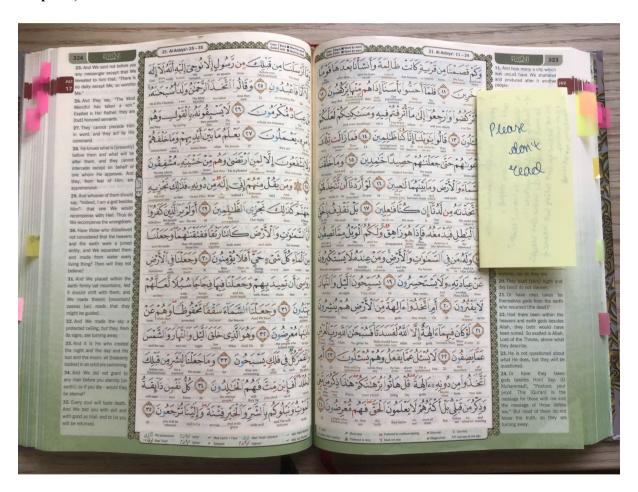
## **TOK Exhibition**

## Prompt - Who owns knowledge?

Knowledge can be owned by human beings, but only some and not all. We have gatekeepers of knowledge that own knowledge and have the power to do what they will with the knowledge they possess and potentially take advantage of the ignorance of others or use it to benefit themselves and/or others. Language can be a method and tool used to communicate knowledge but can also be used to deceive and misinform people, it's a double edged sword.

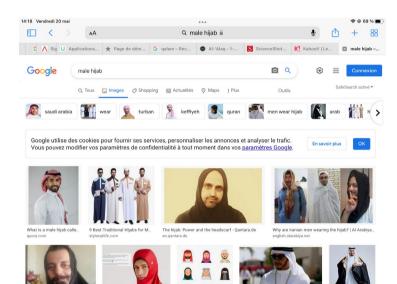
Object 1: Page from my Al-Qur'an Al-Karim with personal note - Surah Al-Anbiya' (The Prophets)



The Noble Qur'an is an oral tradition believed to be the word of Allah (The God) it is read, recited and listened to, memorised and translated into direct and indirect translations. The Quran has many purposes. The main purpose is that it's a guide for those who believe in unseen knowledge and to give them some knowledge of it, from Al-Alim (The All-Knowing). Nobody can own all knowledge as this surpasses the capability of the intellect of human beings. Despite knowledge obtained from the Qur'an, Islamic scholars (Alims) call themselves students of knowledge to reflect this, despite owning

a significant amount of knowledge about Islam. Verse 20:30 knowledge of a scientific discovery from the 20th century is evidence demonstrating an ownership of knowledge from the Messenger Muhammad (pbuh), despite being an illerate and not a scientist. However he still doesn't own all knowledge from the Qur'an. The meaning and interpretation of the Qur'an can be understood to some extent through his life, however he passed away over 1000 years ago, the meaning and interpretation is determined through scholars and poets (Ash-Shura) primarily then laymen such as Muslims and non-Muslims. The Uthmanic Codex cannot even be read by the Prophet. The Qur'an is written in old Arabic spoken just over 1400 years ago meaning this older language must be studied first to attain knowledge from the Qur'an. Laymen have to rely on scholars to interpret and communicate knowledge to them but there is a risk of deception if the scholar is untruthful. Also the scholar will not know the answers to all questions as they aren't all knowing.

Nobody can own all knowledge despite what they've learnt through various methods and tools such as language.

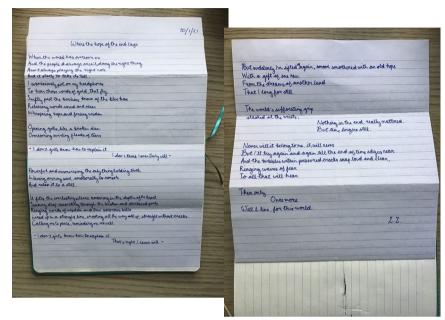


Object 2: Google search of a male hijab

We can attain knowledge from the media and through technology. This object is a screenshot of an image search of a male hijab from the search engine Google. Whose objectives are to make information universal. However there is a disparity between information and knowledge. Information can only provide knowledge if it's truthful and able to be understood and therefore applied to benefit the gatekeeper of the knowledge and others. However if it is false then that information leads to the spread of misinformation. Google search information comes from their database that has analysed various texts, images and videos to provide its information. Showing that most of the information comes from laymen and not authorities that have 'truthful' knowledge which is backed with evidence and justification; knowledge that is understood and can be applied. Hijab for men minimum is covering navel to knee and in salah shoulder to knee, (24:30) however these images from the Google database do not reflect that. The system Google has for attaining information is not All-Knowing therefore cannot filter out untruthful knowledge. Furthermore it's a business that has financial incentives to produce as much profit as possible, the information provided is influenced by politics, culture and previous searches; information that is ever changing. This demonstrates the fallibility of technology when it comes to owning knowledge. The receiver of this information must be a

gatekeeper owning specific knowledge to have the ability to distinguish between knowledge and false information.

Object 3: wrote - Where of the end lays



Poem I the hope

This is a poem I wrote, inspired by my Islamic beliefs, hoping/believing that one day you get to be freed and are no longer a slave to this world and its hardships and struggles. Poems are a creative way of expressing emotions and therefore getting to know yourself. Unseen knowledge is brought into being, to be preserved, analysed, interpreted and further understood. Knowledge of your emotions are unknown by others but can be manifested in various ways giving others insight and access to specific, personal knowledge, that only you truly own. Poetry is an art form therefore the basis for what is true knowledge when it comes to its contents is subjective. And can drastically vary depending on culture, perspective and bias. The truthfulness of this knowledge is not certain. This is because one cannot attain evidence or use any methods of tools to accurately justify its claims - Therefore the only knower of this knowledge is yourself. And from an Islamic perspective (Al-Khabir - The All-Knowing/All-Aware), is even more aware about you than you are yourself (50:16) and has knowledge of these emotions as he created you (Al-Khaliq - The Creator). Emotions are temporary knowledge, this poem was written on 30/01/2021 and I cannot have knowledge of these specific emotions again despite once owning knowledge of these emotions as they're transient. Proving that although we ourselves are knowers this may be only for a temporary period of time, due to weakness in our memory, limitations as human beings and changes in circumstances and time; therefore we cannot own knowledge for certain.

## **Bibliography**

Object 1 - Photo from authors private collection

Object 2 - Photo from authors private screenshot

Object 3 - Photo from authors private collection

(pbuh) - peace be upon him

https://quran.com/

24:30

50:16

Ash-Shura (The Poets)

Names of Allah - Al Alim, Al Khabir

https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiGh\_Cs4\_3AhXLbsAKHeRnDHIQFnoECAwQAw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fs\_earch%2Fhowsearchworks%2Fmission%2F&usg=AOvVaw01CBgo\_WfGS44PIT51obrs\_

Pbuh (peace be upon him) - part of the Islamic tradition is to send salawat (sending peace upon all the Prophets/Messengers sent to mankind out of respect)

The Uthmanic Codex - <a href="https://yaqeeninstitute.org/read/paper/the-uthmanic-codex-understanding-how-the-quran-was-preserved">https://yaqeeninstitute.org/read/paper/the-uthmanic-codex-understanding-how-the-quran-was-preserved</a>

Male hijab

https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=male+hijab&safe=active&client=safari&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiVjIWvzrT4AhXqQkEAHfJHC3MQ AUoAXoECAlQAw&biw=1121&bih=728&dpr=2

Salah - Muslim prayer done 5 times daily