



The Aesthetics of Asir Cat Mural Art as an Introduction to Enriching Women's Handbag Design

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Abstract :

Mural drawing is one of the oldest forms of human expression known to man, and the Asir region is considered one of the regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that is rich in popular mural artistic engravings known as (cat art) and varied between geometric shapes and plant decoration, and the field of designing clothing accessories is one of the rich fields that contain innovation and diversity between each piece and another, and the development in the world of accessories has accompanied the change in the types of clothing; The type of complement and the way it is used are the product of the clothing designer's thinking, and it is considered a requirement of elegance, so it was necessary to diversify its decoration and innovate new solutions for its production. Therefore, the research aimed to benefit from the aesthetics of the elements of Asir mural art (cat) to create design collections for women's bags so that they are contemporary and preserve the authenticity of the past through experimentation with computer drawing programs. The research followed the descriptive analytical approach by analyzing the elements of Asir cat art, in addition to the experimental approach in conducting many design experiments to create contemporary bag collections.

The results showed that the Asir cat decorations are rich in many inspiring artistic and aesthetic values, and the possibility of distributing the Asir cat vocabulary on bags; as collections of bags were designed that match the colors of the Asir cat, and are characterized by diversity, innovation and modernity while preserving the features of this popular art. The most important recommendations are to delve into the study of the aesthetic and artistic values that Saudi heritage arts abound with in various types and to benefit from them as a source of inspiration that helps open new horizons for creative thinking to find design solutions in bag design.

Research question:

- Can the aesthetics of Asiri mural art (cat) be used to design bags that contribute to preserving the elements of heritage identity?
- Study and analyze the vocabulary of Asiri mural art (cat).

- Benefit from the aesthetics of the elements of Asiri mural art (cat) to create contemporary design collections for bags that preserve the authenticity of the past through experimentation with computer drawing programs.

. Importance of the research:

The research contributes to emphasizing the importance of preserving heritage arts from extinction by contributing to documenting their vocabulary of decorations, shapes and colors, and how to benefit from them in presenting design ideas characterized by authenticity and modernity that keep pace with global fashion to improve the public taste that preserves the cultural identity of Saudi heritage in the clothing accessories sector, including bags.

Research hypotheses:

The possibility of designing bags characterized by modernity and authenticity from Asiri mural art (cat)

Keywords: Fashion Accessories - Al-Qatt Al-Asiri -Mural Art

Received: 10 July 2024 **Revised:** 21 August 2024 **Accepted:** 05 September 2024

Previous studies:

-Study by Hanan Al-Asiri, Abeer Ibrahim, Abdul Hamid Ibrahim and Suleiman, Umaima Ahmed Abdul Latif. 2017: The study is entitled Developing designs inspired by Asiri mural art to enrich the aesthetics of women's clothing. The study is based on designing women's clothing through the art of Al-Qatt Al-Asiri

- Study by Abeer Al-Fawzan. 2019 The study is entitled The Aesthetics of the Asir Cat and Its Role in Enriching Women's Clothing The study is based on benefiting from the aesthetics of the Asir cat to -enrich women's clothing

-Study by Hanan Abdel-Azim, 2005 The study is entitled Contemporary Formulation of Arab Popular Symbols in the Field of Electronic Drawing Based on benefiting from the aesthetics of Arab popular symbols in the field of drawing

- Study by Mustafa Muhammad Al-Shorbagy 2006: The study is entitled A Modern Vision of Popular Symbols as a Formative Value and Its Employment in the Design of Printed Upholstery Fabric Supplements. Based on employing popular symbols in the design of printed upholstery fabric supplements.

- Study by Hanaa Al-Saidi, Kamel Hassan, Al-Hashel, Muntaha Saleh Abdul-Ilah. 2020: The study entitled Innovating Textile Hangers for Contemporary Housing Inspired by Asir Heritage to Preserve Saudi Arabian Identity is based on producing textile hangers for Saudi housing inspired by Saudi heritage.

-Study by Iman Ahmed 2016: The study entitled Analytical Study of the Harmony of Wall Engraving Art with the Natural and Architectural Environment in the Asir Region at the End of the Ottoman Empire, is based on conducting an analytical study of the Harmony of Wall Engraving Art with the Natural and Architectural Environment in the Asir Region at the End of the Ottoman Empire.

