Mapping Publication Trends related to Islamic Studies during COVID-19 Pandemic

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**ABSTRACT**

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This paper aims to map and analyze publication trends related to the role of Islamic studies in the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 outbreak that infected the world in 2020 also gave rise to various scientific breakthroughs, not only in the medical field but also in the social sciences and humanities. Sharing the scientific breakthrough was published in various studies which were then published in scientific journals. Therefore, this research was conducted to map out what things in Islamic studies were developed to respond to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the world. This research is included in the systematic literature review category, the data studied in this paper were obtained from the Scopus database with the keywords “Islamic studies” and “Covid-19”. Publication manuscripts taken are limited only from 2020 to 2022, the data that has been obtained are then read using the VosViewer and Bibliometric applications. The results in this study show that research related to Islamic studies and disaster mitigation caused by the COVID-19 outbreak has not yet become a popular research among academics of Islamic studies, matters relating to Islamic law, Islamic education, and the like are still being studied. popular. Islamic studies academics should be more sensitive to disaster mitigation when the world is in danger.

Keywords: Mapping; publication trends; Islamic studies; COVID-19, pandemic

Introduction

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic that had spread to all corners of the world since 2020 is not only a medical case because amid society, when the pandemic occurred, various social phenomena appeared which directly or indirectly turned out to have implications for the spread of the Covid-19 virus. When the COVID-19 outbreak occurred, developments were not only in medicine, pharmacy, and other medical sciences but also in social sciences and humanities (Ahmad and Murad 2020). This is because all academics from various scientific backgrounds feel they are responsible and want to take part in handling the covid-19 outbreak. Then how about research related to Islamic studies associated with the COVID-19 pandemic? This is certainly interesting for us to discuss, considering Islam as a religion that brings mercy to the universe and typically also has a solution to world conditions during a pandemic.

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Islam is a religion of the savior of the world, which looks at every problem visible to the naked eye and can reach something essential in a man. Because humans are the best creatures in the form that Allah created, endowed with a mind and a heart, both of which have the potential to understand something that cannot be reached through the senses.

Islamic spirituality is a noble value that originates from Islamic teachings. It becomes the foundation of human life in terms of attitude as a servant to God and caliph over fellow human beings and the universe. So it is necessary to balance the way of human life vertically and horizontally. Covid-19 is God's test for all humanity. It is a logical consequence because of the behavior of most humans who are starting to move away from Islamic values.

Therefore, the research in this paper was compiled to find out what research and scientific publications were raised by Islamic studies academics to help deal with COVID-19. That way, scientific research and publications related to Islamic studies and pandemics can be mapped out well; if that's the case, then in the future, it will be straightforward to develop Islamic studies science if the world again experiences unexpected things. In addition, the position of Islam can also be ordained not only as a religion that teaches worship but also as teaching that inspires its adherents to participate in making the world a better place in various conditions, including during a pandemic.

The author has reviewed studies related to publication trends during the pandemic period between 2020 and 2022 at Scopus, and the result is that medicine-related publication trends are the most discussed (n=240), followed by social sciences (n=133), computer science (n=71), environmental science (n=47), engineering (n=47), arts and humanities (n=35), Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (n=29), Business, Management and Accounting (n=24), Immunology and Microbiology (n=19), energy (n=19), Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics (n=17), Economics, Econometrics and Finance (n=17), Psychology (n=16), Mathematics (n=16), Health Professions (n=16), Multidisciplinary (n=15), Decision Sciences (n=13), Nursing (n=12), Decision Sciences (n=11), Neuroscience (n=10), Physics and Astronomy (n=10), Earth and Planetary Sciences (n=6), Materials Science (n=4), Chemical Engineering (n=2), Dentistry (n=2), Chemistry (n=1), Veterinary (n=1).

**Figure 1:**
*Publication document related to publication trends during the 2020-2022 pandemic on Scopus*

From this data, it can be seen that previous studies discussing the trend of publication of Islamic studies related to the COVID-19 pandemic have not yet examined it, even though in the
There are 290 manuscripts discussing COVID-19 in the eyes of Islamic studies. Therefore, this research can be said as something that is still new because no one has discussed it yet.

The COVID-19 has had a considerable impact on research and scholarly publications as well as other sectors (Nuryana, Xu, and Lu 2022). Additionally, rules are being adopted to lessen the risk of spreading, which has an effect on the quantity of scientific publications (Nuryana, Murshidi, and Rahman 2021). On the other hand, as cases of the transmission of COVID-19 in numerous regions have increased, there have been more articles about social phenomena during the COVID-19 outbreak. In order to help provide accurate information regarding the evolution of research and publishing in communication science during the COVID-19 epidemic, the role of scientific publications, in this case journals, is vitally needed (Tandon 2020). Additionally, the international reputed journal should adopt the spirit of preserving humanity, sustaining sanity, and encouraging health from the perspective of the study of Islamic studies since it is an international journal with a solid reputation.

