

an-Naḍr b. al-Ḥārith, who frequently drew away the Prophet's audiences by his tales of Rustam and Isfandiyār.<sup>1</sup>

By فارسی the Muslim writers obviously mean the later Persian language which was known to them when Persia had long been an important part of the Islamic Empire, but the language which would have been known in Arabia in pre-Islamic times, the language with which Muḥammad himself may have come in contact, was Pahlavi,<sup>2</sup> the official language of the Sasanian Empire (A.D. 226-640).<sup>3</sup> This Pahlavi was a curious language whose written form was strangely compounded with Semitic elements, but which in its spoken form doubtless represented a more archaic form of the Persian we find in the later Muslim literature of Persia, though with a greater admixture of Semitic words.

The fact that the pre-Islamic and early Muslim contacts with Persia were with a people using Middle and not Modern Persian has frequently been forgotten by Oriental investigators into the foreign elements in Arabic. Thus Addai Sher on p. 4 of the Introduction to his study كتاب الالفاظ الفارسية العربیة, in detailing the changes which Persian words have undergone in passing into Arabic, complains that the Arabs frequently added a ج or a ق at the end of words, e.g. they wrote جوزینق or جوزینج for the Persian کوزینه, and قریج for کوزینه, and قریق for کره. In such cases, of course, the Arabic ج or ق represents the Pahlavi suffix و k, which in Modern Persian becomes ه after a short vowel, but is dropped after a long vowel,<sup>4</sup> as in فرشته beside Arm. Ժրհաստ from Phlv. 𐭌𐭕𐭕𐭕𐭕. A good example

<sup>1</sup> Ibn Hishām, 235, 236, and see Blochet in *RIHR*, xl, 20 ff. Naḍr is supposed to be the person referred to in Sūra xxxi, 5.

<sup>2</sup> Or Middle Persian, as the philologists prefer to call it, see Salemann in Geiger and Kuhn's *Grundriss*, i, and Noldeke, "Zum Mittelpersischen," in *WZKM*, xvi, 1-12.

<sup>3</sup> Haug, "Essay on the Pahlavi Language," p. 33 in *PPGL*; Herzfeld, "Essay on Pahlavi," in *Paikuli*, pp. 52-73.

<sup>4</sup> Vide Haug, *Essay on Pahlavi*, p. 117, and Blochet in *Revue Sémitique*, iv, 267. "Note sur l'arabisation des mots persans."