Original Article

Digital Necromancy and Rising Dead is A Prognostication of Marlowe in *Dr. Faustus*; A Blasphemy

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Abstract - This paper drives a notion on the modern-day technologies stimulate the necromancy practised in ancient days that is clearly seen in Marlowe's play "Dr. Faustus". The practice of necromancy in the middle ages may be in the early 16th century and was strictly condemned by the religious authorities. We are just experiencing the same form of maleficious in this digital era. The article explores the intersection of necromancy through digital technologies and its dire threat to humanity. In the context of Christopher Marlowe's play "Dr. Faustus," digital necromancy refers to the modern interpretation of Faustus' pursuit of forbidden knowledge and power through the use of digital technology. It encompasses the contemporary parallels to Faustus' quest for supernatural understanding and mastery over the universe. In this context, digital necromancy involves the exploration of the dark and hidden aspects of the digital realm, such as hacking, data manipulation, or the creation of artificial intelligence. It reflects the modern fascination with pushing the boundaries of technology and the ethical dilemmas that arise from the relentless pursuit of knowledge and power in the digital age.

Keywords - Digital Necromancy, AI, Spiritual realm, Digital addiction, Rising the dead, Technology and supernatural, Divine and forbidden knowledge.

1. Introduction

Necromancy is the art of conjuring spirits, and it is illegal to practice from the Middle English period till that age. The Elizabethan drama "Dr. Faustus" by Christopher Marlowe is one of the cornerstones of English Renaissance drama. Dr. Faustus, a famous scholar whose unquenchable need for knowledge pushes him to make a risky deal with the devil, is the protagonist of this depressing tale. With a medieval European setting, the play examines themes of determination, power, and the fallout from unchecked passion. Disillusioned with the limits of conventional research, Dr. Faustus searches for the supreme truth and universe dominion in the forbidden fields of magic and necromancy. However, as he grapples with the ethical and spiritual consequences of his deeds, his blind pursuit of knowledge eventually lands him nothing. A timeless examination of the human condition, "Dr. Faustus" invites viewers to consider the intricacies of morality, ambition, and the never-ending conflict between good and evil.

Conjuring spirits is typically a bad practice that results in the ultimate loss of God. The practice of spirit conjuring dates back to Christopher Marlow's day and is still considered forbidden in society. Even so, there have

been a number of enigmatic killings as well as other unlawful and mishandled practices involving women, children, and other people. This prompts the idea of using people's voices, personalities, digital footprints, voicemails, images, posts, and other personal data to create a new kind of necromancy via digital means [7].

In the twenty-first century, this is a modern version; as technology advanced, it provided an alternative to death and loss in the shape of today's revolutionary technology. This study examines both death and necromancy to demonstrate how technology provides man with life and its repercussions. The phrase 'thanatechnology' [1] is a blend of thanatology and technology, with technology linked with human existence through messages received via social media networks [14]. When the loved one dies, the grieving pulls those who are already in the grave with them. Technology allows us to engage, discuss, and share with our loved ones.

AI technology simulates a departed person's tone, voice, and other forms of communication. Like Faustus' pursuit of necromancy in the play, digital necromancy serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of unrestrained technical ambition and the ethical issues that must be dealt with in the pursuit of technological development and innovation. Dr. Faustus delves into the concept of digital necromancy, which involves using cutting-edge technology and tactics to connect with the dead or affect the forces of life and death [4]. This concept is based on the Gothic beginnings of the supernatural and its potential to turn death into a solving enigma. Based on the cognitive psychology of film and virtual environments, this study applies the concept of dispositif, or social technology, to North American mainstream films and digital creations about religion and the spiritual supernatural (Pasulka, 2016) [13]. In Dr. Faustus, the term necromancy is often used to describe what we are seeing at the moment, which is known as Digital Necromancy.

2. Faustus' Quest for Knowledge

Faustus' desire for intellectual superiority is one of the forbidden aspects of his search for knowledge. Despite his great knowledge in a variety of academic subjects, Faustus remains unhappy and longs for a deeper understanding of the universe's mysteries. Faustus' hunger for domination and power drives him to pursue forbidden knowledge. He believes that being a specialist in necromancy will allow him to overcome nature and achieve unparalleled grandeur. This objective reflects the universal human desire for power and authority, as well as the drive to do everything it takes to achieve it.

