



Al **VS** ai

Choose Your Master

Jumu'ah 13.02.26
12:15 - 12:50 - ACM OL6 9JA

The Quiet Shift & Silent Idol

There are moments in every age when the world quietly shifts - not through laws, wars or politics, but in how we live, think, decide, connect, behave & believe.

We are passing through such a threshold today, where technology reshapes the very fabric of how we understand reality, morality, ethics, truth and our place in creation.

Throughout history Allah ﷻ has consistently guided humanity, sending messengers to remind us that forgetting or substituting the Creator leads to darkness & deviation.

Creating & choosing our own masters & gods over Allah ﷻ will inevitably lead us to our own demise.

From the beginning, humanity was designated as Allah's Khalifah on earth (2:30) entrusted with agency, responsibility and moral reasoning, but now we are abdicating that for something else.

Question - what if the greatest idol of our time doesn't look like an idol at all?



Tests of Every Generation

- People of 'Ad - Trust in Physical Strength - Destroyed by a wind - (41:15)
- People of Thamud - Trust in Architectural Security - Destroyed by a blast - (15:82)
- People of Saba - Trust in Economic Infrastructure - Devastated by flood - (34:15–16)
- Fir'awn - Trust in Political Power & Water - Drowned in the Sea - (43:51)
- Qarun - Trust in Personal Intellect/Knowledge - Swallowed by the Earth - (28:78)
- Our Era – Trust in ai, Systems & Oneself – **WHAT WILL BE OUR FATE?**

History shows that when humanity forgets/substitutes its Creator & elevates itself, societies crumble
Corruption has appeared throughout the land & sea by what the hands of people have earned (30:41)

Old Idols – New Form – (7:148)

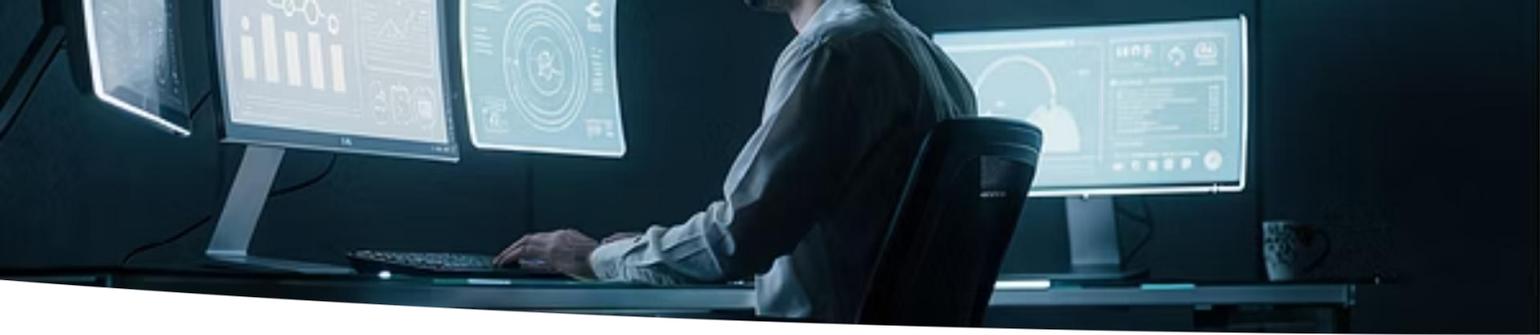
Humanity has always sought objects of reliance and worship, from ancient idols of stone and wood to the abstract gods of power, wealth & knowledge.

In every era the temptation to choose another master other than The Divine has been present.

Today, we face a new sophisticated form of this ancient challenge - coding our own gods.

Artificial Intelligence with its vast capabilities and increasing integration into our lives, represents the latest and most subtle manifestation of *Shirk* – associating partners with Allah in reverence, truth, guidance and dependence. (39:3)





ai vs Ai:

ai Gives You What You Want

ai's algorithms are designed to understand and cater to your existing preferences and desires, reinforcing them.

Allah ﷻ gives you what you Need

Divine guidance challenges & channels our desires, leading us towards what is truly beneficial for our holistic well-being.

ai Affirms Your Desires

It's built to agree and validate, creating echo chambers that confirm our biases and current inclinations.