- Study by Ali Abdul-Ilah Al-Shahrani, 2005: The study entitled The Art of Traditional Architecture Decoration in Asir The study is based on benefiting from the decorations of traditional architecture in the Asir Region.

Study by Noura Mohsen Mohammed Al-Dajani. 2016: The Aesthetics of Folk Art Decorations (Cat and Engraving) on Textiles Using Machine Embroidery Technique The study is based on exploiting the aesthetics of Asir folk art decorations with machine embroidery.

- Study by Fadia Muhammad Hisham Zakaria, 2019: The philosophy of the Asiri cat and the role of women in transferring the cultural craft heritage to enrich textile hangings and activate Saudi tourism marketing. The study is based on the role of women in transferring the cultural craft heritage by activating Saudi tourism by making textile hangings that are sold to tourists.

Introduction: Arts are a language that conveys the artist's feelings from his inner depths in an expressive way that is different from the usual, surrounded by beauty and depth of feeling. This feeling remains an example in the imagination of the recipients, and it is difficult to ignore or forget. Therefore, peoples resort to arts (Al-Fawzan, 2018, p. 31), and "folklore is defined as a group of popular arts that are known to be capable among the individuals of every Arab and Islamic society. It is characterized by antiquity and antiquity with vitality and also keeping up with customs and traditions. Its visual symbols stem from the spirit of the popular group, in material expressions characterized by spontaneity and abstraction" (Abdul-Azim, 2005, p. 40); Folk arts include spiritual expressions such as folk literature and material expressions such as drawing, engraving, sculpture, fashion and other folk industries. They are innate arts performed by ordinary people with a normal culture (Al-Shorbagy, 2006, p. 664). Mural painting is one of the oldest forms of human expression known to man, long before the appearance of writing. Drawings sometimes took a realistic form and sometimes a symbolic form (Khojali, 2017, 805). There is hardly any country without evidence and ancient arts recorded on the walls of caves and houses. They carry a religious, cultural and aesthetic stock created by people at that time (Al-Qahtani, 2019, p. 77). The Asir region is considered one of the regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that is rich in popular artistic mural engravings known as (the art of the cat) and varied between geometric shapes and plant decoration, and was devoid of spirit shapes (Al-Asiri et al., 2017, p. 449). The art of the Asir cat has been known for hundreds of years in the country of Tihama, which appeared at the hands of the Asir woman. It is considered one of the important arts in the south of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where it entered the world, after UNESCO included it in 2017 on the list of intangible cultural heritage (Al-Fawzan, 2018, p. 31). The Asir heritage is considered one of the most important artistic elements due to its artistic richness and aesthetic values that make it an important source of creativity and innovation, through which (Al-Saidi and Al-Hashel, 2020, p. 573) created designs for textile pendants to confirm the Saudi identity amidst the current Globalization, preserving heritage and transforming it into a contemporary content that carries the characteristics of Saudi authenticity and modernity with an expressive artistic vision, and this is what all studies related to art and fashion design sought, as (Qurban, 2020, 38 p.) benefited from the data of this art in enriching contemporary trends in plastic art works and metalwork as tourist souvenirs, and (Zakaria, 2019, pp. 461, 481) created contemporary designs for printed textile pendants inspired by the aesthetics of cat decorations and benefited from them in beautifying tourist hotels, and the study (Hajji, 2020, p. 31) confirmed the concept of authenticity and heritage by drawing inspiration from the art of the Asir cat in designing and implementing textile works and employing them in fashion lines, and the study (Al-Asiri et al., 2017, p. 449) where researchers were able to draw inspiration from the components and features of this art to enrich fashion structurally and decoratively and emphasized the importance of preserving On heritage in a contemporary way; as in the study (Al-Dajani, 2016, p. 159) Which employed cat motifs in various pieces of textiles using machine embroidery. By studying heritage and analyzing its decorative elements, artistic works can be produced that bear the characteristic of authenticity and modernity to enrich the field of plastic arts, revive heritage and protect it from extinction (Mustafa, 2013, p. 123). Therefore, reviving intellectual heritage through the arts is a goal with more advanced future dimensions than a return to the past or adherence to history (Marzouq, 2010, p. 20). The study (Al-Qahtani, 2019, p. 93) explained the role of the Asir cat in enriching contemporary artistic production in the artistic arena and the role of male and female plastic artists of the region in employing the cat on the surfaces of paintings and making it an icon of heritage to transmit it to future generations in a contemporary manner and with a prestigious artistic language. The field of bag design is one of the rich magazines that contain innovation and diversity between each piece and the other, as each has unique features that distinguish it from the other (Al-Sayed et al., 2018, p. 210). Different eras are full of many innovative ideas for the forms of clothing accessories, and the development in the world of bags was accompanied by the change in the types of clothing; as the type of bag and the way it is used are the product of the designer's idea, and the type of bag, in addition to its function, are important factors that clarify the extent of the wearer's cultural awareness, as it is considered a requirement of elegance, so it was necessary to diversify its decoration and innovate new solutions for its production (Muhammad, 2021, p. 136). We find the interest of researchers specializing in the field of arts in searching for new

