

plu. form (which is not uncommon in borrowed words, e.g. **صناديق** ; **تلاميذ** , **خنازير** , etc.), is so close in sound to the Greek word, and it is unlikely that it came directly into Arabic from Greek.

The original word is Iranian, the Av. **𐬨𐬀𐬯𐬭𐬀𐬎𐬌𐬌𐬀** *pairidaēza*, which in the plu. means a "circular enclosure".¹ Xenophon introduced the word into Greek, and uses it of the parks and gardens of the Persian Kings,² e.g. *Anab.* I, ii, 7, etc. After this date it is used fairly frequently, and in the LXX is sometimes used to translate **גן** or **עֵדֶן**. But it was also borrowed into other languages.³ In late Akk. we find *pardisu*,⁴ and in Heb. **פַּרְדֵּס** a *park* or *garden*, also in Aram. the **ܦܪܕܝܣܐ** of the Targums, and Syr. **ܦܪܕܝܣܐ** commonly mean *garden* and are of Iranian origin,⁵ like the Arm. *պարտիզ*.⁶

Tisdall, *Sources*, 126, thought that **فردوس** was borrowed from late Heb., but in the sense of *Paradise* it is very rarely used in Heb.⁷ Its origin is almost certainly Christian, and probably Syriac, for **ܦܪܕܝܣܐ** was very commonly used for the abode of the Blessed, and could easily have been learned by the Arabs from the Aram. speaking Christians of Mesopotamia or N. Arabia.⁸ Vollers, *ZDMG*, I, 646, suggests that possibly the plu. form **فراڤرديس** was the form that was borrowed, and **فردوس** later formed from this.

It was a pre-Islamic borrowing, and possibly occurs in the Thamudic inscriptions.⁹

¹ Bartholomae, *AIW*, 865; Haug, *Parsis*, 5. It survives in Mod. Pers. **باغ** *garden* (Horn, *Grundriss*, § 279), and Kurdish **بەرز** *garden* (cf. Justi, *Die kurd. Spiranten*, 29).

² This makes it the more strange that Liddell and Scott should have considered the word Semitic.

³ Telegdi, in *JA*, ccxxvi (1935), p. 250.

⁴ *ZA*, vi, 290. On the suggested Semitic origin of the Avestic word, see Delitzsch, *Paradies*, 95, 96, and Nöldeke thereon in *ZDMG*, xxxvi, 182.

⁵ The Syr. **ܦܪܕܝܣܐ**, besides Arm. **պարտիզ** *պահ* and Pers. **باغبان** for *gardener*, is conclusive evidence of the Iranian origin, **پان**, being the Phlv. **𐬨𐬀𐬯𐬭𐬀** *pānak*, a *protector*, or *keeper* (Horn, *Grundriss*, § 176; Nyberg, *Glossar*, 169).

⁶ Hübschmann, *Arm. Gramm.*, i, 229; Lagarde, *Armenische Studien*, § 1878.

⁷ As Horovitz, *Paradies*, 7, notes. Cf. also Schaefer in *Der Islam*, xiii, 326.

⁸ Horovitz, *Paradies*, 7; Grünbaum, *ZDMG*, xxxix, 581; Geiger, 48; Fraenkel, *Vocab.*, 25; Sacco, *Credenze*, 163, n.

⁹ **פַּרְדֵּס**, cf. Littmann, *Entzifferung*, 43.