

Baghdād

It is also notable that the city name *Baghdad* is Persian, meaning “god-given” or “God’s gift”, from *bagh* “god, lord” + *dād* “given”. The first component derives from Old Persian *baga-*, Avestan *baγa-* “lord, divider” (from *bag-* “to allot, share”), cognate with Sanskrit *bhāga-* “part, portion”, Proto-Indo-European base **bhag-* “to divide”; cf. Slavic/Russian *bog* “god”, Greek *phagein* “to eat” (originally “to have a share of food”). The second component *dād*, from *dādan* “to give”, Old Persian/Avestan *dā-* “to give, grant”, Proto-Indo-European base **do-* “to give”; cf. Sanskrit *dadāti* “he gives”, Greek *didonai* “to give”, Latin *datum* “given”, Russian *dat’* “to give”.

zij

Zij is the generic name applied to books in Arabic and Persian that tabulate parameters used for astronomical calculations of positions of the Sun, the Moon, and the five planets of antiquity. The word is derived from Middle Persian *zig*, variant *zih*, meaning “cord, string” (Modern Persian *zeh* “cord, string”), from Avestan *jiiā-* “bow-string”, cognate with Sanskrit *jiyā-* “bow-string”, Proto-Indo-European base **g^whi-* “thread, tendon” (from which derive also Greek *bios* “bow”, Latin *filum* “thread”, Russian *žica* “thread”). The term *zig* originally referred to the threads in weaving, but because of the similarity between the rows and columns of astronomical tables and the parallel threads, it came to be used for an astronomical table, and subsequently a set of tables.

From: *The Persian-Toledan Astronomical Connection and the European Renaissance*, by M. Heydari-Malayeri,
http://aramis.obspm.fr/~heydari/divers/MHM_Persia_Toledo.pdf