

The truth is that it is from a root related to **دَان**, but is not an Arabic formation at all, being like the Heb. **מדינה**, a borrowing from the Aram. **מדינתא**, Syr. **ܡܕܝܢܬܐ**.<sup>1</sup> Aram. **ܡܕܝܢܬܐ** means a *province* and then a *city*,<sup>2</sup> and Syr. **ܡܕܝܢܬܐ** is *city*.<sup>3</sup> From Aram. it was borrowed into Middle Persian where we find the ideogram **𐭌𐭕𐭎** *madīna*, meaning a large fortified city (*PPGI*, 150).

**مَرْجَان** (*Marjān*).

lv, 22, 58.

Small pearls.

The word occurs only in a description of Paradise, and was early recognized as borrowed from Persia,<sup>4</sup> but it is certain that it did not come directly from Iranian into Arabic.<sup>5</sup>

We find in Phlv. **𐭌𐭕𐭎** *murvārīt*,<sup>6</sup> a *pearl* used, e.g. in the *Gosht-i-Fryānō*, ii, 13, in describing the crowns presented to the daughters of Spitama after death. From Middle Persian the word was borrowed widely, e.g. Gk. **μαργαρίτης**;<sup>7</sup> Aram. **ܡܪܓܢܝܬܐ**; Syr. **ܡܪܓܢܝܬܐ**, and from some Aram. form<sup>8</sup> it came into Arabic. It would have come at an early date for it is used in the old poetry and was doubtless well known in the pre-Islamic period.

**مُرْسَى** (*Mursā*).

xi, 43.

Harbour, haven.

<sup>1</sup> Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 280; Horovitz, *KU*, 137.

<sup>2</sup> It has this meaning in Arabic as early as the Nemūra inscription; cf. *RES*, i, No. 483.

<sup>3</sup> There is some discussion of the meaning of the word by Torrey in *JAOS*, xliii, 230 ff.

<sup>4</sup> al-Jawāliqī, *Mu'arrab*, 144; as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 324; *Muḥīt*, sub voc., and see Sachau's note to the *Mu'arrab*, p. 65.

<sup>5</sup> In spite of Addai Sher, 144, and his attempted derivation from **مَرَجَان**.

<sup>6</sup> West, *Glossary*, 213; *Šāyast*, Glossary, 163; cf. Horn, *Grundriss*, 218, n.

<sup>7</sup> Also *μαργαρίς*—*īdos*, from which comes the Arm. **մարգարիտ** and the European forms.

<sup>8</sup> Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 59. The Mand. **ܡܪܓܢܝܬܐ** would also seem to be from the same source, vide Nöldeke, *Mundart*, 53; Mingana, *Syriac Influence*, 90; Vollers, *ZDMG*, l, 611; li, 303.