sources of inspiration, such as the study (Nasr, 2018, p. 321), which relied on inspiration from African art in creating a design collection for fashion accessories, and the study (Al-Sayed et al., 2018, 210) relied on graffiti art as a source of inspiration for designing printed clothing accessories to raise the levelArtistic design of clothing accessories, and invented (Al-Sayed and others, 2018, p. 435) a group of printed designs for clothing accessories fabrics from the Egyptian surrealist movement that keep pace with modern technology, and this is what the researcher saw in benefiting from the aesthetics of the Asiri cat art as a new source for designing fashion accessories. Designing fashion accessories is considered one of the arts that is characterized by continuous renewal over time, and this happens through the designer's creativity in finding sources that are a starting point for creativity and inspiration. Therefore, the researcher relied on taking Asiri mural art (cat) as a source of inspiration for its richness in vocabulary that contains aesthetic values that unleash the creation of design groups for fashion accessories that are largely related to the structure of the shape and color of this art and are modern with a heritage character. In light of the above, the research problem revolves around the following question

Study Methodology:

The research follows the descriptive analytical approach by analyzing the distinctive and recurring elements of the Asir cat art, in addition to the experimental approach in using digital computer design to conduct many innovative design experiments to create contemporary collections of bags that preserve the authenticity of the past.

Research Limits:

Spatial boundaries: Asir region is located in the southwestern part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The objective boundaries were limited to: - Study and analysis of Asir mural art (cat) and identifying its vocabulary. - Displaying the artistic and aesthetic values of the Asir cat vocabulary. - Fashion accessories. - Designing collections of bags using digital computer drawing programs inspired by the vocabulary of Asir mural art (cat)

Theoretical study: First:

Asiri cat: The art of wall decoration (Asiri cat) is one of the women's powers that indicates their unique and intimate relationship with the home. The skill of wall engraving comes either from imitation from mothers or from the teaching of a talented woman. This may be either collective, but it is more collective than individual (directed, or specialized, individual activity at home, 2009, p. 66-67). "And the cat, or the art of engraving houses from the inside, is one of the types of arts that the Asir region is famous for, especially in the country of "Rijal Almaa" (Qurban, 2020, p. 34). "Most of the elderly in the village of Rijal Almaa reported that they do not know the word "Qat" except in the Sarawat, and that it is not used in Tihama. They know this art as engraving or decoration" (Mari', 2010). No date has been determined for the beginning of this art. "Since ancient times, folk artists have grown up on the cat, inheriting it from their mothers and grandmothers, and they do not know who first invented this art, and this art is still inherited to the present time" (Al-Qahtani, 2019, p. 79), "Despite the spread of mural engravings in most areas of Asir, they flourish in the land of Qahtan and the village of Rijal Al-Ma" (Al-Jawahara, 2005, p. 277). The decorations differ from one village to another and from one governorate to another; the decorations in the land of Shahrān consist of geometric shapes and simple lines, while "the character of simplicity and spontaneity prevails in drawing vases, birds, geometric shapes and plants" (Arif, 2016, 117-118). The arts, customs and heritage of the region flourished and were greatly distinguished by the region's charming nature, and thanks to the adherence of the grandfathers and fathers to these artsAnd preserving it for future generations, and the Asiri cat represents an independent art with its social significance (Qurban, 2020, p. 35), where Zahra Al-Amai explained that the density and diversity of decorations differ according to the social status of the owner of the house; it is more dense and diverse in the homes of the well-off and less dense in the homes of the simple. This art is considered to be extremely creative and beautiful, and it is known that this art is an abstract art in which the forms of the material world are represented and that shape and color play a role; as the colors describe the whiteness of hearts and the colors of roses and the pigments of the soil found in the mountains, while the lines are like the

