



GARDEN I. ETYMOLOGY

Bāg, the Middle and New Persian word for “garden,” as also the Sogdian *βāγ*, strictly meant “piece” or “patch of land,” corresponding to the Gathic Avestan neuter noun *bāga-* “share,” “lot” (Y. 51.1; see Ch. Bartholomae, *Altiranisches Wörterbuch*, Strasburg, 1904, col. 952) and to the Old Indian masculine noun *bhāgá* “share,” “possession,” “lot,” which appears in Kauṭilya’s *Arthaśāstra* with the similar connotation of a share in landed properties. Comparable semantic development is shown by the Hebrew *ḥéleq* “share,” which came to mean “field” (not to be confused with the Akkadian *eqlum* and Arabic *ḥaql* “field”) and by the Greek *ho kléros* and *tò méros*. In the Talmud the aramaicized word *bāgā* has the meaning “common land” (G. Dalman, *Aramäisch-Neuhebräisches Wörterbuch*, Frankfurt, 1901, p. 45). On account of the chaotic state of the text at the end of chapter 2 of the *Frahang ī pahlavīk*, evidence of a Pahlavi ideogram is lacking (W. Eilers, *ZDMG* 90, 1936, p. 164 n. 3. G. R. Driver, *Aramaic Documents of the Fifth Century B.C.*, Oxford, 1954, p. 110).

The diminutive *bāgča* means “small garden” or “vegetable patch.” In the northwestern dialects of today, as also in earlier periods, *bāg* has had a rival in the New and Middle Persian *raz* “vineyard.” This word is written with the ideogram *karmā* in the *Frahang ī pahlavīk* and also appears in the Awroman and Nisa documents (W. Eilers and M. Mayrhofer, “Kurdisch *būz* und die indogermanische “Buchen”-Sippe . . .,” *Mitteilungen für die Anthropologische Gesellschaft Wien* 92, 1962, p. 92. W. Eilers and U. Schapka, *Mitteliranische Mundarten aus der Sammlung W. Eilers I: Die Mundart von Chunsar*,



Wiesbaden, 1976, p. 379.

The old word for “garden” *paridaiza-* (Old Persian **paridayda-*), literally “walled” (whence *pardēz*, Greek *ho parádeisos* “park for animals,” “paradise,” Arabic *ferdaws*) survives in the New Persian *pālīz* “vegetable garden,” “melon bed,” though today this most often denotes an unenclosed patch.

Other words for “garden” are the New Persian *būstān* (from *bō’istān*, whence the Armenian *burastan*), literally “place of perfume,” Arabic *bostān* (plur. *basātīn*), and *golestān* “rose garden” or “flower garden.” (On the relationship to the Arabic words, see W. Eilers, *Die vergleichend-semasiologische Methode in der Orientalistik*, Abh. der Mainzer Akademie der Wissenschaften, Mainz, 1974, pp. 24f.).

In toponymy, *bāḡ* occurs frequently in either the fore or the rear position, e.g., *Bāḡ-e Amīr*, *Bāḡ-e Now*, or *Kārīzbāḡ*, *Nowbāḡ*. In Turcophone areas, the same suffixed form is sometimes found, e.g., *Qarābāḡ*, but less frequently than the compound ending, e.g., *Malekbāḡī*, *Morādbāḡī*, which also appears in Kurdish toponyms and tribal names, e.g., *Gelbāḡī* (explained by folk etymology in the *Šaraf-nāma* as “come into the garden!”). Derivatives such as *bāḡča*, *bāḡestān*, *bāḡū(k)* also enter into place-names.

The long duration of the rivalry between *bāḡ* and *raz* is shown by the use of *Dadbaka-bag* side by side with *Dadbaka-ras* as names of cultivable lands in the Greek Awroman documents (q.v.).