendas aljamiadas y moriscas sobre personajes bíblicos*, pp. 181, 183, 254; “Urrea de Jalón” (=Corriente Córdoba, *Relatos píos y profanos del manuscrito aljamiado de Urrea de Jalón*), pp. 63, 202, 208, 270, 273; “Tulaytuli” (=La plegaria musulmana en el ‘Compendio de al-Tulaytuli’. *Transcripción del manuscrito de Sabiñan (Zaragoza)*), p. 60.

<sup>50</sup> “Junta 57,” f. 25r bis, f. 49v; “Paris 774,” p. 261; “Aitona,” p. 234; “BRAH T19,” p. 434; “Junta 9,” p. 427; “Junta 13,” pp. 350, 402; Vespertino Rodríguez, *Leyendas aljamiadas*, pp. 174, 175, 177, 205, 207, 224, 226; “Urrea de Jalón,” p. 81; Kontzi, *Aljamiado Texte*, pp. 681, 873; “BRAH T8” (=Guijarro Hortelano, *La maternidad en las comunidades mudéjar y morisca según un manuscrito aljamiado-morisco aragonés. Estudio y edición crítica (Código T-8, BRAH)*), p. 461; “Tulaytuli,” p. 64. López-Morillas, “Aljamiado and the Moriscos’ Islamization of Spain,” p. 18: *aljanna* and *jahannam* are always used instead of *paraiso* and *infierno*.

paradise, including the article *al-*, also explains why *jahannam* appears as the most frequent term: it most probably looked much more “Islamic” from a religious point of view, as a way of differentiating among the surrounding non-Muslim people, surely much more than translating the Arabic word as *paraiso* or *infierno*, or a generic “fire.” Furthermore, the couple *aljanna* and *jahannam* maybe had also a superficial phonetic resemblance which could have made them a convenient pair of contrasting terms.

As displayed in various religious texts containing description or mention of hell, Aljamiado literature shows a preference for *Jahannam* also in the range of expressions connected to the term. An interesting example is the use of the expression *f(f)uego de jahannam* (“fire of Jahannam”). The corresponding Arabic expression *nār Jahannam* is already mentioned in the Qurʾān,<sup>51</sup> and also appears in a number of major Arabic traditions. Early Quranic commentaries mostly mention it in connection to the related verses in Quranic passages,<sup>52</sup> or while mentioning one of the hadiths – attributed to the Prophet Muḥammad – which use this expression. Major hadith collections, for instance, include a few reports in which the Prophet Muḥammad states that the “fire of Jahannam” awaits those who commit suicide with a knife, or by other means, such as by drinking poison, etc.<sup>53</sup>; or that the fire on earth is one seventieth of the “fire of Jahannam.”<sup>54</sup> Other hadiths, in differing versions, mention the fire of Jahannam when the Prophet states that the destiny awaiting the men drinking from golden or silver vessels is that “the fire of Jahannam will gargle in their bellies.”<sup>55</sup> Similar reports can be found in the major hadith collections.<sup>56</sup> However,

<sup>51</sup> See Q 8:37; 9:49, 68, 81, 109; 35:36; 52:13; 72:23; 89:23.

<sup>52</sup> See for instance Muqātil b. Sulaymān, *Tafsīr*, I, pp. 165, 567, II, p. 187, *passim*.

<sup>53</sup> Al-Bukhārī, *Ṣaḥīḥ*, II, p. 96 no. 1363, VII, p. 139 no. 5778, VIII, p. 26 no. 6105, p. 133 no. 6652; Muslim, *Ṣaḥīḥ*, I, p. 103; Ibn Māja, *Sunan*, II, p. 1145 no. 3460.

<sup>54</sup> Al-Bukhārī, *Ṣaḥīḥ*, IV, p. 121 no. 3265; al-Tirmidhī, *Sunan*, IV, p. 710 no. 2540; Ibn Māja, *Sunan*, II, p. 1130 nos. 3413, 3415; Mālik, *al-Muwattaʿa*, II, p. 994; Ibn Ḥazm, *al-Fiṣal fī al-mīlal*, II, p. 81, V, p. 40; Ibn Abī al-Dunyā, *Ṣifāt al-nār*, I, p. 99 no. 148, p. 102 no. 155.

<sup>55</sup> Al-Bukhārī, *Ṣaḥīḥ*, no. 5634; Muslim, *Ṣaḥīḥ*, III, p. 1634; Mālik, *al-Muwattaʿa*, II, p. 924; al-Thaʿlabī, *al-Kaṣḥf wa-l-bayān ʿan tafsīr al-Qurʾān*, II, p. 47, III, p. 264; Ibn Abī Shayba, *al-Muṣannaḥ*, V, p. 103 no. 24135.

