EXPLORE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

a digital application for an alternative perspective on religious faith

'Explore Your Perspective' is a mobile application designed for people doubting some aspect of their religion. The product aims to support people in the exploration of whether they would be at peace with their religious faith by providing them with a safe space to create their own unique understanding of their religion. Due to the similarities in struggles in their religious transition processes, the target users for the application are people with Abrahamic religious backgrounds (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) in the Netherlands.

The app connects people who doubt their religion and help them to share their experiences and opinions and learn from each other. The exploration that the product offers does not limit to searching for opinions for one's doubts or discovering that of others; it also provides a space to explore what others find inspiring about their religion. Thus, the app aims to balance the tension that comes with doubting.The product contains various functions and features to support people in their transition process.
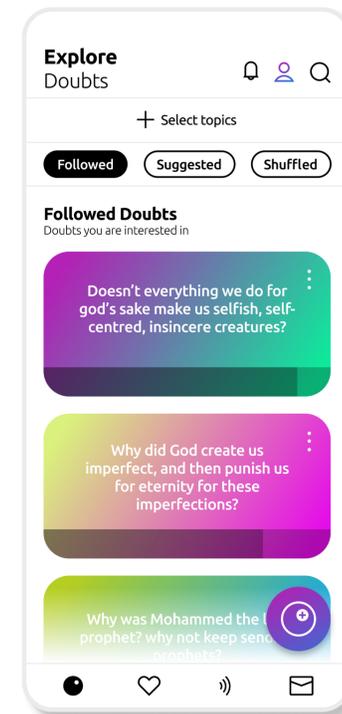
Background

Religious transition includes a spectrum of experiences that harbours a myriad of challenges. Though it is a non-linear process, every religious transition starts with a critical questioning of religious norms that one has been exposed to.

Questioning brings the urge to discuss the contested aspects of one's religion with others in the religious spheres. However, people questioning some aspects of their religion are usually discouraged in their inquiry because being critical of one's religion is seen as heresy and a transgressive action to be avoided.
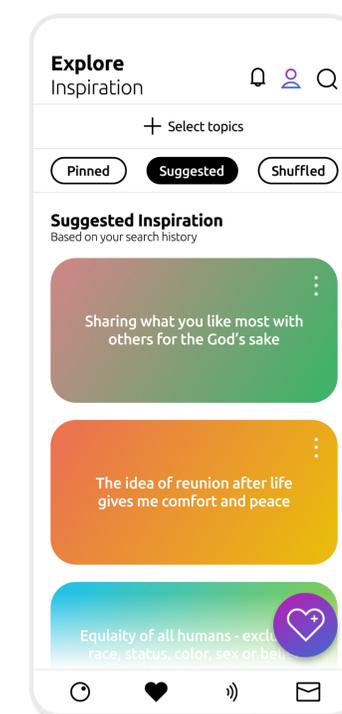
The lack of space to discuss critical questions with religious others can result in a feeling of loneliness and loss of relatedness. In the meantime, religious doubts can culminate while one suffers from uncertainties about their religion. Not being able to find answers to resolve their religious doubts makes some fear that they might lose their religious faith and get astray.
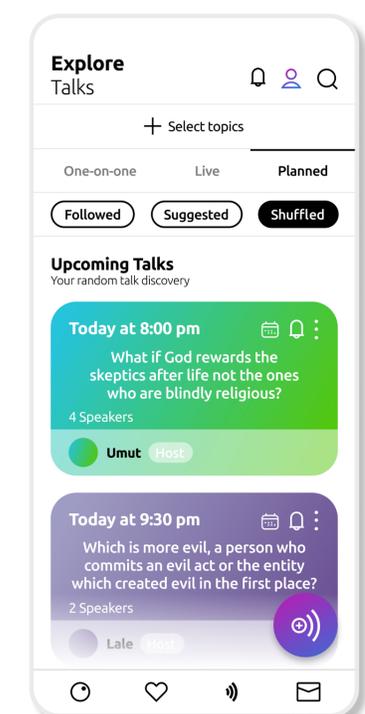
MAIN FUNCTIONS

Explore Doubts

enables the user to discover other people's religious doubts and what others think critically about their religion.

Explore Inspiration

provides the user with a space to discover others' positive religious experiences and what they find inspiring about their religion.

Explore Talks

offers the user with a space to verbally communicate with others to discuss specific topics and exchange ideas and opinions.

IMPORTANT ASPECTS

Anonymity

The product provides various ways to remain anonymous when interacting with others such as use of pseudonyms, colour representation, and voice edit.

Direct Communication

To enable its users to have deeper and more sincere conversations and discussions, the product promotes direct communication among the users. Therefore, the product doesn't offer linear discussion threads.

Reflection

Since there are many ways to learn about different perspectives and opinions in the app, the user's own perspective of their religion is under the constant influence. To help the user have better control over their changing thoughts and opinions, the product offers

Cross-Religious Exploration

The product allows people to explore not only content related to their religion but also the doubts and inspiration posted by people from other Abrahamic religions.

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