

JUDÆO-PERSICA II

The Jewish-Persian Law Report from Ahwāz, A. D. 1020.

BY

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Jewish-Persian studies are not only justified because of the lexicographical, phonetic, historical, and literary importance of their material, but also because of the age of the texts. In fact there are Jewish-Persian documents older than any other known Persian text:

1) The three Jewish-Persian inscriptions of *Tang-i Azao* written by *X* (name missing) *bar Abraham*, *Zachary bar Smi'il*, and *Samuel bar Rāmiš*, apparently A. D. 752–753 [cf. W. B. Henning's penetrating interpretation, *The Inscriptions of Tang-i Azao*, BSOAS XX, 1957, p. 335–342].

2) A fragmentary private letter written by a Jewish merchant and found at *Dandān Uiliq* somewhat to the N. E. of Khotan. It was obtained by Sir Aurel Stein and published by D. S. Margoliouth in the *JRAS* [An early Judæo-Persian Document from Khotan, in the Stein Collection, with other early Persian Documents, *JRAS* 1903, p. 747 ff.]. A thorough investigation of the text by C. Salemann appeared the following year [Po povodu evrejsko-persidskogo otrývka iz Xotana, *Zap. Vost. Otd.* XVI, 1904, p. 046–057] just as a number of improved readings has been published after that time [cf. W. B. Henning, BSOAS XX, 1957, p. 341, notes 2 to 4, and p. 342, notes 1 and 3, and idem, *Mitteliranisch*, *Handbuch der Orientalistik* IV, 1, Leiden — Köln 1958, p. 80]. The whole letter has lately been reproduced by M. R. A. Kāšyari, *Šafḥā'i az gūšā-yi farāmūš-šudā-yi tārix. Xidmāt-i Turkistān bazabān-i fārsī wa kašf-i qadimtarīn yād-dāšt-i*

fārsī az Xutan, *Hilāl*, Karāčī April 1963/Farvardin 1342, p. 44–53. The letter is supposed to have been written in the *eighth century*.

3) The Jewish-Persian (with Arabic and Pahlavi) witnesses' signatures (in the stereotyped formula *hmgwn mn*—name—*pdyš gwhwm*) on the fifth sheet (recto) of the *Quilon copper-plate* of the *ninth century*, the main text of which is in Tamil and referring to a piece of land given to the Persian-Christian (*Tarisa*) Church in Malabar by one *Sabr-Išō'* [cf. the literature listed by V. Minorsky in his survey of early Persian texts, *Some Early Documents in Persian (I)*, *JRAS* 1942, p. 183, and W. B. Henning, *Mitteliranisch*, loc. cit. p. 51; a facsimile of the text is to be found in S. G. Pothan, *The Syrian Christians of Kerala*, London 1963, Plate X].

4) The text dealt with here, the Law Report from *Ahwāz* dated in the year *A. D. 1020* and thus being 35 years older than the earliest existing Persian manuscript in Arabic letters, the *Codex Vindobonensis* containing the Pharmacopeia (*Kitāb al-adwiyā*) of Abū Manšūr Muwaffaq al-dīn ibn 'Alī Harawī [on older Persian texts, but in different script cf. W. B. Henning, Persian poetical manuscripts from the time of Rūdakī, *A Locust's Leg*, Studies in honour of S. H. Taqizadeh, London 1962, p. 89 ff., F. W. K. Müller, Ein syrisch-neupersisches Psalmenbruchstück aus Chinesisch-Turkistan, *Festschrift Eduard Sachau*, Berlin 1915, p. 215 ff. (see especially E. Benveniste, Sur un fragment d'un psautier syro-persan, *JĀ* 1938, p. 458–462); older Persian texts in Arabic script, but only existing in later manuscripts are listed by V. Minorsky, *Ḥudūd al-Ālam*, "The Regions of the World", *GMS* XI, 1937, p. XII, note 3; of the Jewish-Persian texts the old, unfortunately undated Commentary on *Ezechiel* (cf. C. Salemann, *Zum mittelpersischen Passiv*, *Izv. Imp. Akad. Nauk* XIII, 1900, p. 269 ff.) and the *Kābul* inscription from *A. D. 1198* (cf. Henning, *BSOAS* XX, 1957, p. 338–339) also ought to be mentioned].

