

The origin of course is the Heb. **אֶדְרִיס**, and there is no reason why the name should not have come directly from the Jews,¹ though there was a tradition that the word came from Syriac.² The name occurs in the Safaite inscriptions (Horovitz, *KU*, 85), and was known to the poet 'Adī b. Zaid, so it was doubtless familiar, along with the creation story, to Muḥammad's contemporaries.

إِدْرِيسُ (*Idrīs*)

xix, 57; xxi, 85.

Idrīs.

He is one of the Prophets casually mentioned in the Qur'ān, where all the information we have about him is (i) that he was a man of truth (xix, 57); (ii) that God raised him to a "place on high"

رَفَعْنَاهُ مَكَانًا عَلِيًّا (xix, 58); and (iii) that being steadfast and patient he entered God's mercy (xxi, 85).

The Muslim authorities are agreed that he is **إِدْرِيسُ**, i.e. **אֶדְרִיס**, the Biblical Enoch,³ a theory derived not only from the facts enumerated above, but from the idea that his name **إِدْرِيسُ** is derived from **دَرَسَ** to study—both Jewish and Christian legend attributing to Enoch the mastery of occult wisdom.⁴ The fallacy of this derivation was, however, pointed out by some of the philologists, as Zam. on xix, 57, shows, and that the name was of foreign origin was recognized by al-Jawālīqī, *Mu'arrab*, 8; *Qāmūs*, i, 215; which makes it the more strange that some Western scholars such as Sprenger, *Leben*, ii, 336,⁵ and Eickmann, *Angelologie*, 26, have considered it to be a pure Arabic word.

¹ Ibn Qutaiba, *Ma'ārif*, 180 (Eg. ed.) notes a variant reading **إِيدَام** which may represent a Jewish pronunciation.

² Syez, *Eigennamen*, 18.

³ Tha'labī, *Qisās*, 34.

⁴ **دَرَسَ** of course means to instruct, to initiate (cf. **حَنَكَ**) and may have suggested the connection with **دَرَسَ**. For the derivation see Tha'labī, loc. cit.; Ibn Qutaiba, *Ma'ārif*, 8. Finkel, *MW*, xxii, 181, derives it from *Eὐδωρεσχος*, the 7th antediluvian King of Berossus, but this is very far-fetched.

⁵ He seems to base this on the occurrence of the name Abū Idrīs, but see Horovitz, *KU*, 88.