

CHAPTER 3

PILLARS OF IMAN

Meaning of Qadar

The term **Qadar** comes from the Arabic word *Qadara*. Literally, this word means to estimate, measure, evaluate or power of Allah to pre-plan for an event that will take place. Technically, Qadar refers to Allah's everlasting foreknowledge in executing His will power to control all the affairs of the universe.

Meaning of the term Qadhaa

Literally, the Arabic word *Qadha*, means a decision, decree, or judgement. Its technical terms, Qadha refers to the divine judgement and pre-destination made by Allah over his creations through directives.

Differences between Qadar and Qadha/ Reasons why Qadhaa is not Qadar

The following table shows the differences between Qadhaa and Qadar:

Qadhaa	Qadar
Qadhaa is the will of Allah that decrees things from eternity.	Qadar is Allah's creation of things in certain proportions and qualities.
It is the measuring power of Allah.	It is what has been measured by Allah.
It is what has been decreed in a general manner.	It is what has been decreed in a specific manner.
Qadhaa is eternal	Qadar is relatively recent.
Qadhaa is irrevocable and permanent	Qadar is revocable and may be changed.

Islamic teachings on Qadar and Qadha

The following are the Islamic teachings about Qadar and Qadha:

- Allah's foreknowledge is infallible, perfect and free from any defects

- b) Human beings do not have the prior knowledge of the Qadar.
- c) Allah's Qadar does not compromise human responsibility. Therefore, every Muslim should think, plan and make the right choices, but, if sometimes things do not turn out the way they expected, a believer should not lose hope.
- d) Allah is Just and has given humankind only limited responsibility and judges them accordingly.
- e) Allah holds humankind accountable for only those deeds that they can do under their ability. None is punished for what is beyond his or her human ability.
- f) Allah's knowledge is all encompassing. He knows what each of His creatures did in the past, what he is doing at present and what he intends to do in future.
- g) Allah has records (in the Lauhul-Mahfuth) of everything that will occur until the day of judgement. The life span of all human beings is written, together with their amount of sustenance.
- h) To Allah, nothing occurs in the heavens or on earth without His fullest knowledge. Whatever Allah wills to happen, does happen. And whatever He does not will shall never prevail.
- i) Every individual is solely responsible for his acts. No humankind is exempted from obeying the Islamic moral law. The believers who perform righteous deeds will be acknowledged with rewards from their Almighty Allah (SWT) while those who disobey the law will receive punishment.

Events that befalls us as a result of Qadar and whose happening we have no power over

The following are the events that befalls us a result of Qadar and whose happening we have no power over them:

- Volcanic activities
- Earthquake, hurricanes and typhoons
- Tsunami
- Rising and setting of the sun
- Alternating of the day and night
- Falling sick
- Death

Misconception about Qadha and Qadar

The following are ways through which Muslims shows that they have misunderstood Qadar and Qadhaa:

- a) Through practicing shirk: Some people do not believe in the power of Allah that He can do anything and everything, but instead they also depend on people and other deities.
- b) By abandoning their duties and responsibilities: Some Muslims comprise their duties by believing that everything happens as predetermined by Allah and they have no duty to avoid, overcome or change anything.
- c) Some people still believe that whatever happens to them whether good or bad it is because of Allah and they have no contribution.
- d) Some people regard the belief in Qadar and Qadhaa restrict them from seeking Allah's intervention by supplicating and hence have no choice.
- e) Some people commit sins and attribute it to the Will of Allah and believe that they are not expected to struggle to lead a righteous life since Allah has predetermined their destiny and fate.

Significance of belief in Qadha and Qadar

The following are reasons as to why a Muslims should believe in Qadar and Qadha in his or her life:

1. It strengthens a Muslim's belief in Allah (SWT) as the sole Creator of the universe. This is because the entire universe is controlled by Allah (SWT) and therefore, we must show gratitude to Him.
2. It promotes contentment in a Muslim. A Muslim appreciates whatever blessings that Allah (SWT) bestows upon him.
3. It guides Muslims towards tawakkul (total reliance and dependence on Allah). Thus, the belief that all creation, powers and plans belong to Allah (SWT). This teaches us not to hope for any benefit or favour from anyone else besides Allah (SWT).
4. It encourages monotheism (oneness of Allah), thus makes Muslims to direct all forms of worship to Allah (SWT) alone so as to keep him steadfast on the path of righteousness and piety.
5. It enlightens the Muslims about the divine secrets that are known only by Allah (SWT) since He is well aware of all that happens.
6. It generates in a Muslim moral and spiritual strength in situations of despair and hopelessness.
7. It teaches Muslims to be modest, humble, transparent and accountable in all their dealings so as to avoid over indulgence in worldly success at the expense of Allah (SWT's) purpose for their creation.
8. It makes Muslims to have *taqwa* (fear of Allah) and be steadfast in the religion.
9. It strengthens the Muslim's belief in the other pillars of Iman.
10. It makes a believer realise that Allah (SWT) is the Most-Wise and all His actions are dictated by His will.
11. It promotes patience, perseverance and endurance when dealing with worldly challenges.

Ways in which Muslims demonstrate faith in divine destiny (Qadar) in their daily life

The following are ways through which Muslims demonstrate the faith in divine destiny in their daily life:

- By proclaiming ***inshaallah*** (if God wills) when referring to future events.
- By exercising contentment for what Allah has provided for them.
- Through attributing both their success and failures to Allah.
- By working hard to achieve success and happiness in whichever they do.
- Through showing humility for they are helpless without Allah's assistance.
- By conserving their environment while knowing that they are protected by Allah from anything beyond their power.
- Through submitting (relying on Allah) themselves and affairs to Allah.
- By being at ease with what befalls or misses them.
- Through supplicating to Allah

Ways in which the belief in Qadar can help Muslims improve their moral standards

The following are ways in which the belief in Qadar can help Muslims improve their moral standards:

- Through making the Muslims understand that they cannot achieve anything in life without the blessings of Allah. It creates contentment in mind of the Muslims that Allah is the only provider.
- By strengthening the heart of the Muslims towards Allah by having trust in Him in every action taken.
- It helps Muslims to have patience, endurance and overcome any forms of temptations, calamities and catastrophic problems they encounter in life.
- By understanding that our destiny depends on Allah, Muslims are able to generate moral strength in their hearts.

- It strengthens the faith of Muslims from worries, grief, envy and jealousy, fear, greediness and lying.
- It has made Muslims strong in faith, action and fearless. They hope everything in Allah and become brave and confident in their dealings.
- By enabling the Muslims never to lose courage in their work and for lack of means and resources.
- Through making the Muslims to be firm in their religion and therefore, not abandoning it but instead call others to embrace it.