The *Law Report* from *Ahwāz* (*Hōrmīzd-Ardašīr*, *Hormīzdašahr* in the Manichaean Coptica [cf. *Manichäische Homilien*. Heraus-

gegeben von Hans Jakob Polotsky, Stuttgart 1934, p. 44], Hwrmšyr) in *Xūzistān* was first published (with translation and notes) by D. S. Margoliouth [A Jewish-Persian Law Report, JQR XI, 1899, p. 671–675]. Carl Salemann, who referred to this text on several occasions, intended to give a thorough study and worked out a sketch, but, unfortunately, found no opportunity to publish it [A. G. Perikhanian, Karl Germanovič Zaleman, Očerki po istorii russkogo vostokovedeniya, Moskva 1959, p. 95].

The importance of this old text is obvious. One need only read Prof. Henning's lucid remarks—that all at once cleared the worst obscurity—on it [*Mitteliranisch*, loc. cit. p. 80–81] to realize that. Therefore, remembering Richard Reitzenstein's "alte Mahnung, den Mut auch zum Irrtum zu haben" [in *Plato und Zarathustra*, Vorträge der Bibliothek Warburg IV, 1924/25, p. 23] and knowing that difficulties still remain, I venture to reproduce the text, my primary intention being to procure a photo of the original, the only sound tool for future work. For the kind permission, so generously given, to publish this photo I am greatly indebted to the Curators of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.¹

MS Heb. b. 12, fol. 24
Department of Oriental Books
Bodleian Library
Oxford.

(Cf. Shaul Shaked, A Tentative Bibliography of Geniza Documents. Études juives V, Paris — The Hague 1964, p. 209)

- 1) 'ydw n bwd 'pyš y'ym'n shd'n ykṭm'n 'zyr 'yn mḥsr nbyšt'
hyst p' hwrmšyr šhry
- 2) 'z šwml' kwzyst'n kw 'yst'd' hyst 'wr dwr y'wly p' mh
y'n yšbt s'l 'išlb lmnyn šṭrw
- 3) ḥsr' bwdynd 'pyš m'n ḥnh bt yšr'l bn y'qwb nwḥw 'dn
w'ḥsr' kyrd 'dny'l bn r'wbyn w'zryh ym'rw p
- 4) p' bš' w'ydw n gwpt 'yn ḥnh bt yšr'l kw šwd hyst 'yn dny'l
bn r'wbyn wd'm'dwm 'by pyrm'nwm w'by
- 5) šhwtwm wknd 'z mr' wbr'dr'nwm yp' myšr hynd šš šwptdr
wprwkt p' byst wpnš dyn'r w'yn mr'

¹ [See Pl. I, fac. p. 60].

- 6) mylk wbr'dr'nwm bwd shl wywsp ws'yd bny yšr'l bn y'qwb
nwḥw 'dn wgwptynd's pyr'n kw bd kyrdy 'yn
- 7) kyrdy kw dst 'ndrbwrdy p' mylk yšwr 'z kwdyt wn'h'l'lyt
hyst p'yn ykyrdy wšw'b d'd kw p'
- 8) šrwr'kyrdwm 'z dst wdyłwm kw mwptl' bwdwm wgwptynd's
pyr'n kw w'gyb hyst 'wr tw dny'l bn r'wbyn
- 9) 'wšyš d'dn w'ḥwl' kw'stn 'z kwd'wnd'n ymylk wgwpt 'yn
dny'l bn r'wbyn kw tysy mn r' 'pyš 'yn shl
- 10) wywsp ws'yd bny yšr'l bn y'qwb nwḥw 'dn hyst wr'sy hwm
'pyš yšwm'n pyr'n kw nbysyd wdryst kwnyd
- 11) 'bdm p'n ydryst bwd kw r'sy bwdwm hyst kw 'wš y'yn
dr' 'yst'swm 'zyr ydst's'n 'wš 'yn
- 12) dyn'r prwktwm wstswm kh dyn'r yqw'my ysl'ny wr'sy bwd
wqnyy stsym 'z dst y'yn dny'l bn r'wbyn
- 13) w'zryh ym'rw p' bš' p' š'm' syzyd qnyy stsn p' ḥqy syny
w'mry ḥwrw lršwnw w'wtw wḥl' kyrd
- 14) 'yn dny'l bn r'wbyn w'zryh hr mwd'y 'd swp kl md'yn
wnbyštym wd'dym p' dst yḥnh bt yšr'l bn
- 15) y'qwb nwḥw 'dn t' bwd 'zmrš bwzyšt wḥwšt 'zryh bn 'brhm
bn 'm'r
- 16) s'd'n bn dny'l bn s'd'n.

