

word ¹ derived from قَسَّ to seek after or pursue a thing, so that a قسيس is so called "because he follows the Book and its precepts", as-Sijistānī, 259. Obviously the word is the Syr. ܩܨܝܣܐ = πρεσβύτερος, as has been generally recognized by Western scholars.² This word could hardly fail to be known to any Arab tribes which came into contact with the Christians of the North and East, and as a matter of fact both forms of the word were borrowed into Arabic, قسا (cf. Aram. ܩܨܝܐ) as قس, and ܩܨܝܣܐ as قسيس, while the Ḥadīth

لا يغير قسيس من قسيسية shows that they were not unacquainted with the abstract noun ܩܨܝܣܝܐ.

We meet with the word in the early poetry,³ which shows it must have been an early borrowing, and as a matter of fact it occurs as a borrowing both in Eth. ቀሲስ,⁴ and in the S. Arabian inscriptions (e.g. Glaser, 618, 67 — 𐩧𐩣𐩬𐩨𐩣𐩬𐩨 𐩧𐩣𐩬𐩨 𐩨𐩣𐩬𐩨),⁵ on the ground of which Grimme, *ZA*, xxvi, 162, would take the word to be from a S. Arabian source, though with little likelihood.

قَصْر (Qaṣr).

vii, 72; xxii, 44; xxv, 11; lxxvii, 32.

A castle.

The word has no verbal root in Arabic, and was noted by Guidi, *Della Sede*, 579, as a borrowing. Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 14, is doubtless correct in deriving it from Lat. *castrum*, through Gk. κάστρον and Aram. ܩܨܪܐ.⁶ The word occurs not infrequently in the early poetry, and is probably to be considered as one of the words which came into Syria and Palestine with the Roman armies of occupation.⁷

¹ But see al-Jawālīqī, *Mu'arrab*, 39.

² Geiger, 51; Fleischer, *Kleinere Schriften*, ii, 118; Freytag, *Lex*, sub voc.; Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 24; *Fremdw*, 275; Rudolph, *Abhängigkeit*, 7; Horovitz, *KU*, 64; Mingana, *Syriac Influence*, 85.

³ Cf. *Aghānī*, xiii, 47, 170; xvi, 45.

⁴ Noldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 37; Pautz, *Offenbarung*, 136, n.

⁵ Cf. on it Praetorius in *ZDMG*, liii, 21; Rossini, *Glossarium*, 233.

⁶ That ܩܨܪܐ as used in the Mishnah and Jerusalem Talmud is but a form of ܩܨܪܐ, which like ܩܨܪܐ was derived directly from κάστρον, has been shown by Nöldeke, *ZDMG*, xxix, 423; cf. also Guidi, op. cit., and Krauss, *Griechische Lehnwörter*, ii, 562.

⁷ Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 234; Vollers, *ZDMG*, l, 614; li, 316.