

The name is apparently unknown in pre-Islamic literature, though it must have been known to the circle of Muḥammad's audience.<sup>1</sup> From its form one would conclude that it came from the Syr. ܡܝܕܐ rather than the Heb. מִיֶּדָה,<sup>2</sup> a conclusion that is strengthened by the Christian colouring of the Lot story.<sup>3</sup>

مَائِدَة (Mā'ida).

v, 112, 114.

Table.

A late word found only in a late Madinan verse, where the reference is to a table which Jesus brought down for His disciples.

The Muslim authorities take it to be a form مَائِدَة from مَاد (cf. *LA*, iv, 420), though the improbability of their explanations is obvious. It has been demonstrated several times that the passage v, 112-15 is a confusion of the Gospel story of the feeding of the multitude with that of the Lord's Supper.<sup>4</sup> Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 24,<sup>5</sup> pointed out that in all probability the word is the Eth. ጣኦድ, which among the Abyssinian Christians is used almost technically for the *Lord's Table*, e.g. ጣኦድ ፡ እግዚአብሔር, while Nöldeke's examination of the word in *Neue Beiträge*, 54, has practically put the matter beyond doubt.<sup>6</sup>

Addai Sher, 148, however, has argued in favour of its being taken as a Persian word. Relying on the fact that مَائِدَة is said by the Lexicons to mean *food* as well as *table*, he wishes to derive it from Pers. مِيْدَه, meaning *farina triticea*.<sup>7</sup> Praetorius also, who in *ZDMG*, lxi, 622 ff., endeavours to prove that Eth. ጣኦድ and the Amh. ጣድ are taken from Arabic, takes مَائِدَة back to Pers. مِين <sup>8</sup> (earlier pro-

<sup>1</sup> Horovitz, *KU*, 136.

<sup>2</sup> But see Sycz, *Eigennamen*, 37.

<sup>3</sup> Vide Künstlinger, "Christliche Herkunft der Ḳuranischen Lötlegende," in *Rocznik Orientalistyczny* (1931), vii, 281-295.

<sup>4</sup> Nöldeke, *ZDMG*, xii, 700; Bell, *Origin*, 136.

<sup>5</sup> Vide also his *Fremdw*, 83, and Jacob, *Beduinenleben*, 235.

<sup>6</sup> Vide also Wellhausen, *Reste*, 232, n.; Pautz, *Offenbarung*, 255, n.; Vollers, *ZDMG*, li, 294; Cheikho, *Naṣrāniya*, 210.

<sup>7</sup> Vullers, *Lex*, ii, 1252.

<sup>8</sup> Vullers, *Lex*, ii, 1254.