List of Words.

- ' in 'pyš (line 1, 3, 9, 10), in 'dny'l, denoting the
accusative, (line 3). Middle Persian *ō*, "hier zu einem
proklitischen Alef reduziert" (W. B. Henning, Mit-
teliranisch, p. 80).
- 'bdm line 11, "finally, at last". Pahl. *afdom*, e. g. J. M.
Unvala, Neryosangh's Sanskrit Version of the Hōm
Yašt, Vienna 1924, p. 74 (translating Av. *apəməm*).
Cf. *afdom ya'anī āvir*, Jules Mohl, Extraits du
Modjmel al-tewarikh, JA 3. Série, Tome XI, Paris
1841, p. 178, line 7.
- 'by line 4 bis, "without". Pahl. *apē*, Modern Persian *bī*.
- 'ḥšr' line 3, clearly = *iḥzār*, "causing to be present, making
appear, summoning, citing", with *kardan*. Cf. W. B.
Henning, Mitteliranisch, p. 80, note 3, and D. S.
Margoliouth, op. cit. p. 674.

- '*hwl'* line 9, apparently = *ḥawālā*, "assignment", Margoliouth, op. cit. p. 675.
- '*n* line 2, 11, *ān* (cf. *mh*).
- '*ndrbwrđy* line 7, *andurburdī*.
- '*wly* line 2, *awwalī*, "first".
- '*wr* line 2, 8, "over, on, at". Pahl. *apar*, Modern Persian *bar*.
- '*ydwñ* line 1, 4, "thus, so". Pahl. *ētōn*, Class. New Pers. *īdūn*.
- '*ym'n* line 1, pers. pron. 1. pers. plur., encl. *m'n*, line 1, 3. Usually in Jewish-Persian texts '*ym'*'. Cf. Tājiki *māhā(n)*, *māyān*, *muhā(n)*, *mu(h)ā*, *māyūn*, L. V. Uspenskaja, Govory tadžikov gissarskogo rajona, Dušanbe 1962, p. 35, A. A. Kerimova, Govor tadžikov Buxary, Moskva 1959, p. 26, A. L. Xromov, Govory tadžikov matčinskogo rajona, Dušanbe 1962, p. 44.
- '*yn* *īn*, "this", passim.
- '*yst'd'* line 2, *istādā*. On *ṣ* for *-ä*, quite common in older texts, see for instance Salemann, Zum mittelpersischen Passiv, loc. cit. p. 270, and W. Bacher, Ein hebräisch-persisches Wörterbuch aus dem 15. Jahrhundert, ZAW 16, 1896, p. 236.
- '*yst'swm* line 11, cf. *stsn* etc.
- '*z* line 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, "from, out of".
- '*zmrš* line 15, = *az + mar + aš*; cf. Appendix.
- '*zyr* line 1, 11, = Modern Persian *zūr*, "under".
- bd* line 6, *bad*.
- br'dr* line 5, 6, *birādar*, "brother", plur. with the encl. suff. 1. pers. sing.
- bš'* line 4, 13, *bačā*, "child".
- bl'l'* line 13, apparently = *baḥḥāl* = (with *kardan*) "abolish". With *-l'* for *-l* cf. *-r'* for *-r* in '*ḥšr'*', line 3.
- bwzyšt* line 15, Pahl. *bwčšn*, Modern Persian *pūziš*. Cf. W. B. Henning, Mitteliranisch, p. 80, and the Appendix.
- bwd* line 1, 6, 11, 12, 15, *bwdwm*, line 8, 11, *bwdynd*, line 3, from *būdan*.
- byst* line 5, *bīst*, "twenty".
- d'dn* line 9, *d'd*, line 7, *d'dym*, line 14, = *dādan*, *dād*, *dādīm*.