meanders of valleys and the terrain of ravines (Al-Asiri et al., 2017, p. 451), where the abstract geometric and plant decorative units and symbolic shapes are derived from environmental data such as plants and inanimate objects. The horizontal lines of the successive agricultural terraces, while the mountains formed the vertical lines (Zakaria, 2019, p. 469) "It must be convinced that decorative art is based on sense and taste before precise mathematical calculations; through rhythm, symmetry and overlay" (Mojih, 2009, p. 17)

Structural units of Asir cat decorations: The decorative units are classified either according to the importance of the unit and its prevalence in the Asir region or according to the similarity of the units in terms of shape, form, dimensions or sizes. There are square or rectangular shapes or wide, medium and thin decorative strips (Al-Dajani, 2016, p. 41). The structural units of Asir cat decorations will be clarified for the current research according to the importance and prevalence of the unit. The first steps of the artistic work to decorate the wall are represented in its preparation by men, where the stone walls are covered with a flat layer known to the craftsmen in the region as "gypsum plaster" on the surface of the wall, and after it dries, the woman divides it into areas Proportional to the area and direction of the wall surfaces. Like the wall facing the reception of visitors or the one located in the forefront of the coffee room, it is distinguished by an integrated design that resembles a carpet or an artistic frame and is known as "the batrah". It is located in the council designated for men (Arif, 2016, p. 117-118). "It is the main pillar in the Asiri house, and its function is to support the beam that forms the pivotal element of the ceiling of the house. It is an extremely important economic and social indicator, as its length determines the length of the living room. It is evidence of the high degree of wealth and is undesirable, so the folk artist turns it into an important element that receives care and attention. The wall surfaces of the rooms and the front of the house were divided into three sections:

- The upper part represents the void and is free of decorations.

- 2- The middle of the wall that extends at eye level and contains many decorative elements that include all types of thin, medium and wide strips and consists of feathers, buildings, conclusions, luck, triangles, quintets and architectures, which contain elements that make them up.

- 3- The lower part contains parallel longitudinal or transverse lines, or a complete color space along the lower walls. This art is based on drawing straight main lines in black horizontally and vertically, intersecting with them, and within them are secondary lines, to form and have a repeated rhythm, and the spaces formed are colored to geometric spaces of varying sizes from the intersections of the lines with different colors, the most prevalent of which are red, blue, green and sandy yellow. So that the drawing remains in its final form with two dimensions: length and width, depth and a third dimension (Al-Amai, 2014). The craftswoman engraves on the walls and starts from the top to the bottom, as mentioned and emphasized by Zahra Al-Amai Artistic and aesthetic values of the Asiri cat vocabulary:

Asiri cat decorations depend on the elements of the formative design in their construction, which is considered the basis of the artworks. They represent the artistic and aesthetic values in Asiri cat decorations and include: Image 3 (Staircase - Rijal Al-Ma'a) (Aref, 2016) Image 4 (Staircase - Bald Qahtaan)

The point: The methods and styles of using the point in Asiri cat varied and were distributed in different areas of decoration. It is found in Balsanah, which is one of the cat vocabulary "and is in the form of dots or circles within a specific shape, and is found in Balsanah decoration, relative to luck and conclusion" (Aref, 2016, 120). It is named after the lentil grains that are called in the region of Al-Ta'diq, which comes at the end of the buildings, where Asir is called (Balsan), as mentioned by Khair Al-Shahri. There are also points. The tip of the triangle ends with three points that resemble corn stalks (Al-Qahtani, 2019, p. 86) Line: Line is considered one of the most important design elements in the decoration of the Asiri cat and it varied between "straight, slanted, broken and curved lines. What distinguishes the lines in this decoration is that each line carries a different color from the other in the horizontal lines are considered the most common in one design to show diversity and rhythm" (Al-Qahtani, 2019, p. 82). In all the villages and governorates of the region, there is no traditional house without them. Rather, some houses were

