

in *ZA*, xvii, 262 ff., as *leper*, but Combe, *Babyloniaca*, iii, 73, 74, showed that it meant the humble classes,¹ and so *poor*. It passed into Heb. as מְסִכִּין, מְסִכִּין meaning *poor*, and into Aram. מְסִכִּינָא; Syr. مَسْكِين with the same meaning, and it was from Aram. that the Ar. مسكين and Eth. ማስክን were derived.²

مَسِيح (Masīḥ).

iii, 40 ; iv, 156, 169, 170 ; v, 19, 76, 79 ; ix, 30, 31.

Messiah (ὁ Μεσσίας).

It is used only as a title of Jesus, and only in late passages when Muḥammad's knowledge of the teachings of the People of the Book is much advanced.

The Muslim authorities usually take it as an Arabic word from مَسَح to wipe (Tab. on iii, 20). Others said it was from مَسَح to smear

or anoint (Rāghib, *Mufradāt*, 484), others derived it from سَاح to travel (*LA*, iii, 431), and some, like Zam. and Baiḍ., rejected these theories and admitted that it was a borrowed word.

Those Muslim philologers who noted it as foreign, claimed that it was Hebrew, and this has been accepted by many Western scholars,³ though such a derivation is extremely unlikely. Hirschfeld, *Beiträge*, 89, would derive it from Aram. מְשִׁיחָא, which is possible, though as it is used in early Arabic particularly with regard to Jesus, we are safer in holding with Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 24,⁴ that it is from Syr. مَسِيح especially as this is the source of the Arm. Մեսիս⁵ ; Eth. ማስክ ⁶ ; the Manichaean *msiḥa* of the "köktürkisch" fragments⁷ ; the Pazend

¹ Johns, *Schweich Lectures*, 1912, p. 8, would derive it from *kann* "to bow down", so that originally it would mean *suppliant*. See, however, Zimmern, *Akkad. Fremdw.*, 47.

² Noldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 45. Note also the Phon. מְסִכִּין (Harris, *Glossary*, 120).

³ Sayous, *Jesus Christ d'après Mahomet* (Paris, 1880), p. 21 ; Pautz, *Offenbarung*, 193, n. 3.

⁴ So Lagarde, *Übersicht*, 94 ; Margoliouth, *Chrestomathia Baidawiana*, 163 ; Cheikho, *Nasrāniya*, 186 ; Mingana, *Syriac Influence*, 85.

⁵ This, however, may be direct from the Greek ; cf. Hübschmann, *Arm. Gramm.*, i, 364.

⁶ Noldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 34.

⁷ Le Coq in *SBAW*, Berlin, 1909, p. 1204 ; Salemann, *Manichäische Studien*, i, 97.