

means *water* and *trees* in Hebrew,¹ and others in Coptic,² this name being given to Moses because of the place from which he was taken.

It is possible that the name came direct from the Heb. מֹשֶׁה, or as Derenbourg in *REJ*, xviii, 127, suggests, through a form מוֹסִי used among the Arabian Jews. It is much more likely, however, that it came to the Arabs through the Syr. ܡܫܗ³ or the Eth. ሙሴ, especially as it was from the Syr. that the Pazend *Mushdê*, Phlv. 𐭮𐭥𐭥𐭥 and Arm. Մուսէ were borrowed.

There appears to be no well-attested example of the use of the word earlier than the Qur'ān,⁴ so that it may have been an importation of Muḥammad himself, though doubtless well enough known to his audience from their contacts with Jews and Christians.

مِيكَال (Mikāl).

ii, 92.

Michael.

As an angel he is mentioned with Gabriel in a passage where the Commentators claim that the two are contrasted, Gabriel as the opponent of the Jews and Michael as their protector. He thus occupies in the Qur'ān the place given him in Dan. x, 13, 21, etc., as the Patron of Israel.

The early authorities were a little uncertain as to the spelling of the word, and al-Jawālīqī, 143, notes the forms مِيكَال ; مِيكَائِيل ; مِيكَال ; مِيكَال ; مِيكَال. This would suggest that it was a foreign word, and it is given as such by Ibn Qutaiba, *Adab al-Kātib*, 78, and al-Jawālīqī, op. cit.

The word may have come directly from מִיכָאֵל, or more likely from the Syr. ܡܝܚܐܠ or ܡܝܚܐܠ, as it was from Syriac that the form

¹ Rāghib gives the form as مشوحا.

² So Tab. on ii, 48 ; ath-Tha'labī, *Qīṣaṣ*, 118, who tell us that in Coptic *mu* means *water* and *sha* means *trees*. This obviously rests on the Jewish theory given in Josephus, *Antiq.*, II, ix, 6 : τὸ γὰρ ὕδωρ μὴ οἱ Αἰγύπτιοι καλοῦσιν, ὕσῃς δὲ τοὺς ἐξ ὕδατος σωθέντας, which fairly well represents the Coptic 𐭮𐭥𐭥𐭥 *water* and 𐭮𐭥𐭥𐭥 *rescued*.

³ Cf. the form מוֹסִי on a Christian incantation bowl from Nippūr (Montgomery, *Aramaic Incantation Texts*, p. 231).

⁴ So Horowitz, *KU*, 143 ; *JPN*, 156.