

المَجُوسُ (Al-Majūs).

xxii, 17.

The Magians, or Zoroastrians.

They are mentioned in a late Madinan verse along with Jews, Christians, and Šābians.

The early authorities know that the sun-worshippers are meant, and it was early recognized that it was a foreign word.¹ Ibn Sīda and

others derived the word from **کوش** and **قصیر** said to mean **منج**

said to mean **الاذن**, and tell us that it referred to a man **منج کوش**,

so called because of the smallness of his ears, who was the first to preach the Magian faith.² Others, however, knew that it was derived from the Iranian *Magush* (*LA*, viii, 99).

It is clearly the O.Pers. *Magush*,³ with the acc. form of which, *magum*, we can compare the Av. **𐬨𐬀𐬭𐬀𐬭𐬀** *magav* or **𐬨𐬀𐬭𐬀𐬭𐬀** *moyu*,⁴ and Phlv. **𐭪𐭮𐭩** *mayōi*.⁵ From Av. **𐬨𐬀𐬭𐬀𐬭𐬀** come the Arm.

𐬨𐬀𐬭𐬀𐬭𐬀,⁶ and Heb. **מגוש**, as well as the Mod. Pers. **منج**.⁷ In Phlv.

we also find a form **𐬨𐬀𐬭𐬀𐬭𐬀𐬭𐬀** *magōšū*,⁸ derived directly from the O.Pers., and this appears in the Aram. **ܡܐܓܘܫܐ**, Gk. **μάγος**,⁹ Syr. **ܡܐܓܘܫܐ**, and the **ܡܐܓܘܫܐ** of the Aramaic of the Behistun inscription.¹⁰

Lagarde, *GA*, 159, would derive **مَجُوس** from the Gk. **μάγος**, and

¹ al-Jawālīqī, *Mu'arrab*, 141; as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 324; *Mutaw*, 47; al-Khafāji, 182.

² *TA*, iv, 245; *LA*, viii, 99.

³ Vide Meillet, *Grammaire Du Vieux Perse*, p. 148; and note Haug, *Parsis*, 169.

⁴ Bartholomae, *AIW*, 1111; Horn, *Grundriss*, 221; Frahang, *Glossary*, 94; Herzfeld, *Paikuli*, *Glossary*, 213.

⁵ West, *Glossary*, 223; *PPGI*, 152 and **𐭪𐭮𐭩**, 160; Frahang, *Glossary*, 114. See also *ZDMG*, xlv, 671, for its occurrence on a Sasanian gem.

⁶ Hübschmann, *Arm. Gramm.*, i, 195.

⁷ Vullers, *Lex*, ii, 1197; *BQ*, 863.

⁸ *PPGI*, 152; Frahang, *Glossary*, p. 113. In the Assyrian transcription of the Behistun inscription it is written *magushu*. Note also the *magūstān* = priestly order. *Paikuli*, *Glossary*, 214.

⁹ There is an alternative theory that the Greek is a sing. formed from *Máγoi*, the name of an ancient Median tribe, but we find *Μαγουσαίοι* in Eusebius.

¹⁰ Cowley, *Aramaic Papyri*, p. 254.