

person, e.g. Yoma, 37a, **המהלך בנגד רבו הרי זה בוב** "he who walks ahead of his teacher is a boor", or Pirke Aboth, ii, 6—**אין בור ירא חטא** "No boorish fellow fears sin", and corresponds with the Aram. **בורא** used, e.g., in the Targums on Prov. xii, 1, or Lev. Rabba, § 18, where the uncultured are contrasted with the learned. Horovitz, *JPN*, 193, also holds to a Jewish origin.

Precisely similar in meaning, however, is the Syr. **ܠܐܢܐ ܠܐܢܐ**, as when Paul in 2 Cor. xi, 6, says **ܠܐܢܐ ܠܐܢܐ**, "uncultured am I in speech (but not in knowledge)"—*ἰδιώτης τῷ λόγῳ*, referring to his difficulties with the Greek tongue. So Ephraem uses **ܠܐܢܐ ܠܐܢܐ**, and Mingana, *Syriac Influence*, 93, thinks that the

Qur'ānic **بور** is of Syr. rather than Jewish origin. It is really impossible to decide. The word occurs in the old poetry, e.g. Ḥassān (ed. Hirschfeld, xcvi, 2), and a verse in *LA*, v, 153, so it was apparently an early borrowing.

يَع (*Biya'*).

xxii, 41.

Plu. of **يَعَة** a place of worship.

It was early recognized as a foreign word (as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 320; *Mutaw*, 46), and is said by al-Jawālīqī, *Mu'arrab*, 35, to be a borrowing from Persian. One is at a loss to know why al-Jawālīqī should think it was Persian, when it is so obviously the Syr. **ܠܐܢܐ**,¹ unless perhaps we may suggest that he knew of Syrian churches in Persian territory called by this name and jumped to the conclusion that it was a Persian

word. Syr. **ܠܐܢܐ** is originally an *egg* (cf. Ar. **بيض**; Heb. **ביצה**; Aram. **ביצה**), and then was used metaphorically for the top of a rounded arch—**ܠܐܢܐ ܠܐܢܐ**, and so for the domed buildings used for worship.

The word was well known in pre-Islamic times, being found in the S. Arabian inscriptions,² and occurring not infrequently in the old

¹ This has been generally recognized, cf. Sprenger, *Leben*, iii, 310, n.1; Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 24; Fremdw, 274; Rudolph, *Abhängigkeit*, 7; Cheikh, *Nasrāniya*, 201.

² **𐩣𐩨𐩣** in the Abraha inscription, *CIS*, iv, No. 541, ll. 66 and 117.