

nounced *māz*), through forms **مید**, **مید**, and **میده**. Now there is a Phlv. word **میدس** *myazd*,¹ meaning a sacred repast of the Parsis, of which the people partake at certain festivals after the recitation of prayers and benedictions for the consecration of the bread, fruit, and wine used therein. It seems, however, very difficult to derive **مائدة** from this, and still more difficult from the forms proposed by Praetorius. Nöldeke rightly objects that the forms *māz* and *māz* which Praetorius quotes from the Mehrī and 'Umanī dialects in favour of his theory, are hardly to the point, for these dialects are full of Persian elements of late importation. Praetorius has given no real explanation of the change of *z* to *d*, whereas on the other side may be quoted the Bilin *mād* and the Beja *mēs* which are correct formations from a stem giving **ṣṣṣ** in Eth., and thus argue for its originality in that stock.

مَاعُونٌ (*Mā'ūn*).

cvii, 7.

Help.

This curious word occurs only in an early Meccan Sūra, though v, 7, is possibly Madinan (cf. Nöldeke-Schwally, i, 93), and the Commentators could make nothing of it. The usual theory is that it is a form **فاعول** from **مَعَنَ**, though some derived it from **عَانَ**.

Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 28, shows that it cannot be explained from Arabic material,² and that we must look for its origin to some foreign source. Geiger, 58,³ would derive it from Heb. **מַעוֹן** a *refuge*, which is possible but not without its difficulties. Rhodokanakis, *WZKM*, xxv, p. 67, agrees that it is from Hebrew but coming under the influence of **معونة** (cf. Aram. **ܡܥܘܢܐ**; Syr. **ܡܥܘܢܐ**), developed the meaning of *benefit, help*.⁴

¹ West, *Glossary*, 222.

² Fleischer, *Kleinere Schriften*, ii, 128 ff., would have it a genuine Arabic word, but as Nöldeke says: "aus dem Arabischen lässt sie sich nicht erklären, wie denn schon die Form auf ein Fremdwort deutet."

³ So von Kremer, *Ideen*, 226. The word is used by al-A'sha, and Horovitz, *JPN*, 221 ff., thinks Muhammad may have learned the word from this poet.

⁴ So Torrey, *Foundation*, 51.