- d'm'd* line 4, with the encl. suff. 1. pers. sing., "son-in-law, bride-groom". According to Margoliouth, *op. cit.* p. 673-674, it is here used about Hannah's husband.
- dr* line 5, 11 (plur.), *durr*, "pearl".
- dryst* line 10, 11, Modern Persian *durust*. Cf. Henning, *Mitteliranisch*, p. 80.
- dst* line 7, 8, 11 (with the encl. suff. 3. pers. plur.), 12, 14, *dast*, "hand".
- dwr* line 2, *daur*, "turn, turning (of the moon)". Margoliouth, *op. cit.* p. 674, read it together with 'wr as the Mongol word for "day", but *udur*, *ödür*, *adür*, *edür* (cf. Erich Haenisch, *Wörterbuch — Geheime Geschichte der Mongolen*, Leipzig 1939, p. 158, N. Poppe, *Das mongolische Sprachmaterial einer Leidener Handschrift*, *Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR* 1927, p. 1259, and J. E. Kowalewski, *Dictionnaire Mongol-Russe-Français*, Tome I, Kasan 1844, p. 201b) is hardly to be found in a Persian text from the 11th century. On *bar* together with the day of the month cf. Minorsky, *JRAS* 1942, p. 186-187.
- dyl* line 8, *dil*, "heart", with the encl. suff. 1. pers. sing.
- dyn'r* line 5, 12 (bis), *dinār*.
- gwpl* line 4, 9, *gwplynd* (with the encl. suff. 3. pers. sing.), line 6, 8, from *guflan*.
- hr* line 14, *har*, "every".
- hšr'* line 3, either *hižār*, "appearing against another, pleading against one", or *hužžār*, "those present". On -r' = -'r cf. *bll'*.
- hwšt* line 15, *huštat*, "decision, excuse".
- hyst* line 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, *hwm*, line 10, *hynd*, line 5, cf. the Appendix.
- knd* line 5, *kand*, from *kandan*.
- kł* line 1, *axatł*, "handwriting, signature". Cf. Henning, *op. cit.* p. 80.
- kw* corresponding to Modern Persian *kih*, *passim*.
- kw'stn* line 9, *x'āstan*.
- kw'd'wnd* line 9 (plur.), *xudāwand*, "possessor, owner".

- kwdy* line 7, *xūdī*, "selfishness", with the encl. suff. 2. pers. sing.
- kyrd* line 3, 13, *kyrdy*, line 6, 7 (bis), *kyrdvm*, line 8, *kwngd*, line 10, from *kardan*.
- mh* line 2, *māh*, "month". One might read: *māh i ān i šbī*, "the month of (that of) šbī", instead of the plur. *māhyān*, which, however, can be found with sing. meaning, as in the Šāhnāmā (although metri causa!): *azīn gūnā har māhyān sī juwān* — (ed. M. Minovī, Vol. I, Tehrān 1934, p. 36, line 34a), and: *kunūn māhyān andar āmad bā panj* (ibid. Vol. IV, Tehrān 1934, p. 902, line 547b).
- mḥšr* line 1, *maḥzar*, "register, decree, any document attested by witnesses". Cf. Margoliouth, op. cit. p. 674, Henning, *Mitteliranisch*, p. 80.
- m'rw p* line 3, 13, *ma'rūf*, "known".
- mr'* line 5 (bis), *mr r'*, line 9.
- mwd'y* line 14, *mudda'ā*, "complaint, claim".
- mwptl'* line 8, *mubtalā*, "sorely tried".
- mylk* line 6, 7, 9, *mīlk*, "property, possession".
- n'hl'ly* line 7, *nā-ḥalālī*, "unlawfulness, illegality", with the encl. suff. 2. pers. sing.
- nbyšt'* line 1 (= *nibištā*), *nbyštym*, line 14, *nbysyd*, line 10, from *nibištan/niwīštan*, *nibīs-/niwīs-*.
- p', p-* Modern Persian *ba-*, "in, for", passim. Cf. W. B. Henning, *Mitteliranisch*, p. 80–81. Also in the Tang-i Azaō inscriptions, in the Dandān Uiliq letter, in the Ezechiel Commentary, and in the Josua Commentary (cf. the Appendix).
- pnš* line 5, *panj*, "five".
- prwkt* line 5, *prwktvm*, line 12, from *furūxtan*, "to sell".
- pyr* line 6, 8, 10, *pīr*, "old, elder" (plur.).
- pyrm'n* line 4, with the encl. suff. 1. pers. sing. Modern Persian *farmān*, "mandate, order".
- pyš* line 1, 3, 9, 10, always as *'pyš* corresponding to Middle Persian *ō pēš*, cf. W. B. Henning, *Mitteliranisch*, p. 80.
- qw'my* line 12, *qiwāmī*, "right, correct".

