

Eth. **ṛṛṛṛ** and the Phlv. ideogram **ṛṛṛṛ** *rōramnā* or **ṛṛṛṛ** *romanā*,¹

are of Aram. origin we may assume the same for Ar. **رمان**, but the ultimate origin of the word is still uncertain.² It occurs in Heb. as **רמון**, in Aram. **רִמְנָא** and **רומנא**, as well as Mandaean **רומאנא**,³ but appears to be non-Semitic.⁴ Horovitz, *Paradies*, 9, thinks that if it is true that the pomegranate is a native of Socotra we may have to look in that direction for the origin of the word. It is, of course, possible that it is a pre-Semitic word taken over by the Semites. (See Laufer, *Sino-Iranica*, 285.)

رَوْضَة (*Rauḍa*).

xxx, 14; xlii, 21.

A rich, well watered meadow; thence a luxurious garden. (*LA*, ix, 23.)

Both passages are late Meccan and refer to the blissful abode of the redeemed.

There can be little doubt that the word was borrowed as a noun into Arabic, and from it were then formed **رَوَّضَ** "to resort to a garden", **راوض** "to render a land verdant", **أورض** "to abound in gardens", etc. As some of these forms occur in the early literature the borrowing must have been an early one.

Vollers, *ZDMG*, I, 641, 642, noted that the word is originally Iranian, and he suggested that it was from the Iranian \sqrt{rud} , meaning to grow.⁵ The Av. **رودو** *raod* means to flow,⁶ from which comes

¹ *PPG*, 198; *Frahang*, Glossar, p. 105; and Noldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 42.

² Low, *Aramäische Pflanzennamen*, 310, says: "Etymologie dunkel," and see Zimmern, *Akkad. Fremdw.*, 54.

³ Noldeke, *Mand. Gramm.*, 123; Lidzbarski, *Mandäische Liturgien*, p. 218.

⁴ Hommel, *Aufsätze*, 97 ff.; *BDB*, 941, "a foreign word of doubtful origin"

⁵ "رَوْضَة ist ohne Etymologie: zur Bedeutung ist hier nur daran zu erinnern, dass es in der Nomadensprache jeden grünen Fleck in oder Umgebung bezeichnet. Mit dem alten Sprachgebrauch deckt sich noch jetzt nach meiner Erfahrung genau die Sprache z.B. der Sinaibeduinen. . . Ich glaube nicht fehl zu gehen, wenn ich, رَوْضَة, aus p. \sqrt{rud} 'wachsen', erkläre."

⁶ Bartholomae, *AIW*, 1495; Reichelt, *Awestisches Elementarbuch*, 493.