

Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 290,¹ relates it to the Aram. שלשלתא; Syr. ܫܠܫܠܬܐ,² which is the origin of the Eth. ስላሴ (Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 42), and possibly of the late Heb. שלשלת.³ The borrowing from Aram. would doubtless have been early, and it is possible that we find the word in Safaite (cf. Ryckmans, *Noms propres*, 151).

سُلْطَان (Sultān).

Of very frequent occurrence, cf. iii, 144; iv, 93; vi, 81.

Power, authority. (ἐξουσία.)

The denominative verb سَلَطَ to give power over, occurs in iv, 92; lix, 6.

The primitive verb سَلَطَ to be hard or strong occurs frequently in the old poetry⁴ but not in the Qur'ān. It is cognate with Eth. ሠለሙ to exercise strength,⁵ and with a group of N. Semitic words, but in N. Semitic the sense of the root has developed in general to mean to domineer, have power over, e.g. Akk. šalāṭu, to have power⁶: Heb. שָׁלַט to domineer, be master of⁷: Aram. ܫܠܬ; Syr. ܫܠܬܐ to have mastery over. Under this Aram. influence the Eth. ሠለሙ later comes to mean potestatem habere.

The Muslim philologists were entirely at sea over the Qur'ānic سلطان, which they wish to derive from سَلِط (cf. *LA*, ix, 193), and Sprenger, *Leben*, i, 108, rightly took it as a borrowing from the Aram.⁸ In Bibl. Aram. ܫܠܬܐ occurs several times, with the meaning sovereignty, dominion, like the Rabbinic שולטנות and שולטנא. In the Nabataean inscriptions also we find שלטון rule, or dominion (cf. Lidzbarski, *Handbuch*, 376), but it is in Syriac that we find the

¹ See also p. 76 and Schwally, *Idioticon*, 94; Schulthess, *Lex*, 209.

² Zimmern, *Akkad. Fremdw*, 35, carries this itself back to Akk. šaršarratu.

³ Also of the Arm. շղախ, Hübschmann, *Arm. Gramm.*, i, 314.

⁴ A'shā in Geyer, *Zwei Gedichte*, i, 163; *Dīwān*, iv, 41; v, 60; *Aṣma'iyūt*, vi, 17.

⁵ Cf. also ሰለሙ and Nöldeke's note *Neue Beiträge*, 39, n. 3.

⁶ Zimmern, *Akkad. Fremdw*, 7.

⁷ It is only a late word in Heb. and possibly a borrowing from Aramaic.

⁸ So Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 39, n. 3; Wellhausen, *ZDMG*, lxxvii, 633; Massignon, *Lexique technique*, 52.