

IX. LEQAH TOBH.

‘Let water stream from his buckets^a’ (Num. xxiv. 7)—from the poor who are in Israel: hence they say, ‘Be careful with the children of the people of the land [i. e. the poor], because from them doth the law go forth^b.’ ‘And let his seed be on many waters:’ the kingdom of Israel is to be above all the kingdoms of the earth. ‘May his king be high above (or, from) Agag:’ from the days of Agag, king of Amalek, the kingdom of Israel took its rise. ‘And let his kingdom be exalted,’ in the days of the Messiah, of whom it is said, ‘Behold my servant shall prosper; he will be high and *exalted*, and lofty exceedingly.’

^a There is a play here upon the word כדליי, which is interpreted as though it were pointed כדלָי.

^b Thalmud of Babylon, *Nedarim* 81^a.