

propounding a theory that in the dialect of Hījāz it was fem. and in the dialect of Tamīm masc. Many of the early philologists recognized it as a foreign word, as we learn from as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 322; *Muzhir*, i, 130; *Mutaw*, 50. They said it was Greek, and are right in so far as it was from the Hellenized form of the Lat. *strata* that the word passed into Aram. and thence into Arabic.

The word was doubtless first introduced by the Roman administration into Syria and the surrounding territory, so that *strata* became *στράτα* (cf. Procopius, ii, 1), and thence Aram. **אסטרטיא**; **איסרטיא**; **אסרטיא**; **סרטיא**<sup>1</sup>; Syr. **ܣܪܬܐ**.<sup>2</sup> From Aram. it was an early borrowing into Arabic, being found in the early poetry.<sup>3</sup>

صَرَح (Sarḥ).

xxvii, 44; xxviii, 38; xl, 38.

Tower.

The Lexicographers were not very sure of its meaning. They generally take it to mean a *palace* or some magnificent building (Jawharī), or the name of a castle (*TA*, ii, 179), while some say it means

*glass tiles*—**بلاط من قواریر**. All these explanations, however, seem to be drawn from the Qur'ānic material, and they do not explain

how the word can be derived from **صرح**.

Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 51, pointed out that in all probability the word is from Eth. **ጸርሐ** *a room*, sometimes used for *templum*, sometimes for *palatium*, but as Dillmann, *Lex*, 1273, notes, always for *aedes altiores conspicuae*. This is a much likelier origin than the Aram. **צריח**, which, though in the Targum to Jud. ix, 49, it means *citadel* or *fortified place*, usually means a deep cavity in a rock, and is the equivalent of Ar. **ضريح** not of **صرح**.<sup>4</sup> It is doubtful if the word

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Krauss, *Griechische und lateinische Lehnwörter im Talmud*, ii, 82, 413. A parallel formation is **סרדיוט** (= **סטרטיוט**) = *στρατιώτης*.

<sup>2</sup> Of particular interest is the fact that in an eschatological sense it passed from Aramaic into Pahlavi as **𐭮𐭲𐭩𐭥** *srāt*. Cf. Bailey in *JRAS*, 1934, p. 505.

<sup>3</sup> Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 25; von Kremer, *Ideen*, 226, n.; Dvořák, *Fremdw*, 26, 31, 76; Vollers, *ZDMG*, i, 614; li, 314.

<sup>4</sup> Hoffmann, *ZA*, xi, 322. What Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 237, means by **צריחת** I know not.