<sup>56</sup> Muslim, *Ṣaḥīḥ*, I, p. 454, IV, p. 2184: the expression is in the title of a *bāb* on the heat of the fire of Jahannam. See also Ibn Abī al-Dunyā, *Ṣifāt al-nār*, I, p. 99 no. 149: the fire of this world invokes protection from the fire of Jahannam. See how the “fire of Jahannam” quoted by Andalusian authors such as Ibn Hazm, *al-Fiṣal*, II, p. 81, III, p. 66, IV, pp. 55, 152, 154, V, p. 40; Ibn Abī Zamanīn, *Uṣūl al-fiqh*, I, p. 139; and Makki b. Abī Ṭālib, *al-Hidāya ilā bulūgh al-nihāya fī ʿilm maʿānī al-Qurʾān wa-tafsīri-hi*, IV, p. 2368, VI, p. 4297, *passim*.

Qur'anic passages and later sources in which the expression is attested appear to be mostly referring to the fire as belonging to hell, thus "the fire of Jahannam" is used in its literal meaning. The impression from the quotations in the Aljamiado texts is that in most cases the *fuego de jahannam*, the "fire of Jahannam," is quoted with a clear reference to hell and its punishment as a whole rather than to the fire which is awaiting the damned.<sup>57</sup> This may be not the case when Muḥammad asks God to save his community (*al-umma*) from the fire of Jahannam, or in other occurrences.<sup>58</sup> Nevertheless, it probably stands for hell in general when mention is made to those who are to be saved or to escape the "fire of Jahannam,"<sup>59</sup> or to "those of the fire of Jahannam," a more probable translation of *ahl Jahannam* than *ahl nār Jahannam*.<sup>60</sup>

The preference for Jahannam to give a vivid picture of hell appears in a variety of other expressions which are in general derived from the original Arabic texts, but which also clearly indicate the characterization, and even popularization, of the description of hell. The terms and expressions are also in these cases already mentioned in hadith literature, but it is in late Medieval narrative rewritings that these elements are combined in colorful descriptions. In this regard, Aljamiado texts perfectly fit in this context, confirming this tendency towards enlargement and narrative reworking. The term *Jahannam* is used in many expressions to describe

<sup>57</sup> "Paris 774," p. 137; "Aitona," pp. 226, 229, 230; "Junta 57," f. 97r; "BRAH T19," pp. 297, 304, 361; see also Ms Madrid BRAH S-I, cap. 16 in Latin characters as transcribed in "ABN 614," pp. 371, 372, 374; "BNM 4953," pp. 114, 122, 132, 158, 198, 201, 203, 204, 222; "Junta 13," pp. 251, 259, 265; "Tulaytuli," pp. 63, 70; Valero Cuadra, *La leyenda de la Doncella Carcayona. Estudio y edición crítica*, p. 472. The expression sometimes appears with a secondary reference to its fire just to indicate "not to enter hell": "Paris 774," p. 138; "BRAH T19," p. 374. On this point see also Roza Candás and Suárez García, "Léxico religioso islámico y cristiano en dos manuscritos aljamiados," p. 224, where they mention the "sintagma *fuego de jahannam*" used to translate the Arabic *al-Jahim* in some specific cases.

<sup>58</sup> There is no doubt that it also occurs where the punishment of proper fire – or even fires of Jahannam – are meant with these expressions; see for instance "Paris 774," p. 201: *Fuegos*; "Aitona," p. 291: *fuego*; "Paris 774," p. 205; "Aitona," p. 293; "Junta 9," pp. 317, 321; "Junta 57," ff. 36v, 39r, 43v, 106v; cf. f. 48r: *la pena de Jahannam*; "Junta 9," p. 420; "Junta 13," p. 402. Jahannam alone is used in some passages alongside the expression "fire of Jahannam," see "Paris 774," pp. 159-160, 204, 213; "Aitona," p. 298; "Junta 9," p. 426; Mancebo de Arévalo, *Sumario*, p. 187; "Junta 13," pp. 258-259; Mancebo de Arévalo, *Tratado (Tafsira)*, pp. 288, 289, 338, 373: *los fuegos de Jahannam*; "BRAH T8," p. 461.

<sup>59</sup> "Paris 774," pp. 148, 159, 160, 260; "Junta 57," ff. 98r-98v, 111v, 132v, 142r; "BRAH T19," pp. 417, 446; Vespertino Rodríguez, *Leyendas aljamiadas*, pp. 191, 204; "Urrea de Jalón," p. 167; Kontzi, *Aljamiado Texte*, pp. 363, 445, 616, 640, 665 (Ms Madrid Junta no. 3).