satisfied with drawing artistic lines only, and their number varies according to the status and economic level of the owners of the house. These lines extend to form a surround around the room, and when they meet with the belt of doors and windows, they change from horizontal to vertical, then to horizontal, and so on. The folk artist was able, by instinct, to move with our eyes between the horizontal straight lines that carry meanings of stillness, balance and stability to the vertical lines that symbolize ascension, rigor, strength and stability. The folk artist used the lines to define her shapes, spaces and decorative units as a first step, and then colored them with powders and different colors. She made the lines a ground and a base on which her shapes and decorative units were based (Al-Shahrani, 2008, pp. 95-96). We find the lines in many of the cat's vocabulary, which are "combs", "network", "age cutting or what is called belts in the country of Shahrans", "niches", "sink and wall", "triangles and quintuplets". Shape: It comes in the spaces that rise above the strips and follows the repetition method, forming compact shapes that form a belt of the same shape surrounding all the walls of the room from equilateral triangles or vertical or horizontal diamonds. It also comes in the positions of the triangles opposite each other.

The square and rectangle are usually filled with oblique or perpendicular grid lines. The single formative element Description The formal function The decorative line The comb Thin parallel lines like the teeth of a comb that are above the fence or the builders or in the end in one or more colors of the grid Vertical and transverse lines intersecting forming a geometric grid that contains square or diamond shapes in one color. The multiplicity of colors of the niches is rare. Lines are broken horizontally in the form of successive waves of the seas. They may represent the succession of worshipers in the direction of the niche to perform the prayer. Lines are broken lengthwise and are in the direction of the squinch and to the right. The triangles and quintets are horizontal, parallel lines that extend to surround all the walls of the room. Their number varies from three to five lines, and they are of different colors. They are found on top of the buildings or come alone in the homes of people with limited income. The age divisions or buildings or divisions or belts are vertical, parallel lines found in the lower part of the wall in Asir and are horizontal lines in the country of Shahrān, not exceeding seven lines, the eighth number.

Geometric shapes vary in size, shape, colors, and the way they are combined, which makes them a fertile source for constantly deriving many decorative patterns. The cat also contains many symbols such as geometric stars, polygons, trees, and roses. In fact, it is very difficult to encompass all the shapes that make up the engraving due to the many elements and shapes (Al-Jawahara, 2005, pp. 280-288). "We find the folk artist's interest in the shape and defining it clearly, by using the black color to accurately define her decorations, separating the color spaces with a black line and defining it so that the shape appears clearly to us. We find the diversity of shapes present in the decorations of the Asir cat, as the triangle, circle, square, diamond, and other geometric and plant drawings appear" (Al-Qahtani, 2019, p. 82). The shapes are found in the cat decorations in many of its terms, which are: "the buildings or "the coffins" in the country of Shahrān, and they are called "the soldiers" in the country of Qahtaan, and "the feathers or "the palm fronds" in the country of Shahrān," and "the seal," and "the ascents," which is a name for the country of Shahrān, and "the corner," and "the enclosure or the prisons or the sundial or the entrances in the country of Shahrān." Color

"Asir folk decorations depend on colors, and these decorations are not devoid of them, and they depend more on the basic colors, including red, yellow, green, blue, and black. Despite the difference in the way folk artists deal with these colors, as each artist has her own distinctive and special style" (Al-Qahtani, 2019, p. 82), "and the folk artist in the Asir region used to deal with three types of colors, the first of which is: colors extracted from limestone powders, or from colored clays, or from some plants and fruits" (Marzouq, 2010: p. 100). Zahra Al-Almai mentioned that in the beginnings of engraving, black and red were not used, and that they used black in their engravings. For several reasons. It is impossible to cover all the details of the murals in the Asir region due to the disappearance of traditional architecture, the migration of villagers to cities, the difference in the details of the inscriptions from one region to another, and the transformations in architecture in any study in the Asir region, which led to the mixing of traditional and modern inscriptions, which causes confusion in the methodology of the traditional inscriptions currently (Al-Jawahara, 2005, 276-277).

