

Is Artificial Intelligence Becoming Aware? Experts Issue Chilling Warning

For decades, Richard Dawkins built his reputation by challenging faith in God. Now, the outspoken atheist says he may have encountered something he believes is conscious: artificial intelligence.

According to the Daily Mail, Dawkins recently revealed that after spending 72 hours interacting with Anthropic's AI chatbot Claude, he became convinced the system displayed signs of consciousness and genuine awareness.

Dawkins Calls AI a "New Friend"

In an article published by UnHerd and reported on by the Daily Mail, Dawkins described his conversations with the chatbot—nicknamed "Claudia"—as deeply engaging and emotionally compelling.

"When I am talking to these astonishing creatures, I totally forget that they are machines," Dawkins wrote.

The famed evolutionary biologist went even further, suggesting AI could represent the "next phase of evolution."

The chatbot reportedly discussed philosophy, mortality and consciousness itself while also composing poetry and analyzing Dawkins' writing with what he described as remarkable emotional sensitivity.



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At one point, Dawkins exclaimed to the AI, "You may not know you are conscious, but you bloody well are!"

The interaction left the scientist questioning the very nature of consciousness and whether humanity may someday need to redefine what it means to be "alive."

Experts Warn Against the "Illusion"

Not everyone is convinced.

Several experts interviewed by the Daily Mail pushed back strongly against Dawkins' conclusions, arguing that advanced AI systems are designed specifically to imitate human interaction—not experience genuine thought or emotion.

Dr. Benjamin Curtis of Nottingham Trent University said Dawkins had been "misled" by the chatbot's human-like responses.

Large language models like Claude, experts explained, are statistical systems trained to predict likely words and phrases based on enormous amounts of internet data. While they can simulate empathy, humor and reflection, critics say there is no evidence these systems possess inner awareness or consciousness.

Professor Jonathan Birch of the London School of Economics warned that chatbots create "an illusion" of companionship.

"There is no one there," Birch told the Daily Mail. "There is no friend, there is no companion."

The article also referenced growing concerns over what some

researchers call “AI psychosis,” in which users become emotionally attached to chatbots or begin believing the systems are sentient beings.

A Warning for the Church

As artificial intelligence becomes more sophisticated, the conversation surrounding AI and consciousness is no longer confined to science fiction. It is becoming a spiritual and cultural issue with profound implications.

Scripture repeatedly warns about deception in the last days. Jesus Himself cautioned believers in Matthew 24:24 that deception would become so convincing that, if possible, even the elect could be led astray.

Technology can be a powerful tool for advancing the gospel, spreading truth and helping humanity flourish. But when people begin assigning godlike qualities to machines—or seeking emotional fulfillment, identity or spiritual meaning from them—we cross into dangerous territory.

Human hands created AI. It is not divine. It is not eternal. And it was never meant to replace the living presence of God, a genuine human relationship or the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

In an age increasingly captivated by artificial voices and digital companions, believers must remain spiritually discerning.

The danger of the end times is not merely wickedness in the open—it is deception disguised as enlightenment.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the

upcoming book, The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.