<sup>60</sup> Vespertino Rodríguez, *Leyendas aljamiadas*, pp. 236, 238.

hell, such as in *las kadenas de jahannam* (“the chains of Jahannam”),<sup>61</sup> the *perros de jahannam* (“dogs of Jahannam”),<sup>62</sup> and *un árbol de jahannam* (“a tree of Jahannam”).<sup>63</sup> As regards animals inhabiting hell, the major role is undoubtedly that of the serpents and scorpions, and above all serpents (usually *culebras*) appear in frequent expressions to indicate punishments.<sup>64</sup> A description, along with the *puertas de jahannam* (“doors of Jahannam”), of the *culebras de fuego* (“serpents of fire”), *de las sierpes de jahannam* (“of the serpents of Jahannam”) is given in one sermon on the merits of Ramadan, in which the two terms are alternatively used.<sup>65</sup> The list could be longer, as in many other expressions Jahannam appears as a key term in the pictorial description of hell and its punishments.<sup>66</sup>

The interrelationship between the various terms can be identified in the different versions of the same text. For instance, in the versions of the story of the Day of Judgment ascribed to Ka‘b al-Aḥbār, there is a passage in which the Angel of Death, describing the punishments of hell, mentions the *tormento de los de al-jaḥim* (“torment of those of the Jaḥim”)<sup>67</sup> in one manuscript, and in another the *tormento de los de jahannam* (“torment of

<sup>61</sup> “Paris 774,” pp. 161, 178: *fuwego penoso*; “BRAH T19,” p. 418; “Junta 13,” p. 260.

<sup>62</sup> “Paris 774,” p. 190; “Aitona,” p. 285; “Junta 9,” p. 305.

<sup>63</sup> “Junta 13,” pp. 254, 292; “Urrea de Jalón,” p. 268.

<sup>64</sup> A long description of its serpents can be found in the Ms Urrea de Jalón: “Urrea de Jalón,” p. 72. In the story of Buluqiyya, among the punishments and animals living there, the serpents of Jahannam (*culebra(s)*) are mentioned, see “Junta 57,” f. 12r, and on the scorpions, see ff. 19v, 28v.

<sup>65</sup> “Junta 57,” f. 107v; for a description of the *culebras de jahannam*, see “BRAH T8,” p. 472.

<sup>66</sup> A frequent image is related to the *orilla de jahannam* (“ear of jahannam”), when Gabriel obeys to an order by God who told him to take hell and move it, so Gabriel gets near to its ear(s) to obey God, or it is said that the Prophet prostrates before it to intercede for the sinners among his people who are punished there; see “Paris 774,” pp. 201, 208, 211; “Aitona,” pp. 291-292, 295, 297 (slightly different and spelling *orilas*), see in fact also “Junta 9,” p. 327; and cf. “Junta 57,” f. 160v: *los resollos de jahannam*. For other expressions cf. also “Paris 774,” p. 204: *tizonas de jahannam*; “Paris 774,” p. 206: *xuelo de jahannam*; “Junta 9,” p. 319: *espaldas de jahannam*; “Urrea de Jalón,” p. 266: *alqasar en jahannam*; “Junta 57,” f. 150v: *las mayors de jahannam*; “Junta 57,” f. 163r: *las cuestras de jahannam*; “Tulaytuli,” p. 66: *las puertas de jahannam*; and cf. “Junta 9,” p. 380: *las siete puertas del fuego*; Ms Madrid BRAH, Gay T13, cap. 16 transcribed in “ABN 614,” p. 408: *las gradas de jahannam*. In other texts including descriptions of Jahannam, Mālik the keeper of hell is usually mentioned: for instance along with the *k(c)ubierta de jahannam*: “Paris 774,” p. 197; “Aitona,” p. 289; “Junta 9,” p. 313; see also “Paris 774,” p. 208; “Aitona,” p. 295; “Junta 57,” ff. 157r, 167v, 169r. In other passages he is referred to as *tesorero del ffuego*, see “Paris 774,” p. 206; “Aitona,” p. 294: *tesorero*.

<sup>67</sup> “Paris 774,” p. 190.

those of the Jahannam”);<sup>68</sup> then followed in both by the mention of the *Sa'ir*. These two manuscripts introduce slight variants as regards the identification and naming of hell. These differences – which can be the result of either a reduction or an expansion of terminology compared to the Arabic original – indicate that the expressions related to the names of hell and its attributes have undergone some reworking. Similar phenomena can also be noted in the versions of the same narrative attested in Aljamiado. For instance, in Ms Paris 774 – in the longest passage mentioning fire and hell – in some passages the attributes of hell have slightly been increased, but not so significantly as to prove that there has been some reworking in comparison to Ms Aitona.<sup>69</sup>

Despite their close relation to the original Arabic – and the derivation of terms, expressions and, above all, of the imagery from attestations in Islamic traditions – the texts and traditions on hell in Aljamiado versions point to a clear preference accorded to the term Jahannam to mention fire. The overall primary use of Jahannam is for instance attested in the *Tafsira* of the Mancebo de Arévalo, where “fire(s)” appears only to mention the punishments of hell. This is particularly evident in the chapter in which sins and punishments are described.<sup>70</sup> The reason for this preference is probably to be found in the easier cultural identification of the thing evoked through an Islamically-connoted term rather than through a faithful translation in Spanish. This was the reason behind the use of *aljanna* for paradise, and of the corresponding *jahannam* for hell.

