**‘To describe God as omnipotent is the best way to understand God.’**

**Evaluate this statement. (12 marks)**

Supporters would say that God must be omnipotent because it fits in with the teachings of their religion. For example, for Sunni Muslims, they believe in Al-Qadr which means predestination. This is the idea that Allah knows everything that will happen to a person and all the choices they will make in their life before they have even had the chance to think about it. This is supported by the Qur’anic quote, ‘only what God has decreed shall happen to us.’ This shows that God wills everything that happens in a person’s life, and this is not possible without omnipotence, so omnipotence is the best way to understand him.

Rejecting views include the view that omnipotence is not as important as other qualities of God. For example in Islam Tawhid, the oneness of God, is central to the nature of God. The Shahada, one of the 5 pillars of Sunni Islam, includes the recitation of the phrase ‘there is no God but Allah.’ As this is recited regularly by Muslims, and is one of the 5 fundamental things a Muslim must do (the 5 pillars), this is more important to remember than God’s omnipotence.

On the other hand, God’s omnipotence is the best way to understand God as a Muslim because a lot of other qualities go hand in hand with omnipotence, or all-powerfulness. For example, in order for God to be a judge on Judgement Day, which is a central part of Akhirah or teachings on life after death, he needs to have power. The Qur’an states that on the day of judgement all people in Barzakh are resurrected and Almighty Allah judges them based on their deeds. It is impossible to think that Allah could raise the dead without omnipotence so that is the best way to understand God.

Another rejecting view would be that some Shi’a Muslims don’t have the same view of Al-Qadr as Sunni Muslims. ‘God does not change the condition of a people unless they change what it in themselves’ is a Qur’anic quote which shows that although God is ultimately in control of what happens, we still have free will as human beings. Additionally, in Shi’a Islam, other beliefs have more importance than God’s omnipotence, such as Adalat, or the justice of God. These examples show that omnipotence perhaps is not the best way to understand God.

In conclusion, although the Shi’a view of Al-Qadr is slightly modified from the traditional Sunni view of predestination, it still ultimately puts God in control and therefore God is still omnipotent. Additionally, all other attributes of God in Islamic tradition are not possible without omnipotence. For these reasons, omnipotence is the best way to understand God.