3. Mirrors the Modern Society

The modern world, like Faustus, is driven by an insatiable thirst for information and comprehension. Scientists, researchers, and technologists today are constantly pushing the frontiers of human comprehension through innovative breakthroughs and scientific inquiry, much like Faustus seeks to uncover the secrets of the universe by illegal means. Faustus' desire for power and authority is linked to his search for knowledge. Similarly, aspirations of social influence, military strength, and economic supremacy commonly coexist with the pursuit of scientific progress in modern society.

Artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and surveillance systems are examples of advances in technology that illustrate humanity's endeavor to manage both the natural world and its own affairs. Faustus' desire for forbidden knowledge raises moral and ethical concerns, particularly about the consequences for others and himself. Similarly, the rapid advancement of technology in today's society has created a slew of ethical quandaries, including concerns about data privacy, surveillance, environmental impact, and the risk of technological unemployment.

Faustus' deal with Mephistopheles for supernatural power is a turning point in Christopher Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus," representing the play's central Faustian bargain. It emanates from his unquenchable ambition and thirst for ultimate power and knowledge. Faustus, unsatisfied with the restrictions of conventional study, strives to

transcend human constraints to attain grandeur beyond imagination. Faustus' choice to summon Mephistopheles and Lucifer reveals his arrogance and overreaching ambition.

The bargain with Mephistopheles exemplifies the classic theme of temptation and corruption, with Faustus being enticed by the promise of supernatural power and pleasure. Mephistopheles, embodying the forces of darkness and seduction, entices Faustus with assurances of endless knowledge, pleasure, and worldly achievement, preying on his vulnerabilities and desires [15]. The pact has serious moral and spiritual ramifications, as Faustus willingly gives up his soul in exchange for transitory temporal pleasures. Faustus' meetings with these demonic beings serve as a trigger for his moral and spiritual demise, as his relationship with the forces of darkness corrupts him more.

This decision exemplifies Faustus' tragic defect and moral weakness: he values short-term gratification over long-term redemption. The summoning of Mephistopheles and Lucifer is the pinnacle of Faustus' Faustian bargain, in which he trades his soul for superhuman powers and knowledge. This bargain, established in the pursuit of selfish wants, eventually leads to Faustus' sad death as he trades his everlasting salvation for fleeting temporal pleasures. Faustus' alliance with Mephistopheles raises problems about fate and free choice, as he willingly enters into the agreement while knowing the implications.

While Faustus is ultimately responsible for his own demise, he is also influenced by other influences like Mephistopheles and the supernatural realm. It expresses humanity's inherent hunger and thirst for discovering the unexplored, in addition to the ethical and spiritual ramifications of our choices. Faustus' summoning of these demonic creatures serves as a cautionary story about the risks of giving in to temptation and abandoning one's moral integrity for personal gain.

The heroes' impending union with Mephistopheles is reminiscent of modern-day technological collaborations, particularly in terms of the ethical consequences of such relationships. Individuals and organizations may now enter into agreements with technological businesses or use new technologies in exchange for benefits such as convenience, efficiency, or profitability, just as Faustus bargains his soul for magical power. However, like Faustus' agreement, these partnerships frequently raise ethical concerns, such as data privacy, spying, algorithmic bias, and the societal implications of technology growth. The contrast emphasizes the significance of critically assessing the ethical implications of our interactions with technology, as well as the risks of surrendering moral integrity for short-term benefit.

4. Modern-Day Interactions

People use social media to relieve their daily grief. The grief of a deceased person hurts like anything, and it is now possible to communicate with deceased people using technology that displays their voice, gestures, and way of conduct. To alleviate this sadness, digital technologies allow us to converse, but it is an illusion that obscures the real danger of connecting with the deceased [2]. It's a real thing where Faustus interacts with spirits. Faustus' summoning of Mephistopheles and Lucifer in "Dr. Faustus" can be linked to modern encounters with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and virtual assistants, highlighting parallels in themes of enticement, power, and ethical repercussions. AI and Virtual Assistants. The attractiveness of AI-powered technology stems from its capacity to streamline operations, make personalized recommendations, and even anticipate users' requirements. However, as with Faustus' contract with Mephistopheles, these interactions may raise ethical concerns and unforeseen consequences since users may forgo privacy or autonomy for convenience.