Islamic studies has research, methodology, approaches, and a theoretical framework. Like other sciences, it should also talk about the scientist’s scientific philosophies. Social sciences also have a philosophy, in addition to Islamic sciences, which have a philosophy of science; naturally, Islamic sciences also have a philosophy of Islamic sciences. Islamic studies in higher education institutions, particularly Islamic higher education institutions, must be developed apart from Islamic studies. Islamic higher education institutions that are run by the government and the private sector are already strengthened by the fact that students can study Islam there. Islamic studies are a prerequisite for developing your understanding of Islam’s teachings from all angles, including fiqh, kalam, philosophy, tasawuf, interpretation, hadith, and more (Anjum 2012).

Additionally, it is important to commend the editors of scientific journals for their choice to accept high-quality submissions relating to study results on the COVID-19. A journal must offer a variety of useful information for the benefit of many people because it is a scientific publication medium, especially if it is related to a worldwide pandemic that threatens the safety of human life on a significant scale. Other journals should take a cue from the scientific journals that can help stop the spread of COVID-19. It is important to keep in mind that the journal’s humanitarian objective of serving as a resource for COVID-19-related concerns must adhere to the strict guidelines it has established.

In order to complement the works published in the Asian Journal of Communication, the authors plan to conduct a bibliographic study using VOSViewer and the Bibliometrix R package (Aria and Cuccurullo 2017). Other scholars may use publication patterns in communication science during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak as a guide for coming up with solutions for countering this pattern. With the COVID-19 pandemic breakout, this paper seeks to investigate publication trends in developing scientific publications in Islamic studies in a recognized international journal. Additionally, to support information on how this journal has greatly contributed to COVID-19 mitigation from the perspective of Islamic studies sciences, the authors, the authors’ country, and keywords are utilized as discussion material.

### Bibliometric Analysis

A method is required based on the challenges that have been outlined. In order to address situations and conditions related to current hepatitis problems and as material for planning projects or research in the future, researchers working in the field may use bibliometrics to see the direction and trend of research and collaboration networks of studies or research on Islamic studies in Indonesia. to observe the outcomes of scientific mapping in the field of Certain topics can employ analysis co-words using keywords in scientific papers.
This study makes use of bibliometric analysis, which is used to see how many publications and citations from different types of literature are distributed. Topics in bibliometric analysis can be discussed both qualitatively and statistically (Aria and Cuccurullo 2017). By examining the nature and advancement of the relevant science, bibliometric indicators can show the level of development of science at a higher level. The selection of databases, specifically the number of bibliometric databases, several multi-disciplinary and others in certain areas, and the identification of publications based on the address provided by the author, are two key factors that affect the reliability of bibliometric indicators (Christian 2005). Higher levels of aggregation allow for the robustness of bibliometric indicators. They are less appropriate for assessing individuals or small research teams and more appropriate for studying trends in huge collections (large research teams) (Kern, Rogge, and Howlett 2019). Researchers can use Scopus to look for a bibliography as a database source. The choice employs Scopus since it is one of Elsevier’s databases (data center) for scientific literature and citations, the largest publisher in the world. The focus of bibliometric analysis is on the data. It typically has a large and objective scope (e.g., hundreds or thousands) (e.g., number of citations and publications, occurrences of keywords and topics). However, interpretation frequently depends on objective and subjective evaluations created through informed techniques and procedures (e.g., performance analysis) (Mühlhoff 2020).

The VOSViewer application is also used to process the data; it is a software tool for constructing maps based on network data and for displaying and perusing these maps (van Eck and Waltman 2010). The following succinctly describes VOSviewer’s features: (a) Making maps using network information. A network that already exists can be used to produce a map, but it is also possible to build a network first (GhaviDel, Nezamdost, and Riahinia 2020). Networks of scholarly works, journals, researchers, funding agencies, nations, and keywords or concepts can be built with VOSviewer. Co-authorship, co-occurrence, citation, bibliographic coupling, or co-citation linkages can be used to connect items in these networks (Liao et al. 2018). To build a network, VOSviewer can receive input from bibliographic database files (such as Web of Science, Scopus, Dimensions, Lens, and PubMed files) and reference management files (such as RIS, EndNote, and RefWorks files). As an alternative, VOSviewer can obtain information through an API (i.e., Crossref API, OpenAlex API, Europe PMC API, and several others). (b) Imagining and investigating maps. The network visualization, the overlay visualization, and the density visualization are the three map visualizations offered by VOSviewer. When working with huge maps comprising hundreds of things, zooming and scrolling functionality makes it possible to fully examine a map (Moral-Muñoz et al. 2020). Although VOSviewer is intended primarily for analyzing bibliometric networks, it can be used to create, visualize, and explore maps based on any network data (van Eck and Waltman 2017).

