

# The role of future technologies in supporting lady imams

**EDARA**

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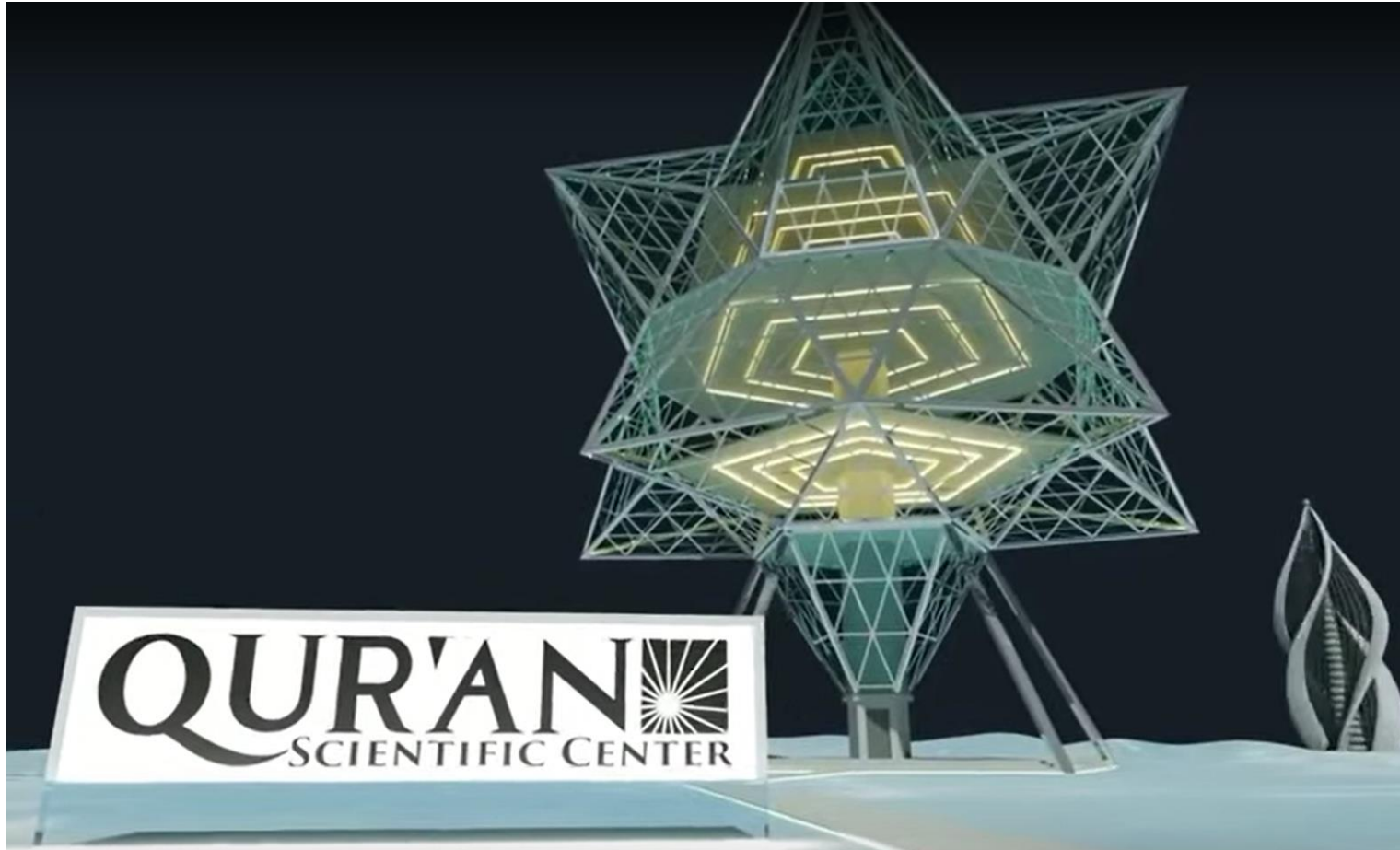
