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Knowledge and Wisdom

Wait, what was your question? By the time a human can start processing a question being posed to them, artificial intelligence has already compiled every possible answer there is. As AI becomes more popular and models become more precise, the true scope of what AI is capable of is being investigated. Some wonder if AI's ability to alter its responses and actions based on input means that the artificial intelligence is really thinking for itself. However, despite AI's ability to retain information and modify responses, true wisdom is unattainable without human experiences, emotions, and an inherent sense of moral responsibility.

Wisdom is often defined as the ability to interpret past experiences and improve future decision making. Certain figures who are considered some of the wisest of their time, such as Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malala Yousafzai, have shared how their enhanced perspectives were only made possible through the adversity they endured. Whether positive or negative, AI lacks personal experiences and an understanding of the consequences of its actions, so it can't gauge the effects of its actions the way a human can. Even if an AI model has responded to similar circumstances in the past, it can only predict the correct next action based on human input, since it's unable to personally experience the circumstances humans face in our world.

For humans, past experiences shape their perceptions and emotional responses to each individual situation. A lack of personal experiences means that AI is also incapable of having emotions that have been shaped by real-world learnings. While AI can simulate emotion and

memorize the effect certain emotions have on human feelings, it cannot feel anything itself. AI can only understand patterns, but not the emotional weight of each decision, so its intelligence is guided solely by observed data. From a Catholic perspective, AI can't replicate human wisdom, because wisdom is the ability to follow God's plan through fear of the Lord. With no emotions, AI can't be driven by any sense deeper than the patterns it recognizes.

Humans recognizing the emotions of others, as well as how they 'feel' when doing something also elicits individuals' ethical values and moral responsibilities. Unlike humans, AI only holds ethical requirements that are encoded, but feels no moral responsibilities driven by emotions. Without its own strong morals, AI cannot hold the same wisdom that humans are capable of. As wisdom is defined by how we better our decision making, the ethical dilemmas faced by humans are important to consider. To gain wisdom and make morally correct choices, one must be able to empathize and consider all sides of a situation. AI's inability to feel empathy and experience human emotions is its biggest limitation in the strive towards wisdom.

There's no doubt that AI's capacity for knowledge retention is truly incredible and can serve as a great asset. However, despite its incredible abilities, artificial intelligence will never be capable of wisdom that's comparable to the unique minds of humans. Even if AI learns how to mimic wisdom in certain situations, the learning of facts does not necessarily lead to wisdom. Those who are widely regarded as the wisest humans are not considered as such because of the amount of information they had memorized; the ability to assess situations and improve in future circumstances is something unique to live intelligence and cannot be replicated. Therefore, it cannot be ethically correct to rely on artificial intelligence to make important decisions for progress as a society. It's our responsibility as humans to use our learned wisdom to guide our future to a better place. AI can be a helpful tool for minute details, but it must be guided by

human reasoning, as it lacks the experience, emotions, and moral responsibility to make decisions for a population so defined by these characteristics.