

of the Syr. **ܠܚܨܢܐ**¹ a *turret*, and perhaps of the Rabbinic **בורגן**, **בורגין** a *resting place* or *station* for travellers.² From this sense of *stations* for travellers it is an easy transition to *stations* of the heavenly bodies, i.e. the Zodiac. Syr. **ܠܚܨܢܐ** is indeed used for the Zodiac (*PSm*, 475), but this is late and probably under the influence of Arabic usage.

It is possible that the word occurs in the meaning of *tower* in a S. Arabian inscription (D. H. Müller in *ZDMG*, xxx, 688), but the reading is not certain.³ Ibn Duraid, 229, also mentions it as occurring as a personal name in the pre-Islamic period. The probabilities are that it was a military word introduced by the Romans into Syria and N. Arabia,⁴ whence it passed into the Aramaic dialects⁵ and thence to

Arabia. It would have been borrowed in the sing. form **بُرْج** from which an Arabic plural was then formed.

بَشَر (*Bashshara*).

Of frequent occurrence, cf. ii, 23 ; iii, 20 ; iv, 137, etc.

To announce good news.

The primitive verb **بَشَرَ** to *peel off bark*, then to *remove the surface of a thing*, i.e. to *smooth*, is not found in the Qur'ān, though it occurs in the old literature. From this we find **بَشَر** *skin* and thence *flesh*, as Syr. **ܠܚܨܢܐ** ; Heb. **בֶּשֶׂר** ; Akk. *bišru*, *blood-relation*, whence it is an easy transition to the meaning *man*, cf. Heb. **בֶּשֶׂר** ; Syr. **ܠܚܨܢܐ** (plu. **ܠܚܨܢܐ** = *άνθρωποι*). **بَشَر** in this sense occurs frequently in the Qur'ān⁷ and Ahrens, *Christliches*, 38, thinks it is of Aramaic origin.

¹ So Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 235, against Freytag and Rodiger, who claim that it is a direct borrowing from *πύργος*.

² But see the discussion in Krauss, *Griechische Lehnwörter*, ii, 143.

³ Müller in *WZKM*, i, 28.

⁴ Vollers in *ZDMG*, li, 312.

⁵ The Arm. **բարձր** came probably through the Aramaic also. Cf. Hübschmann, *Arm. Gramm*, i, 393 ; Brockelmann in *ZDMG*, xlvii, 2.

⁶ So Sab. **ܕܒܪ** and Eth. **ብረ**, but these apparently developed late under Jewish or Christian influence.

⁷ And note **بَاشَرَ** to *go in unto a wife* (ii, 183, only), with Heb. **בֶּשֶׂר** *membrum virile* ; Syr. **ܠܚܨܢܐ** *per euphemismum de pudendis viri et foeminae*.