**Chat-GPT, Muslim Cyberspace and the Construction of a Critical Islamic Epistemology**

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The emergence of new digital technologies has revolutionized the way information is disseminated, making it easier for people across the globe to communicate and connect instantly. The laissez-faire infrastructure of these tools has also created an unprecedented ecology in which the democratization of information enables anyone to consume and share data regardless of background. It consequently empowers people to share and exchange ideas leading to a plethora of opinions on different subject matters. While information diversity can be seen as a boon to the formation of a more informed public, the ‘new media ecology’ has unknowingly accelerated the collapse of communication between experts and laypeople by offering a shortcut to erudition. It deceives people by providing an illusion of intellectual triumph by indulging in a limitless supply of information that might not necessarily be factual yet perilously framed as an ‘expert opinion’. One of the digital tools blamed for this disruption is the advanced AI chatbot, Chat-GPT.

This paper seeks to explore the implications of generative AI such as Chat-GPT on religious discourse in the Muslim cyberspace. It essentially argues that an unbridled usage of such technologies would expedite an intellectual death and a certain degree of ‘epistemic disobedience' is necessary to prevent a technological dystopia and create space for critical reflection on the digital world we are building. The paper further explores how technological advances have altered our language and the way we think of our world today. It contends that modern technology is inherently designed to reach at a hallucinated “singularity” that inverts traditional religious metaphysics in which the many emanate from the One. Moreover, it runs in contrast to the foundation of the Islamic intellectual tradition that is discursive and fosters a culture of ambiguity.

Against this backdrop, the paper proposes the construction of a critical epistemological framework in Islam that establishes an equilibrium between the sacred Texts and our contemporary realities. Additionally, it allows us to discursively engage the epistemological foundations of modern technologies and formulate ethical guidelines to ensure that it is used in a responsible way.

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