The benefits of bibliometric research results can be categorized into three groups (Chen, Chiang, and Storey 2012):

1. Direct benefits for scientists or the academic community. Scientists who research a field can find out what topics have been researched and have not been researched, issues are currently being investigated, or are saturated with research. Thus, the results of bibliometric research can become a reference and starting point for other scientists in Indonesia and internationally who are studying a field.

2. Direct or indirect benefits for practitioners. Practitioners such as industry, consultants, and policymakers get indirect benefits by using research results from researchers who use bibliometric research results. Also, this group can benefit directly when using bibliometric research results.

3. Indirect benefits for the general public. Communities get indirect benefits when using products, services, or policies resulting from research and innovation by practitioners based on bibliometric research results.
Bibliometrics is valuable and useful for the following: (a) Identifying trends and patterns of knowledge growth in various science disciplines; (b) Analyze novelty, obsolescence, and distribution of scientific references; (c) Estimating productivity, publishers, authors, affiliations, countries, or across disciplines; (d) Foundation for future research and avoid repetition of research that has been researched.

**Scopus Database**

The research data was obtained from the Scopus database. Scopus is the world’s most extensive collection of literature summaries, with citations that provide abstracts from peer-reviewed scientific literature and research. Scopus can help researchers effectively track, analyze, and visualize research. More than 22,000 high-quality abstracts published by 5,000 publishers worldwide are provided in the Scopus database from various fields, such as science, technology, medicine, social sciences, art, and literature. Scopus has 55 million records dating back to 1823, of which 84% are sourced from references dating back to 1996 (Mongeon and Paul-Hus 2016). The more specific a journal is, the higher the chance of being indexed by Scopus. Not all journals can be indexed on Scopus due to the strict requirements requested by Scopus and the selection carried out.

Based on phenomena and problems supported by data from previous research, the authors are interested in seeing how the mapping bibliometrics, visualization of development directions, and levels of collaboration networks research in scientific publications of Islamic studies during the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the world. The results of scientific mapping and the development of trends or topics in research hepatitis in the country of Indonesia, which is studied with a bibliometric study, are expected can increase cooperation in developing science in the study of hepatitis, provide an overview of research, retrieval decision when you want to do research with similar studies.

**The Authors Contribution**

We analyzed the top 5 authors to determine author influence, full publications, and author collaborations. Figure 2 shows that Shaari has received the most citations in the article The Effects of Energy Consumption and National Output on CO2 Emissions: New Evidence from OIC Countries Using a Panel ARDL Analysis (Shaari, Abdul Karim, and Zainol Abidin 2020). According to the results of this study, Shaari said that Muslim countries that are members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation have an important responsibility and strategic role to reduce pollution caused by carbon dioxide and CO2 emissions. Fida's article, “Impact of Service Quality on Customer Loyalty and Customer Satisfaction in Islamic Banks in the Sultanate of Oman,” was the second most-cited with 23 citations. This article reveals how the Islamic bank As a financial institution, it always earns excess profit compared to conventional banks, especially in the Middle East region, providing service satisfaction for its customers (Fida et al. 2020). Next is Al Eid’s manuscript, entitled Crisis and disaster management in the light of the Islamic approach: COVID-19 pandemic crisis as a model (a qualitative study using the grounded theory). Al Eid confirmed that the leadership model colored by Islamic values is very effective in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic (Al Eid and Arnout 2020). Then, there is Andersen's manuscript entitled Islamic State Propaganda: Between Social Movement Framing and Subcultural Provocation. This script describes how parties who want to establish an Islamic state systematically carry out propaganda that leads to violence to achieve their goals (Andersen and Sandberg 2020). Lastly, is the script written by Izwar entitled Potential of Reusam Island to become sharia ecotourism area, Izwar explained that there are still many strategic areas in various parts of the world that are very appropriate to be used as the basis of sharia economics in the world, especially in terms of tourism, although not in Muslim countries, the potential is very large (IZWAR et al. 2020).
Figure 2:
Author’s most globally cited documents

This result is somewhat unsettling because the total number of citations to the manuscript over the course of more than two years did not equal 30. Manuscripts published by a highly reputable journal such as the Asian Journal of Communication should be used as a reference by many people because the published manuscripts must have undergone a rigorous review process so that the quality of the manuscripts need not be doubted. The low number of citations received by the Asian Journal of Communication manuscripts should receive serious attention. In addition, in more than two years, only one manuscript has discussed the direct relationship between communication science and COVID-19. It must also be emphasized how it is possible when the world struggles against the COVID-19 pandemic in various aspects and requires high-quality academic support. However, it turns out that very few use manuscripts published by the Asian Journal of Communication as a reference.

