

A person with long dark hair is sitting cross-legged inside a white, translucent tent. They are wearing a VR headset and holding a VR controller in their right hand. The tent is decorated with warm white string lights that are visible through the fabric. The person is wearing a white, patterned sweater and dark pants. The overall mood is serene and futuristic.

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CAMRASS

FRAMING THE RESEARCH

INTO AI AND
THE SPIRITUAL
EXPERIENCE



ChatGPT

FRAMING THE RESEARCH INTO AI AND THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

Artificial intelligence (AI) stands poised to redefine the human experience in a world shaped by relentless technological progress. The digital revolution, which began reshaping corporate structures decades ago, has now extended its reach into the fabric of everyday life. The way people shop, communicate, and even seek entertainment has been transformed by digital tools, making life more efficient and convenient. Yet, despite these advancements, a more profound question emerges – can AI do more than optimise material existence? Can it help individuals uncover a greater sense of spiritual meaning and purpose?

For centuries, religion has sought to answer fundamental questions about the purpose of human life and the nature of existence. While scientific discoveries have illuminated the intricate design of the universe – from the behaviour of subatomic particles to the complexity of cellular evolution – many today dismiss spiritual inquiry as irrelevant. In modern society, pursuing wealth, career success, and physical well-being often overshadows the search for higher meaning. Many argue that humans are nothing more than biological machines programmed by DNA, soon to be eclipsed by AI. Others believe that beyond the physical body and rational mind lies a more profound, spiritual reality that AI might help illuminate rather than replace.

If AI has the potential to enrich the human experience, then it must go beyond improving material conditions. Every individual has a unique role in shaping the world, and by aligning personal aspirations with a broader spiritual mission, humanity can collectively progress. This perspective forms the foundation of an ambitious research initiative exploring how AI might help enhance both our well-being and fulfil life's mission.

The journey toward this understanding begins with insights from the digital era. Over the past few decades, businesses have harnessed digital technology to enhance speed, efficiency, and customer experience. This shift has highlighted a critical realisation – actual value lies not in isolated functions but in orchestrating processes that span entire organisations. If businesses have transformed through digital innovation, could individuals experience similar breakthroughs in understanding their purpose?

The next phase of human evolution is unfolding with the advent of AI. Over the past twenty-five years, digital technology has propelled the world into an era of hyper-connectivity, making vast amounts of information instantly accessible. AI is now ushering in a new era of hyper-personalization, offering insights tailored to individual needs. Generative AI, which took the world by storm with the launch of ChatGPT in 2022, is just the beginning. By processing vast databases and creating personalised content, AI can now support individuals in areas as diverse as health, finance, and personal relationships.

Imagine a world where AI continuously monitors an individual's well-being, identifying potential health concerns long before symptoms arise. Instead of relying solely on doctors or fitness trainers, intelligent AI agents could provide proactive guidance, optimising lifestyles for longevity and vitality. The same principles could apply to career decisions, relationship dynamics, and financial planning. Over time, AI's ability to personalise advice and orchestrate various aspects of life will revolutionise the human experience.

But AI's true potential lies not just in improving material conditions – it must also address fundamental questions about meaning and purpose. This brings the conversation to artificial general intelligence (AGI), which extends beyond task-specific applications to orchestrate human existence. AGI could connect health, financial stability, personal relationships, and intellectual pursuits under a unified vision, helping individuals align their daily choices with overarching life goals.

Yet, as AI advances, an essential question arises – what is truly valuable in life? What defines meaning, and how should AI be programmed to support it? Religious and philosophical traditions have grappled with these questions for millennia. Historically, only a tiny fraction of humanity has been able to explore and realise its potential fully. However, AI presents an unprecedented opportunity to extend this privilege to billions, regardless of background or belief.

As the AI era unfolds, addressing these questions becomes imperative. AI must assist in material success and help individuals navigate the complexities of purpose, fulfilment, and spiritual growth. The research proposed here seeks to bridge the gap between technology and the deeper aspects of human existence. By engaging with religious scholars, technology leaders, and thinkers from diverse backgrounds, this initiative explores how AI can be a guide – an enabler of a more meaningful, purposeful life.

The call to action is clear. This exploration is not merely an academic exercise but a profound opportunity to redefine the relationship between humanity and technology. As AI evolves, its role in shaping human destiny must be thoughtfully considered. The next frontier is not just artificial intelligence but the integration of human, synthetic, and spiritual intelligence to create a future where every individual can realise their full potential.

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