

Has Allah already written in fate what I will do?

By: Khurshid Imam

Question: If someone already knows my decision and I have to make this decision as per His knowledge then how my decision is independent?

Answer: 1. God / Allah made the universe and made universal laws. Quran proclaims time and again that laws of Allah never change. Results occur in the world as per the laws of Allah. Some of the laws we have discovered and some we are yet to.

2. Nothing "magical" as such happens in Islam.

3. People have attributed very less knowledge to Allah. What usually we think as "knowledge of Allah" is far less than what He actually possesses. People just think that Allah already knows what a person will do. This is narrowing down of God's knowledge. Let us understand this from an example:

At any particular instance / time, a person can do N number of different things. For ex: at a moment you can stand / sit / lie down / speak / close your eye / sing / run. Let us say that you can do 100 different things. But actually you will do only 1 out of 100 things. Similarly, in the next moment you can do 100 different things but again you will actually do only 1 particular thing. Similarly, in your whole life there can be trillions of permutations and combinations of events that can take place but actually only some of those events [say 1 million] will actually take place.

- a. What people usually understand: Allah has knowledge of those millions of things that you did.
- b. Actually: Allah knew all trillions of events that **could have taken place** in your life.

So Allah knows all events that could have taken place.

But,

4. Allah has not fixed our choices. He has given us free-will. "**knowing**" is different from "**fixing**". If Allah has "fixed" our actions, then it means we were "programmed" / "fixed" to do those things and that we did not have a choice. This goes against numerous ayah of Quran. But unfortunately Muslims as a whole believe in this theory.

5. God is beyond time and space so past / present / future does not make any relevance for Him. Human being is bound in time so he has past, present and future. What we do not know is simply future tense for us. This is a very important point. You don't know what you will do tomorrow - but God knows, so for you it's simply future tense.

6. Some ayah of Quran are usually mistranslated which leads to false understanding of *taqdeer* as pre-destination. *Taqdeer* refers to laws of God and their associated results.