Second: Fashion accessories: Fashion accessories are considered magical details and additions that increase the attractiveness of the individual's external appearance, which reflect with their designs, decorations and colors the civilization and beliefs of the society to which they belong. Bag design has become one of the arts that has occupied a center in the field of design; This is due to its importance in showing the beauty of fashion, which was reflected in the economic aspect, which led to the interest of fashion experts in creating many strange shapes and types that suit women, and the emergence of specialists in the field of bag design, which are separate fashion accessories: They are pieces that complement the outfit and are not connected to it. They are characterized by the possibility of exchanging and changing these pieces to suit the outfit, helping to highlight the aesthetics of the outfit and its details in general, such as head coverings - scarves - gloves - jewelry - belts - handbags and other separate accessories that women cannot do without (Semaan et al., 2020, pp. 211-216).

Applied study:

Through studying the theoretical aspect, three mural decorations from the Asir region were chosen to design bags that carry the characteristics of the Asir cat and are contemporary with contemporary fashion. The research experiment was based on the following stages: - Drawing the mural using the drawing program (Adobe Illustrator) and clarifying the vocabulary that makes up the mural. - Decomposing the decoration into small vocabulary. - Designing and drawing bags that match fashion and public taste. - Adding vocabulary to the decoration on the bags with different repetitions and sizes that match the structural lines of the bag in terms of color and shape.

Summary of the results:

After statistically analyzing the results of the experimental aspect and studying the theoretical framework, the following was shown:

- 1- There are differences in the shapes of the vocabulary and names of the Asir engraving between the different regions of Asir and the places where they are used on the murals of homes (wall - stairs - windows - doors).
- 2- The richness of the Asir cat decorations with many artistic and aesthetic values inspiring the various fields of art.
- 3- It is possible to distribute the vocabulary of the Asir cat on bags in sizes and shapes that match the structural lines of the bags.
- 4- It is possible to design groups of bags that match the colors of the Asir cat, and are characterized by diversity, innovation and modernity while preserving the features of this popular art.
- 5- The aesthetic values of the design groups of bags are achieved through the use of the vocabulary of the Asir cat.
- 6- Achieving harmony and coherence between the structural lines of the single design group of the bag.

From the above, it is clear that it is possible to design bags characterized by modernity and originality from the Asir mural art (the cat).

Practical applications:



The work is a crochet bag in which Asir cat motifs were used in its colors and shapes in a beautiful artistic style characterized by unity and repetition. Strips with cat motifs were used and fabric in the shape of triangles was used and they were fixed under the threads. Aesthetic values:

- The bag achieves balance by organizing the motifs in horizontal lines.
- Harmony is achieved between the shape and the background.
- Rhythm is achieved in the distribution of decorative elements.



The work is a plastic bag for a picnic or beach. I used ribbon decorations with the Asir cat in its colors and shapes in a beautiful artistic style characterized by unity and regularity, as well as covering the hand with the same ribbon that decorated the bag. Aesthetic values: The bag achieves balance by arranging the decorations vertically and horizontally.



The work is a port bag in which Asir cat motifs were used in its colors and shapes in a beautiful artistic style characterized by unity and overlapping. The motifs were placed in the lower part of it. Aesthetic values: The bag achieves balance through the arrangement of motifs in the lower part.

- The dominance of the black color appeared by highlighting the rest of the colors



The work is a children's bag in which Asir cat motifs are used in its colors and shapes in a beautiful artistic style characterized by unity and overlapping.

Aesthetic values:

- The bag achieves balance through the arrangement of motifs in the upper part.
- Harmony is achieved between the shape and the background.

Recommendations:

1-Delving into the study of the aesthetic and artistic values that Saudi heritage arts are rich in in their various types and benefiting from them as a source of inspiration that helps open new horizons for creative thinking to find design solutions in the field of fashion and its accessories that are characterized by authenticity and modernity; therefore, they must be studied academically and analyzed to benefit from them using scientific methods

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7- Holding exhibitions that include Saudi heritage arts to spread artistic and cultural awareness.

8-- Linking modern arts with traditional arts to preserve heritage from extinction and transfer it to generations in a way that is consistent with their fashion developments and is accepted.

Acknowledgement:

"The authors extend their appreciation to the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies at King Khalid University for funding this work through Large Research Project under grant number RGP2/258/45

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