<i>r'sy</i>	line 10, 11, 12, <i>rāzī</i> , "content, satisfied, approving".
<i>s'l</i>	line 2, <i>sāl</i> , "year".
<i>sl'ny</i>	line 12, <i>suḷānī</i> , "belonging to the sovereign, royal", i. e. "valid".
<i>stswm</i>	line 12, <i>stsym</i> , line 12, <i>'yst'swm</i> , line 11, <i>stsn</i> , line 13, apparently forms of <i>sitadan/sitādan</i> . With a Vorschlag vowel it occurs also in, e. g., Baxtiyārī (<i>istēdan</i> , D. L. R. Lorimer, <i>The Phonology of the Bakhtiari, Badakshani, and Madaglashti Dialects of Modern Persian</i> , London 1922, p. 104).
<i>syzyd</i>	line 13, Modern Persian <i>sazād</i> , "worthy, suitable".
<i>'wš</i>	line 9 (<i>'wšyš</i>), 11 (bis), <i>'iwaž</i> , "compensation, equivalent". The form <i>'wšyš</i> is either <i>'iwaž-iš</i> (so Salemann, <i>Zap. Vost. Otdel. XVI. 1, 1903, p. 050</i> , but in this text the encl. suff. is usually added directly to the word (<i>'zmrš</i>) or by the help of <i>š</i> (<i>gwptynd's</i>)) or <i>'iwaž-i-š</i> , "in compensation for it, its equivalent".
<i>š'm'</i>	line 13, <i>jāmā</i> , "cup, vessel". Cf. Margoliouth, op. cit., p. 675.
<i>šrw'r'</i>	line 8, <i>zarūrā</i> (<i>zarūrāt</i>), "violence, compulsion"; <i>p' šrw'r'</i> , "by compulsion".
<i>šw'b</i>	line 7, <i>jawāb</i> , "answer", with <i>dādan</i> .
<i>šwml'</i>	line 2, <i>jumlā</i> , "whole, total".
<i>šwpt</i>	line 5, <i>juft</i> , "pair", together with <i>durr</i> . Margoliouth, op. cit., p. 674, read <i>suft</i> , "pierced", but in that case one would probably have had <i>swpt'</i> , i. e. <i>suftā</i> , as in <i>suftā-gōš</i> , "a bored ear".
<i>šwr</i>	line 7, <i>jawr</i> , "injustice".
<i>šhr</i>	line 1, <i>šahr</i> , "town", with the <i>yā-yi waḥdat</i> .
<i>šhwł</i>	line 5, with the encl. suff. 1. pers. sing., <i>šahwat</i> , "wish, desire" (in <i>honam partem?</i>).
<i>šš</i>	line 5, <i>šaš</i> , "six".
<i>šwd</i>	line 4, <i>šud</i> , from <i>šudan</i> , in the sense of <i>raftan</i> ("— went — and took (stole, <i>kand</i>) from —") as in Pahlavi and many dialects (cf., e. g., <i>bandé bēšum Tehrān</i> , "I went to Tehran", E. Yarshater, <i>The Dialects of Alvīr and Vidar, Indo-Iranica, Mélanges présentés à Georg Morgenstierne à l'occasion de son</i>

- soixante-dixième anniversaire, Wiesbaden 1964, p. 186), though not all (cf., e. g., N. Baqā'i, Fārsī-yi Kirmān, Revue de la Faculté des Lettres, Université de Tabriz, XVI, N° 1, 1343, p. 52, note 1).
- šwm'n* line 10, pers. pron. 2. pers. plur., Modern Persian *šumā*. Cf. Tājikī *šumāhā(n)*, *šumāyān*, *šumā šumāyūn*, L. V. Uspenskaja, A. A. Kerimova, A. L. Xromov, loc. cit.
- t'* line 15, *tā*, "that, in order that".
- tw* line 8, *tū*, "you".
- lysy* line 9, Modern Persian *čizī*. Cf. W. B. Henning, *Mitteliranisch*, p. 80.
- w* "and", passim.
- w'gyb* line 8, *wājīb*, "necessary, obligatory".
- y* connected with the following word, *Izāfā*, passim, and relative particle (line 1, 5, 7, 11).

