

مَالِك (Mālik).

xliii, 77.

Mālik is the angel who has charge over Hell.

The native authorities derived the name from مَلَكَ to *possess, rule over*. This root may have influenced the form, but the source is doubtless the Biblical *Moloch*. The Heb. form is מֹלֶךְ, and it may possibly have come direct from Heb.,<sup>1</sup> but the Syr. مَلَك (P<sup>Sm</sup>, 1989) is much more likely.

مَثَانِي (Mathānī).

xv, 87 ; xxxix, 24.

The word evidently refers to Revelation, for xv, 87, reads: "We have given thee the seven *Mathānī* and the wondrous Qur'ān," while in xxxix, 24, we read: "God has sent down the best of accounts, in agreement with itself, a *Mathānī*, whereat the skins of those who fear their Lord do creep."

aṭ-Ṭabarī's account makes it clear that the exegetes did not understand the meaning of the word. All Muslim explanations go back to some development of the root ثَنَى, but their extreme artificiality creates a suspicion that the word is a borrowed technical term.

Geiger, 58, thought that it was an attempt to reproduce the Hebrew מִשְׁנָה, the collection of oral Tradition which took its place with the Jews beside the Torah. This explanation has been accepted by many later writers,<sup>2</sup> but how are we to explain the *seven* associated with the word? Sprenger, *Leben*, i, 462 ff.,<sup>3</sup> thought that Muḥammad was here referring to "die sieben Strafliegenden", which fits very well with the statement in xxxix, 24, but, as Horovitz, *KU*, 26 (cf. *JPN*, 194, 195), points out, it rests on no basis of actual use of the word in any such sense. Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 26, makes an improvement on Geiger's theory by suggesting that the derivation was from Aram. מִתְנִיָּה,<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tisdall, *Sources*, 123.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. von Kremer, *Ideen*, 226, 300; Pautz, *Offenbarung*, 87, n.; Mingana, *Syriac Influence*, 87.

<sup>3</sup> D. H. Müller, in his *Propheten*, i, 43, 46, n. 2, also propounds this theory, and Rhodokanakis, *WZKM*, xxv, 66, says that Müller arrived at the conclusion independently of Sprenger. It has been accepted by Grimme, *Mohammed*, ii, 77.

<sup>4</sup> Nöldeke-Schwally, i, 114; Margoliouth, *ERE*, x, 538.