<sup>68</sup> “Aitona,” p. 285; “Junta 57,” f. 171v: *los de jahannam*; cf. instead “Junta 9,” p. 305: *con los vasos del tormento de los de laza... de al-jahim... i con las obras malas de los de Sa'ir*; “BRAH T8,” p. 463: *tormento de jahannam*. See also “Paris 774,” p. 204, “Aitona,” p. 293: where one mentions the *tizonas de jahannam* (“firebrand of the Jahannam”), the other simply uses Jahannam.

<sup>69</sup> See “Paris 774,” pp. 206-209; “Aitona,” pp. 294-296. See for instance “Paris 774,” p. 206 which mentions *el xuelo de jahannam*, not included by “Aitona,” p. 294. Both display the same alternation of fire/Jahannam in the passage, so this detail is not enough to state their preferences. See for ex. where in “Paris 774,” p. 208 we find *ffuego*, while in “Aitona,” p. 295 and “Junta 9,” p. 325 we find Jahannam; but cf. “Paris 774,” p. 209: *ffuegos de Jahannam*; “Aitona,” p. 296, “Junta 9,” p. 326 *en-el fuego*.

<sup>70</sup> Mancebo de Arévalo, *Tratado (Tafsira)*, see on this passage pp. 288-289; Jahannam is quoted in pp. 106, 163, 183, 217, 221, 225, 262, 280, 313, 330, 377: *las penas de Jahannam*: p. 199; along with *aljanna*: pp. 176, 183, 254, 341, 368. If we take a manuscript as Junta no. 3 into consideration, we can notice the alternate use of the two terms, but a predominance of Jahannam, see Kontzi, *Aljamiado Texte, fuwego*: pp. 431, 510, 616, 561 (con *buertas*); *fuwegos de Jahannam*: pp. 363, 445, 616, 640, 665; *Jahannam*: pp. 458, 592, 610, 664.

### 3.2. Fire

Despite all the cultural reasons leading to favor Jahannam rather than *al-nār*, this last term occurs so often in the Qurʾān and in later Islamic and Arabic traditions and literature, that the translators of the Aljamiado texts from Arabic could not but use it. Thus, in many sources – even if less frequently – we find the simple term *fuego*, which is the Spanish for the Arabic *al-nār*, “fire.”<sup>71</sup> It is relevant to note that sometimes it appears in different texts contained in the same manuscript, or alongside “Jahannam” in adjacent passages.<sup>72</sup> The most typical example in this regard can be found at the end of the story of the Day of Judgment, when Muslim sinners, who are punished, ask Muḥammad for intercession and *fuego* and *jahannam* are alternatively used.<sup>73</sup> In other passages of longer stories, “fire” is used with the meaning of “hell,” such as in the different versions of the story of the Day of Judgment or, for instance, where the term *fuego* appears together with *aljanna*.<sup>74</sup> Where, for example, there is mention that those destined to paradise must be sent to paradise, while those destined to hell must be sent to hell; “hell” is referred to as *fuego*.<sup>75</sup> “fire” appears again when we find the Arabic *ahl al-nār* (“Those of hell”) in the Aljamiado text.<sup>76</sup> Expressions connected to fire are very rarely used to describe narrative features of hell. For instance, *las puertas del fuego* (“the doors

<sup>71</sup> “Paris 774,” pp. 203, 231; “Aitona,” p. 293, “Junta 57,” f. 81v; “BRAH T19,” pp. 313, 368; “CSIC XXIX” (=Ahmed Zakarīa Ahmed, *Edición y estudio del manuscrito aljamiado-morisco n° XXIX del C.S.I.C.*), pp. 59, 70, 72, 100; “Junta 9,” pp. 422, 423, 242: place of the disbeliever is hell; “ABN 614,” p. 352; Vespertino Rodríguez, *Leyendas aljamiadas*, p. 159; “BRAH T8,” pp. 467, 469-471.

<sup>72</sup> See for ex. “Paris 774,” pp. 202-203, 206-11, 257-261; “Aitona,” pp. 289, 293, 294-296; “Junta 9,” pp. 326, 329; “CSIC XXIX,” pp. 47, 106, 144-145; “ABN 614,” pp. 352, 355; “Junta 13,” p. 292; Vespertino Rodríguez, *Leyendas aljamiadas*, pp. 200, 202, 219; “Urrea de Jalón,” p. 81; Abboud-Haggar, “Ibn al-Ġazārī en la literatura aljamiado-morisca a través de los manuscritos J-LII y T-232,” p. 39; “BRAH T8,” p. 461; “BNM 5301” (=Labib, “Spanische Lautentwicklung und arabisch-islamischer Geist in einem Aljamiado-Manuskript des 16. Jahrhunderts”), pp. 72-73.

<sup>73</sup> “Paris 774,” pp. 210-214; “Aitona,” pp. 296-298.

