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A Trillion Dollars Gone in a Day: The Fictive Wealth of the Capitalist Stock Market

News:

On Thursday, 5 November 2026, Wall Street suffered its worst session in a year and a half. The Nasdaq fell 5.5% and the S&P 500 dropped 4.4% as the American midterm elections raised fears for the artificial intelligence boom. The seven largest technology companies, the so-called "Magnificent Seven", lost more than one trillion dollars in market value in a single day.

Comment:

Not a single factory closed on Thursday. No chip was lost and no data centre burned down. Nvidia was the same company in the evening as it was in the morning, with the same engineers, the same products and the same orders. Yet more than a trillion dollars of "wealth", close to the entire annual output of Saudi Arabia, disappeared in a few hours!

This exposes once again the essential reality of the capitalist stock market: it is fictive. The price of a share is not tied to real production or real trade. It is tied to expectations, rumours and the herd behaviour of speculators who buy because others are buying and sell because others are selling. In America, shares and bonds are now worth more than four times everything the country produces in a year. Main Street, the real economy of goods and services, has become a small island in an ocean of Wall Street paper, and when the ocean moves, it is the island that drowns.

Who pays the price? Not the founders and early investors, whose fortunes were multiplied many times over during the boom. It is the pension funds, the small savers and the ordinary workers whose retirement money has been pushed into these markets and, sadly enough, into the very artificial intelligence that promises to make them redundant. This is not a malfunction; it is the logical result of a system in which wealth circulates only among the rich, and in which money is made from money rather than from work and trade.

The rulers in the Muslim lands have placed the Ummah's wealth in this same market. They have pledged trillions of dollars to America, much of it to technology and AI, and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund has held shares in Nvidia, Microsoft, Meta and Apple. This is betrayal, and a guaranteed loss for the Ummah no matter how the markets develop. When the market rises, the Ummah's wealth strengthens the hegemony of the very state that wages war on Islam; when it falls, the Ummah bears the loss.

In Islam, the joint-stock company is not permitted, and neither is the trade in shares and securities whose value floats freely with speculation. Money is not fiat paper but gold and silver, which carry their own value and cannot be printed away, so the people's purchasing power is not eroded. The Shariah protects ownership and effort, and it prevents wealth from being concentrated in the hands of a few: ﴿كَيْ لَا يَكُونَ دُولَةً بَيْنَ الْأَغْنِيَاءِ مِنكُمْ﴾ **"So that it will not be a perpetual distribution among the rich from among you"** [Al-Hashr 59:7].

Fourteen centuries ago, Islam tied wealth to real effort and real trade, and protected the resources of the Ummah as a trust for the Ummah. Thursday's collapse is one more reminder that the world will not find stability by appeasing markets, but only through a system that markets did not build: the Khilafah (Caliphate) on the method of the Prophethood, which will return the Ummah's wealth to the Ummah, by the will of Allah (swt).

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