

Key concepts:

Ummah: Means 'Community'. Refers to the worldwide community of Muslims who share a common religious identity.

The Sunnah: The book which describes the way Prophet Muhammad lived.

Sunni: The one who follows the Sunnah.

Shi'a: From the 'House of Ali'.

Hadith: An account to describe the words and actions of Muhammad

AL-QADR means that everything happens as a result of Allah's will and nothing is ever random or without reason.

Differences in Islam on Al-Qadr

SUNNI

1. Allah knows everything – the past, present and future.
2. Allah has already recorded what will happen – sifat.
3. Humans have free will – so can choose to do actions.
4. This choice will have an impact on their predestination. It can increase their reward or bring about punishment. BUT Allah already knows the outcome.

SHI'A

1. Reject Al Qadr
2. Instead they believe in Bada'.
3. This means Allah has a divine plan for the future, but this future can be changed.
4. Allah can change this divine plan at will.
5. Humans have free will which can impact upon the divine plan, BUT the divine plan will occur.

FACTS ON SUNNI & SHI'A MUSLIMS

Sunni

1. 87 - 90% of Muslims are Sunni.
2. Follow the 6 'Articles of Faith' (which we will explore during this term)
3. Sunni dominated countries include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Syria and Indonesia to name but a few.
4. Large communities found in Europe e.g Germany and France as well as USA and UK.

Shi'a

1. 10-13% of Muslims Shi'a.
2. Follow the 5 'Usul ad-din'
3. Large communities found in Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.
4. Majority in Iran, Iraq, and Bahrain

The 6 Articles of Sunni faith are...

The 5 Shi'a roots are...

Quotes about angels in the Qur'an:

"We don't descend except for the command of our Lord."

"They do not precede Him in speech and (only) according to His commandment do they act."