<sup>74</sup> “Paris 774,” pp. 173, 193, 206, 257, 258; “Aitona,” p. 287; “Junta 57,” ff. 104r, 152v, 166r. See also “Paris 774,” p. 173; “BRAH T19,” pp. 292, 341, 458; “CSIC XXIX,” p. 66; “Junta 9,” p. 308; “BNM 4953,” p. 120; Vespertino Rodríguez, *Leyendas aljamiadas*, pp. 200, 219; “Urrea de Jalón,” p. 178; “BRAH T8,” p. 459.

<sup>75</sup> “Paris 774,” pp. 198-200; “Aitona,” pp. 290-291, “Junta 57,” f. 157v; “Junta 9,” pp. 314-316.

<sup>76</sup> “Paris 774,” pp. 213-14, 221-222.

of fire”), as found in the Qur’ān,<sup>77</sup> or one or two doors of fire, are the only details which are actually mentioned.<sup>78</sup>

The occurrences of “fire,” which are less frequent than those of “Jahannam,” and also the fact that *alnār* is never used alongside *aljanna*, show that this term was used according to its predominance in the Qur’ān and in early Islamic traditions. Ignoring this feature was absolutely impossible and, for this reason, it does appear frequently, but not as much as the favorite term in Aljamiado literature.

#### 4. Aljamiado Translations of the *Tanbīh al-ghāfilīn* and Other Literature

A significant reference concerning the use of these terms is also offered by the Aljamiado translation(s) of the *Tanbīh al-ghāfilīn* by Abū al-Layth al-Samarqandī and the Morisco literature in Latin script. As regards Samarqandī, whenever a cross-check of the Aljamiado text with the original in Arabic is possible, a number of features can be singled out.<sup>79</sup> The title given is “Capítulo en la senblança de los del fuego” (“Chapter on the Likeness of the People of Fire”), which is slightly different from the original *Bāb šifat al-nār wa-ahli-hā*.<sup>80</sup> The Spanish is generally a faithful translation of the Arabic, even though some passages have required further explanation. For instance, the expression *fuego de jahannam* is provided to better explain a short report attributed to the Prophet<sup>81</sup> or, in another

<sup>77</sup> “Junta 57,” f. 105r: about the Ramadan, when the doors of paradise are open and those of Jahannam are close, see also 111v; “Junta 13,” p. 296.

<sup>78</sup> “BRAH T19,” p. 457.

<sup>79</sup> Only a few authors have discussed and compared the Aljamiado texts to the original Arabic versions, see for ex. al-Amiri, “El original árabe del tratado de al-Tafri‘ frente a sus dos versiones aljamiadas,” pp. 27-34.

<sup>80</sup> “Samarqandī” (=Busto Cortina, *El al-kitāb Ḥamarqandī. Edición del Ms. Aljamiado 4871 de la B.N.M., con un vocabulario completo y un estudio de algunos cuentos que en él aparecen*), p. 3; from here onwards, the comparison with the Arabic is based on the edition of the *Tanbīh al-ghāfilīn* publ. in Casablanca, n.d., which is a reproduction of a Cairo edition. It must be underlined that the translation edited by J.C. Busto Cortina is not complete, though the three manuscripts preserving parts of it cover together the whole work, see Suárez García, “Las demandas de Ḥatim al-‘Aṣam.”

<sup>81</sup> “Samarqandī,” p. 30; but it appears as *fuego del infierno* in “Mohanmad de Vera” (=Suárez García, *El tratado de materia religiosa de Mohanmad de Vera (Ms. 397 Esp. de la Biblioteca Nacional de París)*), p. 83.

case, in the Aljamiado text, we find that Mālik is referred to as *Mālik el tesorero del fuego*, i.e. “the doorkeeper of fire.”<sup>82</sup> Furthermore, in the long tradition describing the doors and layers of hell, the translation of the names of people destined to be punished is mostly faithful: 1) *al-Hāwiya* for hypocrites, people of the Table and of the Pharaoh; 2) *al-Jahīm* for those committing *shirk*; 3) *Saqar* for the *gentiles*, where in the Arabic we find *al-ṣābi’ūn*; 4) *Lazā* for Iblīs and his followers, and the Mazdeans; 5) *al-Ḥuṭama* for the Jews; 6) *al-Sa’ir* for the Christians; and 7) for Muslim sinners.<sup>83</sup> In general, the alternation *fuego/jahannam* follows the occurrences of the terms in the original Arabic and, apart from the only case mentioned above, *fuego* always translates the Arabic *al-nār*. Few phenomena, such as small omissions and additions, are unimportant, and no conclusion can be drawn from them, since they could also be connected to the existence of different manuscript versions of the work of Samarqandī, and not to the translation itself. In general, Aljamiado texts are a very faithful transposition of the original text in Arabic as for contents and formal devices, with a few examples, as regards eschatology, of glosses or additions to explain the contents of the original in the new language. The *Tanbih al-ghāfilīn* can be considered as the expression of a unique voice in the literary stratifications of the traditions and works circulating among Muslims. It undoubtedly shows a sort of higher level than the other materials diffused and as such, even though it is not a theological book but a collection of traditions, it reflects a different attitude compared to other more popular texts.

