

أَجْرٌ (Ajr).

Of common occurrence.

Reward, wages.

Besides the noun and its plu. أَجُورٌ there occur also the verbal forms أَجَرَ and اسْتَأْجَرَ.

The Muslim savants have no suspicion that the word is not pure Arabic, though as a matter of fact the verb أَجَرَ to receive hire, is obviously denominative.

Zimmern, *Akkad. Fremdw.*, 47,¹ has pointed out that the ultimate origin of the root in this sense is the Akk. *agru, agarru, hired servant*. From this come on the one hand the Aram. אָגַרָא: Syr. ܐܓܪܐ, a *hireling*, and thence the denominative verbs אָגַר and ܐܓܪ, to hire, with corresponding nouns אָגַר and ܐܓܪ, hire; and on the other hand (apparently from a popular pronunciation **aggaru*) the Gk. ἄγγαρος, a *courier*.²

It would have been from the Aram. that the word passed into Arabic, probably at a very early period, and as the word is of much wider use in Syriac than in Jewish Aramaic,³ we are probably right in considering it as a borrowing from Syriac.

أَحْبَارٌ (Aḥbār).

v, 48, 68; ix, 31, 34.

Plu. of حَبْرٌ or حَبْرٌ—a Jewish Doctor of the Law.

The Commentators knew that it was a technical Jewish title and quote as an example of its use Ka'b al-Aḥbār,⁴ the well-known convert

¹ Cf. also Jensen in *ZA*, vii, 214, 215.

² Even the latest edition of Liddell and Scott persists in repeating the statement in Stephanus' *Thesaurus*, that it is a borrowing from Persian. It is, of course, possible that the word may be found in the OPers. vocabulary, but if so it was a loan-word there from the Akkadian, and there can be little doubt that the Gk. ἄγγαρος with ἄγγαρεύειν and ἄγγαρεία came directly from the Akkadian, as indeed Ed. Meyer (*Geschichte des Alterthums*, iii, 67) had already recognized.

³ For its occurrence in Aramaic incantations, see Montgomery, *Aramaic Incantation Texts from Nippur*, Glossary, p. 281; and for the Elephantine papyri see Cowley, *Aramaic Papyri*, p. 178 (No. 69, l. 12).

⁴ The plu. form أَحْبَار is explained by a verse in Ibn Hishām, 659, where we learn of one whose full name was Ka'b b. al-Ashraf Sayyid al-Aḥbār.