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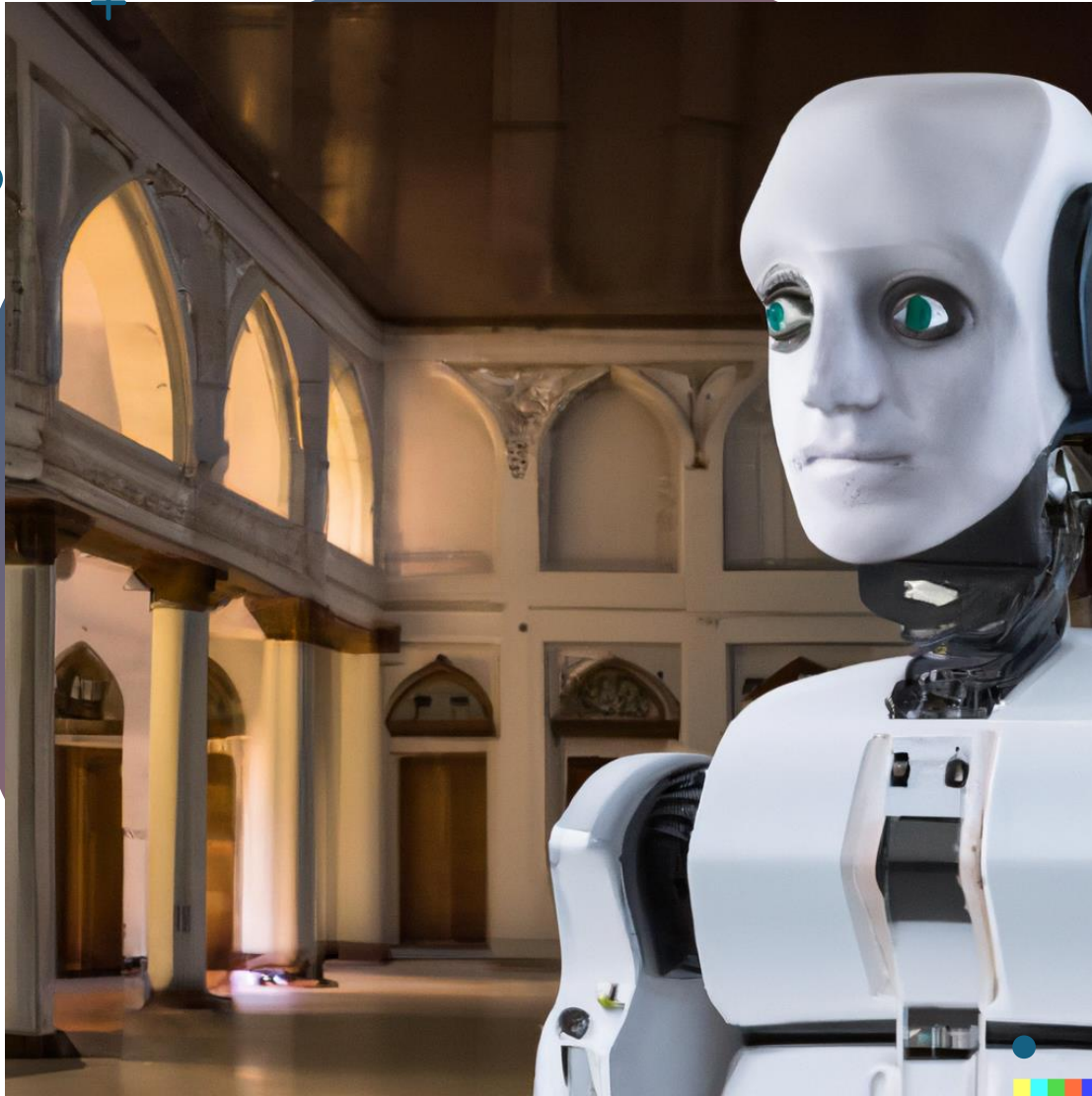
You are kindly invited to think  
**outside the box** today...