Nomina propria.

- dny'l bn r'wbyn* line 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14.
- hnh bt yšr'l bn y'qwb* line 3, 4, 14–15.
- hwrb* line 13, חורב or, Exod. 33,6, חורב.
- hwrmšyr* line 1, *Homšūr*, i. e. *Ahwāz*. According to the *Ḥudūd al-Ālam* (V. Minorsky, GMS XI, 1937, p. 130 = ed. M. Sotoodeh, Tehrān 1962, p. 138, lines 4–5) "it is an extremely flourishing town, and there is no town in Xūzistān more flourishing than this" (*šahrīst saxt xurram wa andar Xūzistān šahrī nīst az īn xurram-tar*). The Jewish merchants from Europe, especially France, passed Ahwāz on their way to India and China, cf. Elkan Nathan Adler, *Jewish Travellers*, London 1930, p. 3 (Ibn Khurdādhbih).
- kwzyst'n* line 2, Xūzistān.
- myšr* line 5, "Egypt". On the Fustāṭ community and Persian Jews see Jacob Mann, *Texts and studies in Jewish history and literature*, Vol. I, Cincinnati 1931, p. 457.
- syny* line 13, Sinay.

- shl* (bn yšr'l bn y'qwb) line 6, 9.
s'd'n bn dny'l bn s'd'n line 16.
s'yd (bn yšr'l bn y'qwb) line 6, 10.
'zryh line 3, 13, 14.
'zryh bn 'brhm bn 'm'r line 15.
šb! line 2, šəbāš, the 11th month, from the new moon
of February to that of March.
gwsp (bn yšr'l bn y'qwb) line 6, 10.

Hebrew Words.

- 'lšlb* line 2, "1332" (= A. D. 1020/21), 'l standing for 'lp, "1000", as in the Kabul and the Tang-i Azao inscriptions, cf. Walter J. Fischel, *Encore un mot à propos de l'inscription hébraïque d'Afghanistan*, JA 1949, p. 300, and W. B. Henning, BSOAS XX, 1957, p. 338-339.
- 'mry* line 13, אַמְרֵי, plur. constr. of אָמַר*, "word, sentence, statement". About Jahwe e. g. Psalm 138,4.
- hgy* line 13, plur. constr. of הָקָה, "law".
- kḥ* line 12, "25".
- kl* line 14, "all".
- lmny* line 2, מְנַי, "number, counting", and the prefix ל. With š'rwł = "according to the Seleucid era".
- lršwnw* line 13, רְצוֹן, "will, wish, delight", with the prefix ל and the pron. suff. 3. pers. sing.
- md'yn* line 14, = מוֹדְעִין, plur., as part of a fixed formular, often met with in legal documents, cf., e. g., Jacob Mann, *op. cit.* p. 364, line 17 f. מוֹדְעָה, מוֹדְעָא, "protest before witnesses against a forced or unduly influenced action", M. Jastrow, *A Dictionary of the Targumim etc.*, 1926, p. 739.
- nwḥw* line 3, 6, 10, 15, נַחַח, "rest", with the pron. suff. 3. pers. sing. "(May) his rest (be in) Eden", usually abbreviated נ"ח.
- qny* line 12, 13, קְנִיָּן, "property, money, fortune".
- shd* line 1, with Persian plur. ending, שֶׁהָד (Job 16,19), שֶׁהָד, "witness".

<i>swp</i>	line 14, רְשׁוּ , "end".
<i>'d</i>	line 14, "up to, till, until".
<i>'dn</i>	line 3, 6, 10, 15, "Eden"; cf. <i>nwhw</i> .
<i>š'rwł</i>	line 2, plur. of רְשׁוּ , "document, catalogue, list".
<i>l'wtw</i>	line 13, רְשׁוּ , "wish, desire", with the pron. suff. 3. pers. sing.

Appendix.

A text very similar to the Law Report as regards glossary and grammatical structure is the British Museum manuscript *Or 8659, a Commentary on Josua*. It may be from almost the same period.