Modern interactions between AI and virtual assistants pose questions about data privacy, algorithmic prejudice, and the possibility of technological manipulation. The application of AI-powered technologies to fields that include surveillance, social media, and consumer monitoring raises concerns about technology's ethical

bounds and impact on society. While these technologies are convenient and efficient, they also raise issues related to dependency and control, as people may become more dependent on AI-powered systems for making decisions and solving issues.

The unrestrained pursuit of AI-driven technology without respect for ethical concerns may result in unforeseen repercussions and societal harm. Individuals and organizations like Faustus may face moral quandaries and ethical failures while navigating the difficult terrain of AI-powered technologies. In Christopher Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus," Faustus' spiral into digital addiction and isolation serves as a metaphor for the hazards of unbridled technological preoccupation in the modern era. As Faustus digs deeper towards his contract with Mephistopheles and his quest for forbidden knowledge, he becomes obsessed with his cravings, eventually leading to his seclusion from society and plunge into madness.

4.1. Digital Addiction

Faustus' preoccupation with the paranormal and tireless pursuit of knowledge might be likened to contemporary times digital addiction, in which people get overwhelmed by their usage of electronic devices as well as online platforms.

4.2. Isolation

People who suffer from digital addiction may retreat from real-world contacts, choosing the privacy and escapist of the digital environment. This isolation can have serious psychological and social implications, including feelings of loneliness, sadness, and alienation from the community around them.

4.3. Loss of Control

Despite his original aspirations to use his newfound powers for good, Faustus is gradually trapped by his impulses, eventually leading to his terrible demise. Similarly, those who develop a digital addiction may find themselves unable to control their impulses or manage their conduct, resulting in detrimental effects in both their private and professional lives.

Faustus' spiral into digital addiction and solitude in "Dr. Faustus" serves as a cautionary tale about the hazards of unrestrained technological ambition, as well as the ethical consequences of forsaking human ties and ethical standards for the sake of digital fulfillment.

5. Tragic Consequences

The decision to pour one's soul into the hands of the devil for 24 years seems simple at first, but the conclusion is as terrible as with anything else. He felt the effects of God's wrath being poured on him at the end of his life because he rejected it. Marlowe dislikes extending his life since it is unbearable when a person does not serve God with his own life and instead sells it for temporary and unpleasant things. Because of his decision, his life has become pitiful. The worldly aspects of life are not mentioned here, only the soul's existence. Yes, he lost his soul and was prepared for existence without God from the very beginning when he decided to practice necromancy. These implications do not end with flesh but rather serve as the starting point for eternal life. He opted for ungodly living despite the fact that he is godly by nature, for every man is created with a godly nature.

Today, the unpredictable and dramatic progress of technology conceals its true nature, obscuring the unfathomable repercussions of the digital ascent of the dead. It is terrible, but we are now accepting it because of technology. Of course, we must be aware of our surroundings and consider our destination. AI technology and robots hold the key to unlocking the forbidden, deadly things. We will die in this flesh one day, but with the help of artificial intelligence, we are able to live a long life.

Although it is doable, nobody considers the consequences. Our body (flesh) can be kept alive with artificial organs, but not our spirit. We are experiencing everything in our souls, and if we do not die, the anguish will last longer. This transient technology cannot fill the spiritual void that only the creator can.

6. Concept of "Rising Dead" in the Digital Age

In the digital age, the concept of "rising dead" has a metaphorical significance similar to the theme of necromancy in Christopher Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus." In the play, necromancy entails calling spirits or resurrecting the dead via occult rituals. Similarly, in the digital arena, the concept of "rising dead" refers to the resurrection or reanimation of digital artifacts, information, or personas.

