

3. “What’s the point of du’a when everything’s already been decreed?”

- **Understanding the difference between Qada and Qadr**

Ibn Hajar writes:

- “The scholars said the divine decree (al-qada’) consists of the entire and complete judgment forever, and the divine measurement (al-qadar) consists of the particulars of the judgment and its details.”

3. “What’s the point of du’a when everything’s already been decreed?”

- **What is Qada?**
- **The divine decree**
- **It is He who has control over the heavens and earth and has no offspring—no one shares control with Him—and who created all things and made them to an exact measure.**

(Furqan 25:2)

- The creation of each one of you is in his mother’s womb for forty days or nights, then as a clot for a similar period, then as a piece of flesh for a similar period, **then the angel is sent to it to announce four decrees.**
- **He writes his provision, his life span, his deeds, and whether he is blessed or damned. Then, he breathes the soul (ruh) into it...** (Bukhari)

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- **What is Qada?**
- **The divine decree**
- Be mindful of Allah and He will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him before you. If you ask, ask from Allah. If you seek help, seek help from Allah.
- Know that if the nations gather together to benefit you, they will not benefit you unless Allah has decreed it for you. And if the nations gather together to harm you, they will not harm you unless Allah has decreed it for you. The pens have been lifted and the pages have dried.

(Tirmidhi)

3. “What’s the point of du’a when everything’s already been decreed?”

- **Do we have free will?**
- Each soul is responsible for its own actions; no soul will bear the burden of another. You will all return to your Lord in the end, and He will tell you the truth about your differences.

(6:164)

3. “What’s the point of du’a when everything’s already been decreed?”

- **Wouldn’t free will alter Qada?**
- **The Butterfly Effect:** This effect grants the power to cause a hurricane in China to a butterfly flapping its wings in New Mexico. i.e. small changes in the initial conditions lead to drastic changes in the results.
- **Unpredictability:** Because we can never know all the initial conditions of a complex system in perfect detail, we cannot hope to predict the ultimate fate of a complex system. Even slight errors in measuring the state of a system will be amplified dramatically, rendering any prediction useless.
- **The unpredictability gets worse if all the conditions keep changing, as in free will of each person**
- e.g. we can never predict if it will rain in one place at a specific time

3. “What’s the point of du’a when everything’s already been decreed?”

- **We could not believe in the Watchmaker hypothesis**
- Chaos theory would suggest that billions of people exercising free will would render the Divine Decree completely unpredictable, unless constant adjustments were being made on the micro level, to allow for the bigger picture to remain constant.

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- **Qadr - divine measurement describes Allah’s constant engagement with His creation**
- E.g. a hand glider making little adjustments in response to gusts of wind in order to get to her destination.
- There is a time decreed for everything. God erases or confirms whatever He wills, and the source of Scripture is with Him. (Ra’d 13:39)
- Everyone in heaven and earth entreats Him; every day He attends to some task. (55:29)

Abu Darda (ra) asked the Prophet ﷺ about this verse and he said:

- Among His affairs are forgiving sins, relieving hardship, raising a people, and debasing others.

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- **Du’a alters our fate**

The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

- Whoever is pleased to have his provision expanded and his lifespan extended, then let him keep good relations with his family.

(Bukhari)

Also, his (S) saying:

- “Nothing can change the Divine decree except dua”

(Musnad Ahmad, 5/677; Ibn Majah, 90; Jami` Al-Tirmidhi, 139)

(Classed as hasan by Albani)

3. “What’s the point of du’a when everything’s already been decreed?”

- **Du’a alters our fate**
- By understanding Allah’s constant attendance to our affairs, we can appreciate how He can alter our fate whilst keeping the greater decree constant.
 - Qada is the bigger picture, the overall destiny of the universe
 - In Umm al kitab – Mother of the Book in the Preserved Tablet
 - Qadr is the actively changing decree of each person:

Justin Parrott: “The truth is that our actions make a meaningful difference and can change the course of the decree. By bringing our will to coincide with the legislative will of the Creator—surrendering our will to Allah—our fate will change for the better.”

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Umar ibn Al-Khattab (ra) performing Ṭawaf around the House and he was weeping, saying:

O Allah, if You have written me among the blessed, then affirm it therein.

And if You have written me among the sinful and the damned, then wipe it away and affirm me among the blessed.

Verily, You wipe away and affirm whatever You will, and with You is the Mother of the Book.