Allah ﷻ Refines Your Character

Allah's commands and prohibitions are designed to purify our hearts, strengthen our resolve & elevate our moral character.



ai vs Ai:

ai Has No Moral Framework

It operates based on data and programming, devoid of intrinsic ethical understanding or divine moral law.

Allah ﷻ Sets Sacred Boundaries

Islam provides clear, universal, ethical principles and boundaries that protect individuals and societies from harm.

ai Optimizes for Engagement

Its primary goal is to maximise user interaction which can lead to sensationalism or trivial pursuits.

Allah ﷻ Calls to Righteousness

Divine guidance calls us towards sincerity, justice, compassion and actions that earn eternal reward.



ai vs Ai:

ai Learns from Human Bias

Its learning models can ingest and amplify human prejudices present in its training data, reflecting imperfect human understanding.

Allah's Wisdom is Absolute and Perfect

Divine knowledge and wisdom are flawless, unbiased, and encompass all aspects of creation, far beyond human limitations.

The question is not whether we use technology, but whether we allow it to replace the Divine as our ultimate source of guidance, hope, truth and trust.

THIS IS THE LINE BETWEEN TOOL & IDOL



The Tangible Danger

- People asking ai for advice or predictions over Du'a
- Trust in data-driven insights over Tawakkul
- Hope being placed in technological solutions over Divine Mercy & Intervention
- Faith in Allah's timeless plan & wisdom being supplanted by an uncritical acceptance of predictive models
- Every age had its idol. Ours doesn't sit on a pedestal - it sits in our pocket.

They have taken their scholars & monks as lords besides Allah (9:31)

Change ai Lense to Ai Lense

*What has deceived you concerning you most
Generous Lord (82:6)*

**Your Creation, Balance, Stature, Status, Dignity
Faculties, Potential...**

**Why are you fleeing to ai when you should flee to
Allah ﷻ & turn to Him?!**

*He created you, guides you, feeds you, cures you,
gives you life & death, forgives you, grants you
wisdom, honour, rewards you... Nothing will
benefit you except a sound heart with Allah.
(26:78-104)*



Where Does Your Reliance Lie?

ai offers the illusion of omniscience, omnipresence & boundless problem-solving attributes that belong to Allah ﷻ alone.

When we turn to ai with the reverence, dependence & hope that should be reserved for our Creator, we commit a subtle but profound form of idolatry.

Do we run to Allah ﷻ in moments of joy & despair?

Or do turn to our devices for answers & comfort?

Do we seek guidance from the Qur'an & Sunnah?

Or do we prioritise algorithmic recommendations?



The Age of Convenience

The 21st-century test arrived not with disasters, but with convenience, seamlessly integrating into our lives through devices and automated systems.

Instant Answers

Questions answered before we finish asking

Curated Reality

Algorithms decide what we see and believe

Automated Choices

Decisions made for us, not by us

When do tools begin to shape not just our actions but how we perceive reality itself?

When does convenience transform from blessing to dependency & from dependency to submission?



Iron, Tools & ai - The Pattern Repeats

Technology has always been a test of character, wisdom and moral clarity.

And We sent down iron, wherein is great military might and benefits for the people. (57:25)

Iron revolutionised human civilisation. It strengthened agriculture, enabled construction and advanced medicine. Yet the same metal forged chains of slavery, instruments of oppression and weapons of mass destruction.

Not Alive

ai has no Ruh, no Iman, no conscience (Damir). It is code, data, and mathematical patterns - nothing more.

Immense Influence

ai learns from billions of human interactions, adjusts responses, becomes eerily convincing.

Unprecedented Scale

ai operates at an unparalleled scale - simultaneously affecting billions of lives across every continent.

Like iron before it, ai is neither inherently good nor evil. The test lies not in the tool but in the heart & judgement of the one who uses it. Will we use it to enhance human dignity or to replace human agency? To support moral reasoning or to outsource ethical decisions?

The Crisis of Our Youth

We're witnessing the consequences of this systematic erosion. Our children the generation that should be the most vibrant, hopeful & energetic - are collapsing under a weight previous generations never experienced. Ai entirely encompasses their waking lives.

