

Faith in Predestination and Its Philosophy- An Islamic Perspective

Muhammad Hammad Lakhvi*

Human being is the best creature on earth. It entails that there should be a best position for human being among all the other creatures of the earth as well as the heavens under the dominion of Allah Almighty (SWT. the God of Muslims), the Omnipotent. It allows the notion that a complete free-will ought to be for all the individuals of the humanity in thoughts and actions to use all the other creatures for its own assistance. The Holy Quran, the basic source of Islamic knowledge, refers to the fact that a man is created free and independent to choose his destiny and live his entire life according to his own will and liberty. Allah (SWT) says in the Holy Quran:

(وَقُلِ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ فَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُؤْمِنْ وَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُكْفُرْ)

“And say! The truth is from your Lord. Then whosoever wills, let him believe, and whosoever wills, let him disbelieve.”⁽¹⁾

The emphasis on practical aspect of Islamic ideology is a reference to the struggle for best future in this life and the hereafter which is authenticated by the Qur'an and *Sunnah*, the basic sources of Islam. Faith in predestination is also accentuated by those very sources as the fundamental belief of Islam. It is further made clear that the faith in predestination does not curb the independence of human efforts towards crafting the ultimate goal, though it seems doing this apparently. Predestination, in Islam, relates to a basic conception treated as fundamental belief of Islam articulated with the terms of '*Al-Qadha*', '*Al-qadr*' or '*taqdeer*'. These Arabic terms are used as alternate for predestination the root meaning of which is decree, judgement, assessment, or ultimate destiny. '*Taqdeer*' means to think about how to sort things out.⁽²⁾ A word '*al-qadha*' is also used with *al-qadr* or as a synonym which means divine will, with the root meaning decision, decree or judgement. '*Qadha*' and *qadar* are two interwoven terms/ matters which cannot be separated from one another, because one is foundation and principle while the other is its structure. It refers to believe in a Divine document written and preserved by Allah Almighty (SWT) before the creation of this universe. All the things to be happened in this universe from its creation to the last day of eternity were already written in that preserved tablet called *al-lauh al-mahfooz* (the well-guarded tablet). Hence, according to the belief in predestination, all the things are happening in this universe exactly in connection with those predestined

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