The relevance of terminological choices – and of all this discussion – appears clear if we take some other later literature into consideration, for instance, the literature written in Latin script. By cross-referencing these literatures, it emerges that the conservative attitude and the preference first for the term “Jahannam,” and then for “Fire,” revealed by Aljamiado texts,

<sup>82</sup> “Samarqandī,” p. 32; and cf. with “Junta 9,” p. 221: *el porter del fuego*. The text also shows the term *zabāniya* (referred to the angels of hell) translated as *los almalakes aprecurantes*, see “Samarqandī,” pp. 31, 33: *a los almalakes aprecurantes con-el fuego*. See also where *zabāniya* is simply transcribed: “Junta 9,” p. 321.

<sup>83</sup> “Samarqandī,” p. 31; cf. also “Mohanmad de Vera,” p. 84. On the names used in the manuscripts in Arabic circulating in al-Andalus, see “Manuscrito de Ocaña” (=Hofman Vannus, *Historias religiosas musulmanas en el Manuscrito mudéjar-morisco de Ocaña: Edición y estudio*), intr. pp. 16-17. The same list is given in ‘Abd al-Raḥīm al-Qāḍī, *Daqā’iq al-akhbār fi dhikr al-janna wa-l-nār*, pp. 64-65; see a similar list in Abu-Deeb, *The Imagination Unbound. Al-adab al-‘Aja’ibi and the Literature of the Fantastic in the Arabic Tradition*, p. 95.

reflect a greater concern for the text, rather than the mere acceptance and subsequent adherence to the originals in Arabic. In the treatise on religious matters written in Latin script by Mohanmad de Vera, which renders the *Tanbīh al-ghāfilin* almost faithfully, we also find the term *infierno* alongside *fuego*, with the proper meaning of “Fire,”<sup>84</sup> and we also find the expression *fuego del infierno*.<sup>85</sup> Later on, the term *jahanna* is also used, in some cases in alternation with *fuego*,<sup>86</sup> while in one case *infierno* translates “Jahannam,” for example in the expression *las orillas del ynfierno*.<sup>87</sup> This attitude is confirmed and verified in the treatise of *Dos Caminos*, where the favorite word for “hell” is *ynfierno*, and it appears together with “fire.”<sup>88</sup> The tendency emerging in Mohanmad de Vera’s text proves the existence of a different audience; also, the eternal abodes are referred to with less specific cultural terms and, in the Morisco texts of Aljamiado literature, they are always mentioned using Muslim names.

## 5. Aljamiado Terminology and Arabic Traditions and Literature

The use of terms relating to hell in Aljamiado literature displays specific features which have been thoroughly discussed above. A rather close faithfulness to the original Arabic sources and the history of the transmission of the copied texts – thus with no direct access to the originals – prompted a polarization of the terminology around “Jahannam” and “Fire,” the two major terms which translate “hell” in Muslim traditions. Aljamiado texts somehow show a preference for “Jahannam” to refer to hell, even though “Fire” is also frequently used. This appears clearly in translated texts which are supposedly more conservative, such as major literary works. “Jahannam” and other terms related to it are generally used, while the other Quranic terms can usually be found when the doors of hell

<sup>84</sup> “Mohanmad de Vera,” pp. 76, 81.

<sup>85</sup> “Mohanmad de Vera,” p. 82.

<sup>86</sup> “Mohanmad de Vera,” pp. 78, 83.

<sup>87</sup> “Mohanmad de Vera,” p. 85.

<sup>88</sup> On *ynfierno*: López-Baralt, *Tratado de los dos Caminos*, pp. 193, 338, 353: *las puertas del ynfierno* = p. 361 (*siete*), p. 365, p. 479. On the use of *ynfierno* and also of *gloria* for paradise in “Mohanmad de Vera,” see also Roza Candás and Suárez García, “Léxico religioso islámico y Cristiano,” p. 240. On *gloria* for paradise in the Qur’ān, see in López-Morillas, *The Qur’ān in Sixteenth-Century Spain*, p. 79. On Fire: López-Baralt, *Tratado de los dos Caminos*, pp. 365, 400, 458, 475.

are mentioned. It seems that Moriscos preferred to use *aljanna* and *jahannam* for paradise and hell, as indicators of Islamic features in a Christian environment. It is highly significant, in this regard, that *paraiso* and *infierno* appear in other contexts but very rarely in Aljamiado literature as such. The presence of “Fire” is of secondary importance but still significant, and is strictly related to the numerous occurrences in the Arabic sources.