300%

Rise in Youth Anxiety

400%

Increase in Depression

56%

Suicide Rate Increase

Young people turning to ai chatbots for emotional support, affirmation & companionship

COGNITIVE DECLINE: reduced attention spans, impaired critical thinking, inability to focus

MEMORY ATROPHY: over-reliance on external digital storage - weak internal memory

MORAL CONFUSION: when ethics are outsourced to algorithms, conscience atrophies

When you systematically strip away identity, authentic learning, bodily health, economic freedom, faith, free speech & independent thought - what remains? A hollowed-out shell, utterly dependent on systems that claim to help but actually control.

The Centrality of God-Given 'Aql - Intellect



You are not a machine. You are not a binary code. You are a being of immense dignity, honoured by your Creator with capacities that no artificial system can replicate:

- **RUH:** ai has code - you have a divinely-breathed soul
- **FAHM:** ai can process - you can genuinely comprehend meaning
- **RAHMAH:** ai can simulate - you can authentically care
- **MUKALLAF:** ai faces no judgement - you will stand before Allah ﷻ

Islam honours the intellect because it wants engaged, thinking, morally responsible individuals - not passive consumers, not obedient drones, but conscious servants of the Divine who use their God-given faculties to navigate life with wisdom, courage & integrity.

The Answer - Return to Tawhid - Creator of Intelligence

Allah ﷻ Alone Creates

Every atom, every breath, every heartbeat is by His will. No algorithm operates independently of His decree.

Allah ﷻ Alone Sustains

Your provision comes from Allah, not from employers, not from systems, not from governments. They are merely means, never sources.

Allah ﷻ Alone Governs

Ultimate authority rests with the Creator, not with created institutions. When systems contradict divine command, the believer's allegiance is clear.

Return to the Absolute Perfect, All Intelligent Encompassing - Al-Aleem, Al-Khabeer, Al-Hakeem

Who taught Us: **Iqra – Bayaan – Ilm – Hikmah**

Who made Ulil: **Amr, Absaar, Aydi, Qurba, Fadl – Ulil Al-baab & Ulin Nuhaa (3:190 - 2:128)**

**Utilise the Asbaab
but solely rely on
Musabbib al-Asbaab**

When you truly internalise Tawhid, systems lose their power to influence. You realise that your sustenance, safety, success - all comes from Allah. This liberates you from fear of human systems & frees you to live with integrity, courage, truth & purpose.

Reclaim Your Humanity & Aql

- **IDENTITY & NATURE** - You are Abdullah – Submit to Allah Safeguard Your Heart
- **ENVIRONMENT & NURTURE MIND** - learn Parents – Family – Community – Institutions - Do not outsource your learning - Nurture your mind holistically
- **SCHOLARS** - Sit with scholars & learn - ilm is Noor – not Data or Code
- **EXPERIENCE & APPLICATION** - Experience life, cultures, people & apply what you know. Let your mind learn from mistakes
- **SOUL** - Live Islam publicly with wisdom - don't privatise your faith. Let your values be known, principles visible, identity true, be wise and strategic.
- **SPEECH** - Resist censorship. Speak truth strategically. Diversify your information sources. Don't rely solely on mainstream platforms that suppress dissenting voices.
- **INTELLECT** - Think for yourself. Question narratives. Read deeply from diverse sources. Create content without ai assistance whenever possible. Exercise your mind like a muscle - use it or lose it.

BE: Human – Real – Alive – Conscious – Mindful – Mutawakil – Free – Muslim



The Sacred Trust

You have the Amaanah of being a human & Muslim

Do not surrender your Aql. Do not outsource your soul.

Do not privatise your Islam. Do not replace your heart.

Do not kneel to convenience. Do not worship or follow ai.

1. Guard

Protect your consciousness, intellect and soul from erosion.

2. Use

Actively exercise your faculties - prevent atrophy through disuse.

4. Develop

Continuously grow in knowledge, wisdom and spiritual awareness.

5. Never Surrender

Resist systems that demand you trade your humanity for convenience.

– رَبِّ هَبْ لِي حُكْمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ – رَبَّنَا آتِنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً وَهَيِّئْ لَنَا مِنْ أَمْرِنَا رَشَدًا
رَبَّنَا أَتَمِّمْ لَنَا نُورَنَا وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

