

Knowledge: the body of truths or facts accumulated over the course of time.

Forward:

My hip-hop piece below was created to be very catchy with both words and music. I tried to incorporate every aspect of the topic: "What is knowledge? Who owns it? How can it best be taught or transmitted?" There is a recorded version available at:

<http://www.reverbnation.com/chromeace>. It is slightly shorter than the lyrics shown below, for I am also entering this piece in the Royal Commonwealth Vision Contest in July. Below is an expanded version of my hip-hop piece with an intro, chorus and four verses.

Knowledge

Knowledge: the body of truths or facts accumulated over the course of time.

I wonder is the knowledge in my mind only mine to keep?
I wonder if anyone around can hear what it is I have to speak.
Am I too selfish to give the world what it has given me?
Can I fulfill the expectations that have been set for me?
Or can I just sit it in the side not worrying about all this?
Maybe I can be another fly on the wall and live in my own bliss.
But apparently, I have to be someone that truly does believe
'Cause when we feel we have a purpose in life, we grieve.

It's our mind and our heart, the future of this world,
so we must spread our knowledge faster so we can be heard
and we can voice our minds; all we need is a mic,
all we need is one chance so we can speak what is right.

'Cause it's the youth of the world who will sculpt our tomorrow
And it's the youth of this world who in the future will be followed.
And even if it's verbally or physically spoken
It will always be heard by the people who are hoping
For a better world and better life in this time that we are living in
With people all around us who are trying to fit in
'Cause everybody here is just trying to be accepted
In this complicated world where we can't decode the message.

It's our mind and our heart, the future of this world,
so we must spread our knowledge faster so we can be heard
and we can voice our minds; all we need is a mic,
all we need is one chance so we can speak what is right.

We must understand that it's not fair to keep it all in.
The world deserves our knowledge that only lies within
And know that we hold the key and the choice is always yours,
So you make the decision if you want to unlock those doors.

Knowledge

My grandfather once told me a story about his younger years when he lived in British India before the partition that led to the creation of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Being an Indian-Muslim, he was sometimes seen as an outcast. He wanted to be a politician, to speak his word, and speak his mind; he wanted to show the people of British India that race does not change the fact that we are all human, that we all share the same passion to make the world a better place, and how we all want to make our lives easier for each other. He wanted to prove that we could all live without all the violence and hate. He was out to prove that knowledge, wisdom or any word you would like to call it could never silence the true word, the words of the human race. He knew that knowledge is the one resource that belongs to no country, to no government and to no power that is out of our grasp. He believed in freedom of speech, he believed that once you had your voice and a group of open ears, the only thing that could happen was change. My grandfather was a visionary. He had a mission. But when British India was separated and he left for Pakistan which later became an Islamic Republic, he realized there were many other politicians who shared his views and passions, so he trusted in them to speak for him, to represent him, to represent the people of Pakistan. He then left his dream of politics to raise a family and I believe that if he hadn't made that choice, then I wouldn't be here, and if I weren't here, then there would be one less youth to understand, spread, and embrace the knowledge of our world.

Ownership

This is something that I believe will always have difference of opinions. Who does our knowledge belong too? Does it belong to our parents, aunts and uncles who had brought us up from little babies to children and now to youth? Does it belong to the army veterans who have fought in our wars to give us the freedom we have now? We will soon start driving, voting and becoming parents to our own children. But do we have the knowledge to pick up where our older generations left off? Or do we deserve to know and learn what they have learnt before us? Are we allowed to choose which way we get this knowledge, whether it is appealing to us or not? Ownership is something to be questioned but it is also something to be answered. The youth of today are so confused; grab any random youth from the hallways of our schools and ask him/her what they want to do with their life in the future and it's guaranteed that they will either have no clue or have changed their minds at least once. How can we expect youth with minds so distorted by media and leisure items to understand what it is they have to uphold in the future if we don't take out the time to teach them properly? No one is the same; everyone is unique, so how can we expect to have a system that is only one format? How can we expect every child or youth to accept what we have set for them? We need to understand that if we want them to learn we have to be understanding also. If we have been trusted with all of our information, history, and knowledge then should we be easy on the generation after us? Shouldn't we make sure that each individual citizen has a chance to understand and believe in what they are told? Sometimes, it seems we only care for the "Grade Point Average" because the kids with high GPA's will succeed in life. False. There are many over qualified youth who deserve scholarships and grants but have gone down the wrong path because we didn't reach them in time for them to listen, and if we did, we didn't try hard enough. If we become selfish with the ownership of knowledge, we become selfish with the world we live in. In life, we are born, we live, and then we die. In that time we are expected to spread our knowledge from generation to generation. Maybe it's like I said in my song,

*"It's our mind and our heart, the future of this world,
So we must spread our knowledge faster so we can be heard
And we can voice our minds; all we need is a mic,
All we need is one chance so we can speak what is right."*

Transmitting (A.k.a “The Mic”)

In my piece, when I stated “*And we can voice our minds, all we need is a mic,*” I spoke from the perspective of a youth growing up in a world where media has a wide impression on the youth of today. I speak from the point of view that youth respond to all of the “glamour and glitz” and the music industry. If for most of the youth, music is their escape, then why not use it to our advantage? Maybe instead of trying to corrupt a bunch of kids with gangster rap or the super hard rock pro-suicidal bands, we can spread positive messages; maybe we can prove to the world that there is a way to reach the youth in a way that will appeal to them. When I say “mic” (microphone) it can be taken literally or be taken as a metaphor, the mic is merely a way for us to convey our voice amongst others, because sometimes it takes a little push to have people listen to what you want to say.

**My musical version of “Knowledge” is available at:
<http://www.reverbNation.com/chromeace>**

**The music video will be entered into this year’s Royal Commonwealth Vision Contest.
Look for it on Youtube in the coming months.**