



# How Do We Know What We Know? Part I

- Is there an Absolute Truth?
- Is truth relative?
- Who are we to judge?
- “Live your truth!”



*CLAIM:* “There is no absolute truth.”

**RESPONSE:** “Is that absolutely true or not?”

- **YES:** You have affirmed the opposite of the claim, which is a contradiction.
  - **NO:** You must affirm that there is absolute truth.

# KNOWLEDGE

## *GENERAL DEFINITION*

It is to ascertain, grasp something: to attain, reach, access. To reach something 'as it is.'

**Access to the Truth.**

# WHAT KNOWLEDGE IS *NOT*

1] *Jahl*

2] False guess

3] True guess

4] Doubt

5] Blind imitation

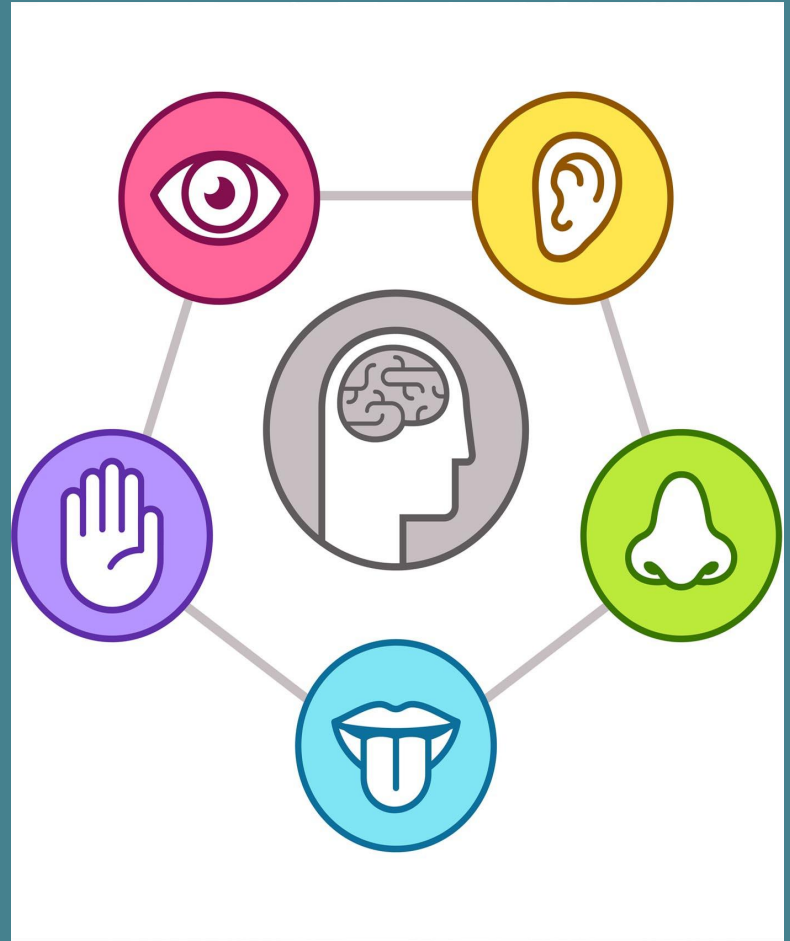


What's In My Pocket?



# The Three Means of Knowledge

- 1] Sound report
- 2] Sound senses
- 3] Reason



## *HUKM/JUDGEMENT*

Proposition, claim, judgment, ascription, statement. It is defined as '*ascription of one thing to another or negating it therefrom.*' To ascribe one thing to another or negate one thing from another.

- Affirmative: X [is] Y
- Negational: X [is not] Y



**LEGAL**–Allah’s judgement concerning actions  
(obligatory, recommended, neutral, disliked, unlawful)

**RATIONAL**–The judgement of the mind that does not  
depend on revelation or observation of nature.

**EMPIRICAL**–The judgement gained through the  
senses and repetition.

‘The affirmation of a relationship between two things, in terms of existence or non-existence, by the medium of repetition and the possibility of delay, as well as their being absolutely no effect from one to the other.’

*This snake is poisonous*

*This food is spoiled*

*It is about to rain.*

*Tylenol helps relieve headaches.*

*When I drop my cane, it lands on the floor*



## THE RATIONAL JUDGMENT

The rational judgement is affirming or negating X from Y, but does not rely on the Shariah or empirical observation.

$1+1=2$  (Do you need an ayah or hadith to affirm this?)

A square circle (Do you need an ayah or hadith to negate this?)

A cup of sweet tea is on the table (Do you need an ayah or hadith to accept this possibility?)

## THREE TYPES OF RATIONAL JUDGEMENTS

***NECESSARY***: Non-existence cannot be envisioned as existing) This is a double negative. It must be. 'Cannot NOT be.'

***IMPOSSIBLE***: The opposite of necessary. You cannot envisage. All intellects come to the same conclusion.

***POSSIBLE***: It might be or might not be.

