

ῥῆμα, it is also used to translate λόγος, and is used technically for religion.¹ It is possible, as Horovitz, *KU*, 62, 63, suggests, that the meaning was also influenced by the sense of *way*, which may be derived from the Arabic root itself (cf. Ahrens, *Christliches*, 33).

There seems to be no evidence for the use of ^{مَلَك} in its Qur'ānic sense in the pre-Islamic period,² so it may have been a borrowing of Muḥammad himself, but doubtless was intelligible to his audiences who were more or less acquainted with Jews and Christians.

مَلَك (Malak).

Of very frequent occurrence. Cf. ii, 28.

Angel.

It also occurs in the form مَلَائِكَة, with the plu. مَلَائِكَة.

The Muslim authorities are unanimous in taking it as Arabic, though they dispute among themselves whether it should be derived from مَلَك or أَلَك (Rāghib, *Mufradāt*, 19, 490; *LA*, xii, 274, and Tab. on ii, 28).

There can be little doubt, however, that the source of the word is the Eth. መልክ with its characteristic plu. መለክት,³ which is the common Eth. word for ἄγγελος, whether in the sense of *angelus* or *nuntius*, and thus corresponds exactly with Heb. מלאך; Phon. מלאך; Syr. مَلَاك.⁴ It is very possible, however, that Jewish influences also have been at work on the word, for Hirschfeld, *Beiträge*,

46, points out the close correspondence of such phrases as ملك الموت (xxxii, 11) with מלאך המות,⁵ and ملك الملك (iii, 25) with מלכא מלך מלכיא. The word would seem to have been borrowed

¹ Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 25, 26; *Sketches*, 38; Vollers, *ZDMG*, li, 293, 325; Nöldeke-Schwally, i, 20, 146.

² Nöldeke-Schwally, i, 146, n., but see Horovitz, *KU*, 62.

³ Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 34; Hirschfeld, *Beiträge*, 45; Bell, *Origin*, 52; Dvořák, *Fremdw*, 64; Rhodokanakis, *WZKM*, xxv, 71; Ahrens, *Muhammad*, 92; Pautz, *Offenbarung*, 69; but see Bittner, *WZKM*, xv, 395.

⁴ Mingana, *Syriac Influence*, 85, would derive the Arabic from this Syriac form; cf. also Fischer, *Glossar*, 118.

⁵ So Geiger, 60; but we find this also in Eth., cf. መልክ : ምት.