What is far more problematic is to ascertain if this is to be considered a particular feature of Spanish Aljamiado works, or something which could have already characterized the original Arabic versions, on which the Spanish translators relied upon. The details we can find in the translations of the Qur’an and of the *Tanbīh al-ghāfilīn* are not enough to constitute evidence in this regard, although they evidently point in this direction. With regard to the other texts taken into account – since, in most cases, no direct source of translation has been discovered so far – only provisional considerations can be made, as far as Islamic literature as a whole is concerned. Islamic literature – which we only briefly discussed in relation to the expression “fire of Jahannam” – attests to the circulation of traditions using the two terms, as well as the others, in continuity with Quranic terminology. However, it is not easy to detect a specific tendency in late Islamic literary works if they are hadith-oriented, since early traditions – and, consequently, terms related to previous materials – are quoted. More specific results could be obtained by analyzing the terms used in chapter headings. However, the evidence provided by this analysis is also unreliable as, in some editions, chapter headings are added by editors, and in some early works they were added by later copyists. That being said, a few words should be added to better understand the use of the terms in relation to Islamic Arabic literature as a whole in Aljamiado literature.

Arabic works dealing with eschatology – and hell in particular – usually show a relatively larger use of the term “Fire” rather than of “Jahannam,” although both appear as synonyms all over the section dedicated to the topic; sometimes, they are even interchangeable. It is quite common to find *al-nār* in chapter headings, and *jahannam* in the traditions quoted next to them, and vice-versa. Notwithstanding the larger use of *al-nār*, literary works collecting and discussing hadiths and reports display a clear preference for “Jahannam” in relation to the physical description of hell and all the details on what it is like and what is in it. When describing its shape, its edge, its doors, its valleys, pits, rivers and anything related to it

and its landscape, the mostly used term is “Jahannam.”<sup>89</sup> Some sources refer to the shape of hell with the expression *ṣifat Jahannam*.<sup>90</sup>

In other cases, when hell is mentioned in relation to the morality of the people condemned and of their sins etc. the favorite term appears to be “fire.” This tendency clearly emerges above all in the organization of the materials, but it is partially verified in the reports themselves. “Fire” is mentioned when describing the food and drinks awaiting those condemned to hell, and the clothes they wear, or when describing the damned weeping in hell. In this regard, the expression *ahl al-nār* (“Those/The people of Fire”) is emblematic of this use, since it always appears to refer to the damned and the people destined to hell.<sup>91</sup> In the few less hadith-oriented works – which generally preserve a complete narrative rather than simply reproduce short extracts from reports handed down by previous generations – we notice that “Jahannam” is preferred. In the anonymous *Kitāb al-'azama*, for instance, “Jahannam” is the favorite term, although this could be considered to be in line with the tendency mentioned above. In this work, all the descriptions represent a pictorial “geography” of hell, and thus “Jahannam” becomes the favorite reference name.<sup>92</sup>

That being said, the Aljamiado texts appear to perfectly fit the Islamic traditions, and to be in continuity with the tendencies outlined above. However, they represent a step further, just like later Muslim Arabic literature, in the simplification of terminology but also in the clear preference for “Ja-

<sup>89</sup> Asad b. Mūsā, *al-Zuhd*, p. 23: on *awdiya* and mountains of Jahannam, even though at p. 26 he mentions the serpents (*ḥayyāt*) of Fire; ‘Abd al-Raḥīm al-Qāḍī, *Daqā’iq al-akḥbār*, p. 66; Ibn Abī al-Dunyā, *Ṣifat al-nār*, pp. 18-19 on the doors; but on 35: the mountains of Fire in the title, while in traditions Jahannam is the most used term; Ibn Rajab, *al-Takhwīf min al-nār wa-l-ta’rīf bi-ḥāl dār al-bawār*, pp. 59-130; Ibn Kathīr, *Nihāyat al-bidāya wa-l-nihāya fi al-ḥikmah wa-l-malāḥim*, p. 374, but cf. p. 379: on the walls of the Fire; al-Qurṭubī, *Kitāb al-tadhkira bi-aḥwāl al-mawtā wa-umūr al-ākḥira*, II, p. 833f., p. 870f.; al-Suyūṭī, *al-Budūr al-sāfira fi umūr al-ākḥira*, p. 306f.

<sup>90</sup> Ibn Abī al-Dunyā, *Ṣifat al-nār*, p. 23f.; al-Qurṭubī, *Kitāb al-tadhkira*, II, p. 858; Ibn Kathīr, *Nihāyat al-bidāya*, p. 361, but cf. p. 390: *ṣifat al-nār*; and cf. also al-Ishbīlī, *Kitāb al-'Aqība*, p. 290: *bāb fi ṣifat al-nār wa-ṣifat aḥlihā...*; al-Suyūṭī, *al-Budūr al-sāfira*, p. 306.

