

we have a technical word for the study of Scripture borrowed from the root **דָּרַשׁ** so widely used in this connection by the Jews.

Geiger's suggestion has had wide acceptance among Western scholars,¹ and it is curious that some of the Muslim philologists felt the difficulty, for as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 320, and in the *Muhadhdhab*, tells us that some considered it to be Heb., and in *Mutaw*, 56, he quotes others as holding it to be Syriac. Syr. **ܕܪܫܐ** does mean *to train, to instruct*, and Eth. **ደረሰ** *to interpret, comment upon*, whence **ደርሰት** and **ደርሰን** *commentary*, but neither of these is so likely an origin as the Jewish **דָּרַשׁ**,² which, as Buxtorf, *Lex*, 297, shows, is the commonest word in the Rabbinic writings in connection with the exposition of Scripture, and which must have been commonly used among the Jewish communities of Arabia.³

دِرْهَم (*Dirham*).

xii, 20.

A dirham.

Only the plu. form **دَرَاهِم** is found in the Qur'ān, and only in the Joseph story.

It was commonly recognized by the philologists as a borrowed word. al-Jawālīqī, *Mu'arrab*, 66, notes it,⁴ and ath-Tha'ālibī, *Fiqh*, 317, includes it in his list of words common to Persian and Arabic. There was some doubt as to the vowelling of the word, however, the authorities varying between **دِرْهَم**; **دِرْهَم** and **دِرْهَم** or **دِرْهَام** (cf. *LA*, xv, 89).

The ultimate origin is the Gk. *δραχμή*,⁵ which passed into Syr. as **ܕܪܚܡܐ**. Some, however, would derive *δραχμή* from a Semitic source. Boissacq suggests this, and Levy, *Fremdw*, 118, connects it

¹ Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 23; Fleischer, *Kleinere Schriften*, ii, 122; Sprenger, *Leben*, ii, 289; Hirschfeld, *Beiträge*, 51; *New Researches*, 28.

² Eth. **ደረሰ** and **ደርሰ** are themselves derived from the Heb. Noldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 38; Horowitz, *JPN*, 199.

³ Rhodokanakis, *WZKM*, xvii, 285, thinks that in **درس** here we have a combination of **דרש** and **דרם**. "Zur Radix **درس** ist nachzutragen, dass in ihr **דרש** und **דרם** (v. Levy) zusammenfielen. Daher einerseits die Bedeutung *studieren* andererseits *arbeiten abnutzen*."

⁴ So al-Khafājī, 83; *LA*, xv, 89.

⁵ Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 13; *Fremdw*, 191.