

It is always used of the Biblical Patriarch and thus is ultimately derived from Heb. **אַבְרָהָם**. If the name had come direct from the Heb. we should have expected the form **أَبْرَهَام**, and as a matter of fact the Muslim philologists themselves recognized that the Qur'ānic form was not satisfactory, for we hear of attempts to alter the form,¹ and an-Nawawī, *Tahdhīb*, 126, gives variant forms **ابراهيم**; **ابرهام**; **ابرهيم**; **ابرهيم** and **ابراهيم**. Moreover we learn from as-Suyūṭī, *Muzhir*, i, 138, and al-Jawālīqī, 8, that some early authorities recognized it as a foreign borrowing, al-Māwardī, indeed, informing us that in Syriac it means **أبرحيم** (Nawawī, 127), which is not far from the Rabbinic derivations.

The form **ابراهيم** cannot be evidenced earlier than the Qur'ān, for the verses of Umayya (ed. Schulthess, xxix, 9), in which it occurs, are not genuine, and Horovitz, *KU*, 86, 87, rightly doubts the authenticity of the occurrences of the name in the *Usd al-Ghāba* and such works. The form would thus seem to be due to Muḥammad himself, but the immediate source is not easy to determine. The common Syr. form is **ܐܒܪܗܝܡ** which is obviously the source of both the Eth. **አብርሃም** and the Arm. **Աբրահամ**.² A marginal reading in Luke i, 55, in the *Palestinian Syriac Lectionary of the Gospels* reads **ܐܒܪܗܝܡ**, but Schulthess, *Lex*, 2, rightly takes this as due to a scribe who was familiar with the Arabic.³

Lidzbarski, *Johannesbuch*, 73,⁴ compares the Mandaeen **ܒܪܐܗܝܡ**, which shortened form is also found as **ܐܒܪܗܝܡ** in the Christian Palestinian version of Luke xiii, 16 (Schulthess, *Lex*, 2), and may be compared with the **برهَام** mentioned in Ibn Hishām, 352, l. 18, and the Braham b. Bunaj whom Horovitz, *KU*, 87, quotes from the Safā inscriptions. The final vowel, however, is missing here. Brockelmann,

¹ Sprenger, *Leben*, i, 66; Sycz, *Eigennamen*, 21; Margoliouth in *MW*, xv, 342.

² Hübschmann, *Arm. Gramm.*, i, 290.

³ The forms **ܐܒܪܗܝܡ** and **ܐܒܪܗܝܡ** found in Bar Hebraeus are also probably of Arabic origin.

⁴ See also *Ephemeris*, ii, 44, n. 1.