

ORAL COMPREHENSION - THE OLDEST KORAN - SCRIPT

You're looking at one of the oldest fragments of the Koran ever discovered. It's written on parchment most likely made from sheep or goat skin and it's been dated by experts as being more than thirteen hundred years old. And that makes it **among** the earliest known fragments of the Koran anywhere in the world; and it's here, in the University of Birmingham. This remarkable document had been **resting** on the shelves of the university library for decades without anybody realising just how old it was, until a researcher decided to take a closer look. The pages were radiocarbon dated to no later than the year 645 which means the university has found one of the very **earliest** known examples. Finding out that we had one of the oldest fragments of the Koran in the whole world was fantastically exciting individually and for the university as well, I mean we were expecting it to be early but we did not expect I think in our wildest dreams to be **roughly** correlate to the **lifespan** of the Prophet Muhammad which makes it an incredibly early koranic fragment. The manuscript had been **stored** here in a collection of **middle-eastern** documents brought to Birmingham in the 1920s. **Academics** here say that this discovery goes back to the earliest years of Islam. The person who **actually** wrote it may well have known the Prophet Muhammad. He would have seen him probably, he would maybe have heard him preach. he may have known him personally, and that really is quite a thought to **conjure with**.

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**The Koran & the Koran in the UK**

- Muslims believe the words of the Koran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by the angel Gabriel over 22 years from 610
- It was not until 1734 that a translation was made into English, but was littered with mistakes
- Copies of the holy text were issued to British Indian soldiers fighting in the First World War
- On 6 October 1930, words from the Koran were broadcast on British radio for the first time, in a BBC programme called The Sphinx

A1 3/10	vieux Coran / sur du parchemin / à l'université de Birmingham / document remarquable / pages 6 4 5 documents / académiques / personne / Prophète Mohammed
A2 5/10	vieux fragment découvert / vieux de treize cents ans / document remarquable dans la bibliothèque de l'université / Les pages ont été datées / radio carbone / 6 4 5 / la personne qui l'a écrit / Prophète Mohammed / vu et connu personnellement
B1 8/10	le plus fragment jamais découvert au monde / document remarquable dans l'université depuis des décennies sans que personne ne se rende compte qu'il était si ancien / les pages datées au carbone 40 remontent à l'an 645 / ce qui signifie que cet exemplaire est un des plus anciens / le fait de posséder un des plus vieux fragments au monde est incroyablement exaltant tant d'un point de vue personnel que pour l'université. Fragment coranique exceptionnellement ancien / manuscrit du moyen orient arrivés à Birmingham dans les années 20 / la personne qui l'a écrit ce manuscrit connaissait peut-être le prophète Mohammed, l'a sans doute vu, et connu personnellement
B2 10/10	parmi les plus vieux fragments du Coran connus au monde / jusqu'à ce qu'un chercheur se penche de plus près sur le documents. / On s'attendait à ce que ce fragment soit ancien mais pas, même dans nos rêves les plus fous, à ce qu'il remonte à l'époque de la vie du prophète / le manuscrit était conservé parmi un ensemble de documents moyen-orientaux qui avaient été apportés à Birmingham dans les années 20. Les universitaires disent que ce manuscrit découvert remonte aux premières heures de l'Islam / l'auteur de ce manuscrit pourrait très bien avoir connu le prophète Mahomet, l'avoir vu, entendu prêcher / c'est quelque chose que de s'imaginer cela !