

that some early authorities thought قِسْطٌ was a borrowing from Greek.¹

The root קשט is widely used in Aramaic but occurs elsewhere apparently as a loan-word. Thus קשט ; קושטא, like Syr. ܩܫܬܐ, means *truth, right*²; Mand. קשט is *to be true*, and Palm. קשט *to succeed*, while in the Christian-Palestinian dialect we find ܩܫܬܐ *true*.³ The Heb. קִשְׁטִי is an Aramaizing, as Toy pointed out in his *Commentary on Proverbs*, and Fraenkel is doubtless correct in taking the Ar. قِسْطٌ as also of Aram., probably of Christian Aram. origin.⁴

قِسْطَاسٌ (Qistās).

xvii, 37; xxvi, 182.

A balance.

There was practical agreement among the early authorities that the word means primarily a *balance*, and then metaphorically *justice* (cf. Rāghib, *Mufradāt*, 413; *LA*, viii, 59). It was also very generally recognized as a loan-word. Some considered it as a genuine Arabic word, a variant of قِسْطٌ,⁵ but the weight of the authorities as we see from as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 323; *Muzhir*, i, 130; al-Jawālīqī, *Mu'arrab*, 114; ath-Tha'ālābī, *Fiqh*, 318, and as-Sijistānī, 257, was in favour of its being taken as a borrowing from Greek.⁶ Its foreign nature is indeed indicated by the variety of spellings we find.⁷

It was evidently an early borrowing, for it occurs in verses of

¹ This may be a reminiscence of the Lat. *iusticia*, though Sprenger, *Leben*, ii, 219, thinks that it may be the Lat. *sextarius*.

² Notice also the כושטא = honesty (with כ), of the incantation texts; cf. Montgomery, *Aramaic Incantation Texts*, Glossary, p. 292.

³ Schwally, *Idioticon*, 86; Schulthess, *Lex*, 185.

⁴ *Fremdw*, 205; Noldeke, *SBAW*, Berlin (1882), liv, 5, thinks the noun is an Arabicizing of ܩܫܬܐ, but Dvořák, *Fremdw*, 76, 78, would regard it as an Arabic word taken as foreign through its similarity in sound with قِسْطَاسٌ.

⁵ See Zam. on xxvi, 182, and the remarks in *TA*, iv, 218.

⁶ See also as-Suyūṭī, *Muzhir*, i, 137; Ibn Qutaiba (*Adab al-Kātib*), 527; al-Khafājī, 156; as-Suyūṭī, *Mutaw*, 49.

⁷ al-Jawālīqī notes قِسْطَاسٌ; قِسْطَاسٌ; قِسْطَاسٌ; to which we may add from *TA*. قِسْطَاسٌ and قِسْطَاسٌ.