

Topic: **The School of the Moderate Way**

THE CLEAREST REASON FOR FREE WILL

1. The **universal and collective conscience** of the human beings denies predestination and holds the individuals **responsible for their acts before the law**.
2. The **contradiction** between the **logic of predestination and free will**
By **accepting** the school of **fatalism**, the **spiritual rewards, punishments, heaven and hell, questioning, divine reckoning, reprimanding the evildoers in the Qur'an, encouragement and praise for goodness and suchlike will lose their meanings** because no one would have a choice.

Delegation as opposed to Fatalism: **two Extremes**

Tafweedh (delegation) is to believe that God has put everything at our disposal and hence, we are **absolutely independent** in what we do. This belief is **against tawheed** (monotheism) which implies that **nothing (including free will) is beyond His realm**.

- Jabr (جبر) means Predestination
- Tafwidh (تفويض) means Conferring (delegation)
- Ikhtiyaar (اختيار) means Free will (the middle way)

The School of the Moderate Way

We, according to the teachings of our pure Imams, believe that we are **dependent on God** in all things and **at the same time free** to choose bad or good and hence, we are **responsible** for what we choose and do. This is called **the moderate way between Tafweedh and Fatalism**. An example to clarify the idea is **an electric train which you**

are the driver. You drive the train and do whatever you want but at the same time, this depends on the electricity from which the train gets its power.

The Qur'an and the Middle Way

« كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ رَهِيْنَةٌ » [74-38]

"Every soul, for what it has earned, will be retained"

« إِنَّا هَدَيْنَاهُ السَّبِيْلَ إِمَّا شَاكِرًا وَإِمَّا كَفُوْرًا » [76-3]

"Indeed, We guided him to the way, be he grateful or be he ungrateful."

« وَمَا تَشَاءُوْنَ إِلَّا أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللهُ ... » [76-30]

"And you do not will except that Allah wills. ..."