Writing collaboration is another feature of authors that should be recognized. This will demonstrate the existence of cross-national communication among discipline researchers. Additionally, writers in nations with high levels of collaboration are reachable by other researchers, even inexperienced researchers, for research in the same topic. Single Country Publications (SCP) and Multiple Country Publications (MCP) in the internationally renowned journal are depicted in Figure 3. The countries having the most SCPs, according to the Journals, are Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, the United Kingdom, and Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, according to MCP data, Malaysia is followed most by Indonesia and the UK.
Based on data obtained from Scopus, there are 86 countries that participate in developing research and conducting scientific publications, but there are only ten countries that are actively producing research papers and scientific publications related to Islamic studies and COVID-19 during the COVID-19 outbreak. 19 of the years 2020-2022, the countries are: Indonesia (n=444), Malaysia (n=173), Turkey (n=60), UK (n=57), Pakistan (n=52), Iran (n=46), Saudi Arabia (n=42), US (n=41), Jordan (n=31), and Netherlands (n=29).

### Table 1:
The country with the most articles related to Islamic studies during the 2020-2022 COVID-19 pandemic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>country</th>
<th>documents</th>
<th>citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to being the country that produces the most research papers and publications related to Islamic studies and COVID-19, Indonesian manuscripts are also the most cited scientific works in the 2020-2023 period (n=452), followed by Malaysia (n=260), Pakistan (n=157), Saudi Arabia (n=126), UK (n=124), US (n=92), Jordan (n=58), Iran (n=44), Turkey (n=38), and Netherlands (n=25).
Figure 4:
The country with the most articles related to Islamic studies during the 2020-2022 covid-19 pandemic

In Figure 2 observations, it can be seen that there are thirteen clusters related to the distribution of manuscripts discussing Islamic studies during the covid-19 outbreak, including: Cluster 1 (n=9) consisting of Afghanistan, France, Macau, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, US, Uzbekistan. Cluster 2 (n=8) consisted of Israel, Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Israel. Cluster 3 (n=6) consisted of Belgium, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Romania. Cluster 4 (n=7) which consists of Georgia, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Pakistan, Philippines, Turkey. Cluster 5 (n=6) consists of Czech Republic, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Syria Arab Republic, Taiwan. Cluster 6 (n=6) consists of Barbados, Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, Thailand, Ukraine. Cluster 7 (n=5) consisting of Brunei, Libya, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Yemen. Cluster 8 (n=5) consisting of Azerbaijan, Jr., Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia. Cluster 9 (n=5) consisting of China, Iran, Norway, Russia, Sweden. Cluster 10 (n=5) consisting of Algeria, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, UK. Cluster 11 (n=4) consisting of Canada, Greece, New Zealand, South Africa. Cluster 12 (n=3) consisting of Bahrain, India, Oman. Cluster 13 (n=2) consisting of Bangladesh and the UAE.

Figure 5:
The country with the most articles related to Islamic studies during the 2020-2022 covid-19 pandemic
In the VOSviewer overlay visualization in Figure 3, it can be seen that at first the trend of research and publications related to Islamic studies and the covid-19 pandemic began around March 2020 from countries such as Turkey and Pakistan. In 2020, the trend of publications related to Islamic studies and the covid-19 pandemic emerged in countries such as Saudi Arabia and Oman. Then in early 2021 the trend of publications related to Islamic studies and covid-19 experienced an explosion in Malaysia, it turns out that the explosion of research and publications in Malaysia affected the number of similar research and publications in Indonesia towards the middle of 2021. As seen in Figure 3 Malaysia is the largest and closest center with the Indonesian publication center. Research manuscripts and publications from Indonesia then influenced subsequent studies in the Netherlands, Australia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Yemen. Meanwhile, the second most recent explosion of research related to Islamic studies and Covid-19 originating from Malaysia influenced authors from Sri Lanka, Yemen, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Portugal.

Figure 6:
The development of the country with the most articles related to Islamic studies during the 2020-2022 covid-19 pandemic time to time.