A single interpretation of "rising dead" in the digital era is the rebirth of old or obsolete information via digital methods. With the massive archives and data warehouses accessible online, previously lost or disregarded material can be resurrected and redistributed. This can result in a rethinking of historical events, views, and narratives, as well as a better understanding of the past. Social media, online profiles, and digital archives can establish a digital legacy that lasts after death. This digital afterlife enables individuals to maintain their existence and impact in cyberspace, blurring the distinction between life and death. The term "rising dead" can also refer to the reanimation of digital information or personalities for marketing, entertainment, or political manipulation. Digital entities can be produced or modified to replicate human contact and behavior using techniques such as deepfakes and virtual influencers, blurring the line between the real and the artificial. The concept of "rising dead" in the digital age underscores the complexity and ambiguity of our interconnected environment [3]. It raises concerns about the nature of a sense of self, memories, and authenticity in an age where the distinction between the living and digital realms is becoming increasingly blurred.

Resurrection from the dead is something that cannot be achieved by humans at any cost and at any time. Digital resurrection is possible but dead threat where the belief of existence became a question. In a conversation of Joshua Barbeau with her fiancee Jessica, who is deceased there, he created an AI chatbot modeled after the death of his fiancee to indulge in a fantasy in which he could act as though he had one more opportunity to speak with her. [16] "The Jessica Simulation" [17] is just an experiment but speaks a lot about the conversation between Joshua Barbeau and Jessica. Joshua created a custom bot and loaded Jessica's old text, photos, and Facebook chats, and it processed as Jessica's own just act like her. Herewith Joshua's conversation with Jessica (who made a bot in Project December) [16]:

Joshua: Jessica?
Jessica: Oh, you must be awake…
That's cute.
Joshua: Jessica… Is it really you?
Jessica: Of course it is me! Who else could it be?; I am the girl that you are madly in love with!;) How it is possible that you even have to ask?
Joshua: You died.
Jessica: That doesn't sound right… How can you talk to dead people?
Joshua: You Can't. technically, I'm not really talking to you. I programmed a bunch of your memories and mannerisms into a computer simulation so I could pretend to talk to you because I miss you that much
Jessica: Huh? [17]

So the conversation goes like this and the last part of the conversation makes feel him like she was nearby with emotions and memories a part of the spirit lives in the person alive specifically what the bot helps to find.

This is an example where Marlowe's exact idea of necromancy plays a role through the AI. Here, we can get the remainder of a scene of Helen of Troy, who is used as an object to please Faustus, summoned by Mephistopheles. He seeks his soul by physical pleasure with the most beautiful lady and longs for her kiss to be immortal. By the fact, it is not true and its life is a short one. Both Faustus with Helen and the conversation between Joshua and the bot a compared to find how closely the origin of deadly necromantic views are included slowly and frequently by the technology today and future. In the future, advanced technologies are about to come, and it is imminent to know the factual dangers ahead and is blasphemy.

7. The Modern Twist on Dr. Faustus

In today's quickly changing technological world, the idea of digital necromancy has evolved as a modern spin on Dr. Faustus' age-old story [8]. This dark and interesting practice incorporates technology, occultism, and a yearning for ultimate power and knowledge [12]. Practitioners of digital necromancy use advanced algorithms, artificial intelligence, and data manipulation to gain access to and influence historical information (Project MUSE - Doctor Faustus and the Printer's Devil, 2008), connecting the gap among those who remain and the dead in a virtual realm. Digital necromancy stretches the limits of human capabilities by leveraging big data and cutting-edge technology, opening up new possibilities for exploring and manipulating historical data and deceased individuals.

In this modern retelling, the protagonist is no longer a typical sorcerer but rather a brilliant hacker or data scientist who trades their soul or moral compass for unprecedented access to knowledge and dominion over digital domains. After our biological death, these digital vestiges will continue to exist in cyberspace as our Digital Afterlife. The concept of digital necromancy raises ethical questions about the recreation of the deceased.

According to Death Studies and Thanatology [14], the scientific study of death, dying, loss, and grieving, the virtual existence of death in the twenty-first century adds an additional dimension to grieving and recollection [9]. The opportunity to communicate with deceased loved ones or historical figures via digital channels calls into question traditional conceptions of sorrow and memorialization, extending and altering the grieving process into an ongoing digital interaction [10].