By permission of the Trustees of the British Museum I take the opportunity to indicate here some of the more interesting features of this text:

<i>'b'yst</i>	fol. 4 b, line 11 (<i>'b'yst</i> — — — <i>d'nystn</i>), <i>'b'yd krdn</i> , fol. 3 a, line 7. Also <i>b'yd</i> (<i>'ydw n b'yd psw h ddn</i> [= <i>pāsux dādan</i>] <i>'n mrd r' kw 'ym'</i> — —, fol. 8 b, lines 9–10).
<i>'b'z</i>	fol. 2 b, line 12 (<i>-'b'z grpt'</i> — (with <i>'</i> for the old -aka-suffix as in the Law Report)).
<i>'mwzyšn</i>	fol. 3 a, lines 5–6 (<i>'by 'mwzyšn ym'dr w pdr</i>).
<i>'nyz</i>	fol. 7 b, line 3, like, e. g., Jes. 1,15 (רְשׁוּ), ed. Paul de Lagarde, 1884, p. 3. New Persian <i>nīz</i> .
<i>'šn'sd</i>	fol. 4 a, line 4 (<i>szd gwptn kw 'šn'sd 'z'n mrd</i> — —).
<i>'yyb</i>	Turf. <i>'y'b</i> , Zor. Pahl. <i>ayōβ</i> , cf. W. B. Henning. <i>Gött. gel. Anz.</i> 1935, Nr. 1, p. 4, note 3, and <i>Mitteliranisch</i> p. 70. For instance: <i>kw mgr 'ydw n bwd 'yyb 'ydw n nybwd</i> (fol. 3 b, line 6), <i>'yyb n'</i> , "or not" (fol. 4 a, line 4).
<i>'zmrš</i>	passim, e. g. fol. 2 b, lines 9–11: <i>wd'nd kw p' šy k'r 'b'yd wšy ny b'yd wšy s'zd 'zmrš wšy ny s'zd 'zmrš šy p'yn tys by šn's kw</i> — —. Cf. Law Report line 15.
<i>bwzyšt wḥwšt</i>	as in the Law Report line 15; fol. 4 a, line 13, 7 a, line 6 and 10 (<i>'by bwzyšt w'by ḥwšt</i>), 9 a, lines 4–5.
<i>hmym'l</i>	cf. Pahl. <i>hamēmāl</i> . Fol. 5 a, line 9 ff.: <i>wdydwm kw hr tysy</i> (see Law Report line 9) <i>hmym'ly hyst šy hmym'l yšb rwz hst</i> (without -y-) <i>w'n l'rykqh</i>

rwšn'yh hyst — — — *whr hmym'l p' hmym'l y'wy š'yd d'štn.*

hwm, hyst, hynd, as in the Law Report, *passim*.

k' "when", cf. Turf. אב. Fol. 4b, line 2 ff.: *pswh dyh 'wy r' wgwyy kw mšh* (Moses) *n'm hyst wk' tw r' pwrsl kw 'n mrd kw 'yn n'm y'wy hyst 'z šy, by šn's kw 'wy hyst nby'* (in Jewish-Persian texts otherwise mostly יכ) *ykw'd'* (*k = x*).

šym Pahl. *šim*, e. g. fol. 2a, line 4, 7a, line 4 (*'n šym r'*), 5a, line 2 (*'yn šym r' dyl p' gw'm'n 'wptd*), 9a, line 10 (*'br 'yn šym*), etc.

y 1) *Izāfā*, added to the following word, as in the Law Report.

2) *Relative pron.*, cf. fol. 5a, line 1 f.: *kw ḥq 'n hynd ymn pdyš 'ystyd' hwm wb'lyl* ("false, wrong") *'n hyst kw tw pdyš 'ystydh hy* (cf. Turf. יח), but fol. 5b, lines 4–5: *kw ḥq 'n hyst kw mn pdyš 'ystydh hwm*.

-yh' plur. ending, e. g. fol. 4a, line 3 (*drktyh'*, "trees"), 7b, lines 11–12 (*s'lyh' ybsy'r*, "many years", but *s'ly'n ybsy'r* fol. 8b, line 4).

zyndg'nyh (= *zindagānī*), fol. 2b, line 3 (*zyndg'nyh 'ndr 'wy hyst*).

The plur. ending *-ān* is written without the א in e. g. *mrđwmn* (fol. 5b, line 3) and — as in the Ezechiel Commentary — *yšr'ln* (fol. 9b, line 7).