

Re: Ja:hili:ya

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Yusuf B Gursev wrote:

I subscribe to "usage over 'roots' "

ignorance but disregard as in the extended verb form. Of course people in Ja:hili:yya couldn't have been ignorant in any sense. The term must

Enc. of Islam II "Djahiliyya" (the CD-ROM (1st ver.) misspells the entry <Djahilliya>)

Enc. of the Qur'an "Age of Ignorance" offers some arguments for "barbarism".

Enc. of Islam I "Djahiliya" offers a parallel with Acts 17, 30 in favor of "ignorance"

Acts of the Apostles 17

30. "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,

have been applied later and probably implied more than "ignorance of Islam". Another word which just came to my mind is ?ummi: (illiterate or motherly) which is said to be derived from ?umma (ordinary people)

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and ?umm (mother).

one modern interpretation is that it originally meant "Gentile" (from a hebrew expression "of the nations of the world") and then became "uneducated in scripture", and only later "illiterate". Noldeke and others, see Enc. of Islam I (first edition), "Ummi"

Yes, Yusuf maybe I don't categorically deny the truth of such interpretations but as I said earlier I have my doubts and I believe there is some dispute on this matter and there are no definite answers so far. Maybe the term is a loan translation. It might also imply the absence of some values and the condemnation of some practices before Islam like Wa?d – il–bana:t...and not only ignorance. There is some reproachful implication here. I think more research is needed.