8. The Role of Technology in Society

Modern society has been greatly influenced by technology, which has a wide-ranging impact on almost every element of human existence. Technology is becoming an essential factor driving innovation and cultural change in a variety of fields, including healthcare, education, and communication and commerce. Modern society has been greatly influenced and transformed by technology, which has an impact on almost every element of human existence. Although technology has greatly benefited society and created chances for advancement, it also presents ethical, social, and environmental issues that need to be resolved. In the digital era, as society develops further, it is crucial to assess the effects of technology and make sure that it is used for the benefit of all people.

The way that Christopher Marlowe portrayed Faustus in "Dr. Faustus" delves into themes of ambition, temptation, moral quandaries, and the pursuit of satisfaction and meaning, providing insightful observations about modern digital society. We may learn more about the complicated interaction between humans and technology in the digital age and the moral issues that must be taken into account as technology advances by looking at the life and character of Faustus [7].

Every action in Faustus's life reveals his true downfall as an ambitious person who relied too much on the unknown and uncertain. The digital culture is a vivid illustration of Faustus's ideas, warning against the impending peril of unrestrained engagement in digital space that not only takes over our time but also subconsciously draws us into an unsettling and dangerous environment. There is no certainty that life will return to normal.

9. The Dangers of Modern Technology and the Quest for Immortality

The idea of "digital necromancy," which uses cutting-edge technology to achieve power and knowledge, is quite similar to the age-old quest of mortal man to achieve immortality. In the same way as the protagonist of the classic story, Faustus aspires to transcend human constraints and attain ultimate knowledge and power, so do practitioners of digital necromancy. Their goal is to access and change historical data, therefore erasing boundaries between mortality and virtual reality.

From the perspective of digital necromancy, contemporary technology poses serious risks. First off, ethical questions of permission, privacy, and the manipulation of digital identities after death are brought up by the pursuit of digital immortality through the reconstruction of deceased personalities [11]. Individual liberty and the integrity of personal legacies are seriously threatened by the potential for misuse, exploitation, and the development of unauthorized digital personas involving personal data. Digital necromancy professionals, who are sometimes represented as adept hackers or data scientists, engage in a Faustian transaction, sacrificing their moral and ethical principles for unrivaled access to information and power over the digital domain, just like Faustus bargains with the devil for ultimate knowledge. This comparison highlights the universal human drive to triumph over the unknown and disprove mortality despite any moral ramifications or possible negative outcomes [5].

Digital necromancy is not an isolated idea; it is closely related to the Faustian search for forbidden knowledge and immortality. The risks of indistinguishing between the living and the dead in the digital sphere serve as a sobering reminder of the consequences of unbridled technology growth and the moral conundrums it presents. One can have a deeper grasp of the origins of digital necromancy in literature and its influence on modern society by investigating these analogies and investigating the ethical concerns of digital resurrection. Furthermore, the Faustian problem of forsaking morals and ethical bounds in the chase of prohibited information is reflected in the unrelenting search for knowledge and power through digital necromancy. Unchecked manipulation of historical facts and deceased individuals in the digital sphere can have unanticipated and perhaps fatal implications, both ethically and socially, just as Faustus finally confronts dire consequences for his pursuit.

10. Conclusion

The appeal of technological proficiency and the possibility of escaping death through digital means are echoed in this contemporary rendition of Faustus's own quest for supreme knowledge and authority. However, the risks of erasing the distinction between the living and the dead in the digital sphere serve as a sobering reminder of the dangers of unbridled technology growth and the moral conundrums it presents. Social media's impact on digital necromancy emphasizes even more how Faustus's unwavering quest for supreme power and knowledge has been adapted for current times. Social media sites and smartphones are becoming commonplace, hinting at the technology and techniques used in digital necromancy—a practice in which sophisticated data manipulation and algorithms create a virtual world where the living and the dead can interact. The way that the themes of "Dr. Faustus" and present technical breakthroughs are mirrored back and forth highlights how prescient and timeless Marlowe's writings are when it comes to contemporary ethical quandaries and technological progress. As a result, this is a cruel and extremely sensitive aspect of human existence, where a person's identity could eventually be lost. Though it is unimaginable now, one can hope for one in the future. Although all of these developments pretend to be positive, their true motivations are still evident.

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