Keyword research is important for identifying trends. In addition to becoming a trend in keyword research, it also makes it simpler for readers and researchers to locate subjects relating to their fields (McDonnell, 2010). The topic under discussion and the accessibility of searches will be impacted by the precision of this word choice. The literature search and study will be based on each keyword, which may be a single word or two words combined in different ways. Figure 4 displays the top search terms in the Asian Journal of Communication from August 2020 to August 2022. According to Figure 4, the most popular words are Islam (n=74), Islamic Law (n=36), Human (n=30), Islamic Banking (n=22), Female (n=18), Terrorism (n=18), Adult (n=18), education (n=15), Male (n=14), Sustainability (n=14), Islamic Boarding School (n=13), Islamic State (n=12), human experiment (n=11), islamic architecture (n=11), islamic values (n=10), radicalism (n=10).

Table 2:
Most discussed themes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>keyword</th>
<th>occurrences</th>
<th>total link strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>islam</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>islamic law</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>human</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>covid-19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>islamic banking</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In other words, Indonesia, Islam, and Islamic law are the three most frequently discussed subjects in the international renowned journal during the outbreak of COVID-19 from 2020 to August 2022. These results are supported by the Thematic Map analysis as shown in Figure 3.
Three-field plot analyses are performed: the author, author’s country, and keywords

Using a three-field plot analysis, Figure 4 shows the relationships between the three units of author, authors’ nations, and keywords. Since we are using Number of items 20, the maximum number for each field that is displayed is 20: 20 authors, 20 countries, and 20 keywords. Starting with the authors’ countries, authors, and top research keywords, these three variables are plotted with gray relationships to highlight the relationship between one field and the next. The dimensions of each rectangle show how many articles are linked to each list element. The focal point of this three-plane map is also the center plane (AU CO). The top 5 nations from 2020 to 2022 are displayed, with Indonesia having the most articles, followed by Malaysia, Pakistan, the UK, and Iran. A green rectangle is used to represent each of the five keyword themes that are most frequently used in respected international journals, including Islam, Islamic Law, Islamic Education, Indonesia, and Malaysia (DE). More research themes appear as the rectangle gets bigger, hence this study exemplifies a common research subject.

Figure 9:
Three-field plot correlation in international reputable journal related to Islamic studies
Towards and during the change from 2021 to 2022, there is a change in the publication trend which is shown in figure 5 as follow:

**Figure 10:**
Shift of publication theme from 2021 to 2022

**Future research**

The data collected from the Bibliometrix application also shows new research topics that may be developed in the future. This research will be beneficial for Islamic studies academics to find research topics; this is important considering that the research topic is a central point or basis of understanding for prospective novice researchers. Thanks to the presence of the issue, it will make it easier for future researchers to determine the next steps. For example, it was choosing the background, research methods and hypotheses, and decision-making. This research can also look for hot issues from topics that can be taken.

The study topic enclosed by the red circle represents a potential future theme trend. Following COVID-19, the multidisciplinary topic is an additional intriguing idea to consider. Figure 10 shows a number of potential clusters, including Islam, Islamic Banks, and Islamic Education (cluster 1), Iran, Islamic Architecture, Islamic Law, and Indonesia (cluster 2), Islamic Boarding School, Islamic Values, and Islamic Higher Education Performance (cluster 3), and Islamic Studies, Critical Thinking, and Fiqh-Waqf (cluster 4). Several themes using the hues green, blue, purple, yellow, and gray are suggested for additional research in accordance with the journal's objectives.
Conclusion

Writing scientific articles is a bridge between researchers (as the authors) and readers; writing requires special techniques. Article writers must be able to write in their language style. Scientific articles are also a form of scientific contribution to the progress of science and technology. Universally writing scientific articles has been established following the existing rules. This is to facilitate communication between scientists. To ensure the effectiveness of scientific transformation, a scientific article must fulfill three elements, proper scientific logic, clear, straightforward, and communicative language, and compliance with the rules of the journal that will contain the article. Based on the data obtained and processed by various applications such as Bibliographic and VOSViewer, it can be said that during the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022, research related to Islamic studies and the handling of COVID-19 was still not widely found. Studies related to Islamic banking, Islamic law and education still get a larger portion to be discussed. Indeed, there is still research related to the role of Islamic values in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic which is included in the top five most cited manuscripts, but that is not enough. The OCID-19 pandemic is a human disaster that has hit the whole world, and all elements from various scientific backgrounds should play their respective roles, including researchers who specialize in Islamic studies. So that in the future when the world returns to experiencing unexpected things again, Islam can really provide an answer to human anxiety.

Acknowledgement

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References