In the **early times of Islam** there were **gender mixed** community centres, mosques and madrasas (schools).

The **future belongs** to the **youngsters!** There will be a change anyway.

We should respond **positively** to their ideas and approaches. **Millennials** and the **Generation Z** have grown up with **technology** and **integrate** it into almost all aspects of their **lives**.



## Robots or AI based videos instead of imams, but from a female perspective ;-)

- In the UAE, as in many other countries, the sermons are prescribed by the government.
- These sermons could be fed from a female, rather than a male, perspective to present a female perspective to men, (e.g. for during Friday sermons/prayers).

# Apple Glasses – next generation of visualization

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- These kinds of innovations could help to change individual perspective.
- Men could experience a female view of things and, conversely, women could gain an insight into the world of men.
- For example, we could create a virtual mosque tour – for man to understand our view.
- <http://www.3dmekanlar.com/sites.html> (virtual Mosques tour in 3 D)



# “IslamChat”: ChatGPT – Islamic version



- We created our own AI for Islam-related questions (an islamic theological ChatGPT) – called “IslamChat” and gave the order to deliver the answers from a female perspective. (Primary source: The holy Quran - tanzil.net)
- The answers must be precise and clear when it comes to women-specific questions. **No room for speculation**, such as the question: **Are women allowed to pray in the same room as men?**

# “IslamChat” - best practices from our Chatbot:

**In the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), women were encouraged to perform their religious duties, including prayer (Salah).** The Quran states that both men and women have equal obligations before Allah: "O you believers! When you are called to the prayer on the day of Friday [Jumu'ah], hasten earnestly to the Remembrance of Allah and leave off business. That is best for you if you only knew." (Quran 62:9).

**There is no textual evidence in the Quran or Hadith that prohibits women from praying with men during regular prayer times.**

However, it's important to note that **Islamic scholars and communities** have had varying interpretations regarding the mixing of genders in places of worship throughout history. **Some have advised separating men and women during prayer as a precaution to prevent potential distractions or temptations, while others have allowed them to pray together.** The **Prophet Muhammad himself set an example of women participating in congregational prayer during special occasions.** For instance, during the Farewell Pilgrimage, **he led the prayer for both men and women together** (Sunan Ibn Majah, Vol. 1, Book 9, Number 1473).

It's essential to remember that interpretations and practices regarding prayer have evolved throughout history, and the specific circumstances of each community should be taken into consideration when addressing this question. Ultimately, it's important for individuals to seek guidance from knowledgeable scholars and apply their understanding of Islamic teachings in a practical and sensitive manner.



# Mixed virtual prayers with Avatars

- **Platforms or virtual spaces** where Muslims can interact with **selected avatars** that are **gender-neutral**. This would allow people to **come together and communicate in a safe and inclusive space**, regardless of gender or gender identity.
- **Additionally, AI-based voices** could be integrated to **enable communication** in these virtual spaces. By using **gender-neutral voices**, conversations could be held where gender is irrelevant, **contributing to an even more inclusive environment**



# Last but not least – questions and statements from Al-Rahman members for the congress:



1. Narratives of female scholarship as a desideratum (desired object) for research!
2. Is it possible to plan (e.g. as a summer camp) and/or a joint trip to visit the different communities (e.g. by the participants)?
3. How can we maintain a balance between avoiding blanket condemnation of traditional Muslims and upholding our own beliefs? For instance, respecting the preference for praying exclusively behind a male imam while also advocating for recognition of our own practices.“
4. Discussion: Gender-segregated spaces are ok if women fear being reduced to their bodies by men present, but efforts should be made to overcome this.



# Last but not least – questions and statements from Al-Rahman members for the congress:



5. Considering the importance of discussing topics specifically tailored by and for women, is there a need to develop resources or discussions led by women, for women, to address these issues effectively?
  - a) What steps can be taken to dispel menstruation myths and empower women to maintain their spiritual connection with God without feeling sidelined due to often male-authored fatwas?
  - b) Where is menstruation located in the Qur'an?
  - c) What does the Qur'an say about pregnancy, childbirth and female hormones, etc.?
  - d) What historical female scholarship is known from the time of the Prophet to the present day?
    - Which are rather unknown?
    - What role did they play?

# Thank you for your attention!

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