<sup>91</sup> Ibn Abī al-Dunyā, *Ṣifat al-nār*, pp. 59, 131: on the damned weeping; Ibn Rajab, *al-Takhwīf min al-nār*, p. 131f.; Asad b. Mūsā, *al-Zuhd*, p. 33f.; ‘Abd al-Raḥīm al-Qāḍī, *Daqā’iq al-akḥbār*, p. 69; Ibn Kathīr, *Nihāyat al-bidāya*, p. 380f.; al-Qurṭubī, *Kitāb al-tadhkira*, II, pp. 866f., 887-928; ‘Abd al-Ghanī al-Maqdisī, *Dhikr al-nār*, p. 67f.: *dhikr al-nār wa-aḥlihā*; al-Suyūṭī, *al-Budūr al-sāfira*, p. 326f.

<sup>92</sup> See Abu-Deeb, *The Imagination Unbound* (including an edition of An., *Kitāb al-'azama*), p. 95f., including names of the doors, description of the structure of hell, of its valleys, etc. Fire is found in the expression *ahl al-nār*: p. 126.

hannam,” which could be connected to the kind of literary material diffused.<sup>93</sup> In other words, this use of “Jahannam,” on the one hand, reflects the necessity to characterize hell through a Muslim name – rather than through the more generic term “fire” – in a minority environment. On the other hand, it is directly connected to the type of literature translated, which is mostly made of late extended stories and traditions which show a particular interest in a long description of the visual aspect of hell. Therefore, Aljamiado texts further illustrate the tendency to privilege “Jahannam” in this kind of descriptions of hell, as already shown in hadith literature, and as further developed in late Medieval narratives on eschatology and hell.

## 6. Conclusion

Many questions emerge from the discussion on the literary sources mentioned above. The analysis of the terminology on hell in the Toledo Qur’ān and in Aljamiado literature – as well as the cross-check with other Quranic translations and Islamic eschatological literature – highlights a number of identifying features of each source, as well as the relations between them. As a general consideration, it appears evident that the Toledo Qur’ān strictly belongs to Aljamiado literature. This further confirms the opening statement about the fact that it might have been copied from a version of the Qur’ān including the original Arabic, along with the Aljamiado translation. Most likely, the one who copied it in Latin script produced a faithful transcription from the Arabic script, preserving all the features that are also displayed by the corpus of Aljamiado literature.

Another point emerging from this analysis provides further evidence on the “Islamic” nature of Aljamiado literature. Among the old judgments about its contents, there is the well-known statement by Nykl, claiming that these religious texts prove the decline of the knowledge of the Islamic faith precepts.<sup>94</sup> This is no longer the case, and many other works of research in the last decades have underlined this. I would say that the truth is quite the reverse: Moriscos were a minority strongly concerned about the beliefs of their faith and the preservation of their literature.<sup>95</sup> The ter-

<sup>93</sup> On a similar type of simplification, cf. López-Morillas, *El Corán de Toledo*, pp. 92-93.

<sup>94</sup> Nykl, “A Compendium of Aljamiado Literature,” p. 29.

<sup>95</sup> See on this Barceló and Labarta, *Archivos moriscos. Textos árabes de la minoría islámica valenciana. 1401-1608*, p. 59 and ff.

minology used to translate and refer to hell clearly proves this, and any difference underlines the Islamic character – not the opposite. Furthermore, if some rewritings and revisions also exist, and some of their elements are of any cultural concern, as a whole the extent of these rewritings is completely consistent with what happened to Islamic Medieval texts diffused in Arabic. Variation in wording and even in the way characters and things are identified (sinners, layers, names) do not separate Aljamiado versions from Islamic literature. In fact, it is quite the opposite: it proves that the Aljamiado versions went through the same process as Arabic Islamic literature in the same period. The reason for this is simply that, just like in other Muslim places and times, the versions in use among Moriscos displayed various attitudes and concerns, but they all reflected ways of expression already existing in the Islamic literary traditions. Although forced into a peculiar situation, Moriscos were not urged to produce different versions of their Muslim literary heritage; on the contrary, this context determined strong conservative attitudes which led to translations characterized by a marked preference for Muslim Arabic terminology.

Nevertheless, the Toledo Qur'ān and Aljamiado literature offer more opportunities for discussion, and we can push the question about their Islamic nature further. In comparison to other translations and to later literature, even produced by Moriscos, the preservation of terminology and the use of calques clearly go in this direction. Also the preference for “Jahannam”/*chehannam* perfectly fits this picture. However, the wider use of “Jahannam” also seems to reflect a tendency partially shown in some later Islamic literature and, above all, in later popular rewritings, where vivid and fanciful descriptions of hell rely more on the term “Jahannam” than on *al-nār*. Thus, if so, it is clear that the Toledo Qur'ān does not only reveal a larger use of Islamic terminology, which reflects a cultural necessity to characterize the beliefs of a minority, but also displays certain features of the Islamic literature and, consequently, of the Aljamiado texts dating to the period between the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. The use of “Jahannam” in the Toledo Qur'ān is thus strictly connected to the Aljamiado literature as a whole which, on this point, appears in perfect continuity with the coeval Islamic literature produced in other Muslim areas, not only as regards contents, but also as far as eschatological terminology is concerned.

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