

JANĀZAH · 01 OF 08

Death & Burial

الْجَنَائِزُ

What to do, in order, from the last breath to the filling of the grave. Carry it before you need it.

2 · The dying, and the moment of death

3 · Washing the body

4 · The shroud

5 · Ṣalāt al-Janāzah

6 · The du‘ā over the deceased

7 · The burial

8 · Mourning, and the grave

A fard kifāyah — binding on the community until some perform it. Ḥ · M · S · Ḥb noted where they differ.

02 The dying

PROMPTING THE SHAHĀDAH

Say it gently in their presence so they may follow. Do not command them or repeat it insistently; once they say it, stop.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

Muslim · ṣāḥiḥ — “Whoever’s last words are *lā ilāha illallāh* enters Paradise.” Abū Dāwūd · ṣāḥiḥ

AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH

1 Close the eyes and bind the jaw.

2 Cover the whole body with a cloth.

3 Hasten the washing, prayer and burial.

4 Settle their debts without delay.

5 Inform family and the wider community.

SAID ON CLOSING THE EYES

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِقَلَانٍ وَارْفَعْ دَرَجَتَهُ فِي الْمَهْدِيِّينَ

Allāhumma-ghfir li-[name] warfa' darajatahu fil-mahdiyyin

O Allah, forgive him and raise his rank among the rightly guided.

Muslim · ṣāḥiḥ — said by the Prophet ﷺ at the death of Abū Salamah ^{رضي}

03 The washing

Washed by those of the same sex; a spouse may wash a spouse. Screen the body and keep what is seen in confidence.

1 Cover from navel to knee throughout.

2 Press the abdomen gently to expel what remains; wash it away wearing a cloth on the hand.

3 Perform wuḍū upon the body, without entering water into mouth or nose.

4 Wash the head and beard with lote leaf, or soap.

5 Wash the right side, then the left — an odd number of times: three, five or seven.

6 Add camphor to the final washing.

7 Dry the body; a woman's hair is combed and plaited in three braids laid behind her.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣāḥiḥ — the ḥadīth of Umm ‘Atiyyah ^{رضي} on the washing of Zaynab ^{رضي}

Not washed: one killed in battle on the field — buried in the clothes they died in, with their blood, and not prayed over per S and Ḥb. A miscarried child of four months or more is washed, named and prayed over.

Bukhārī · ṣāḥiḥ; Abū Dāwūd, Nasā’ī · ṣāḥiḥ

04 The shroud

Plain white cloth is the sunnah. It is paid from the estate before debts and bequests.

A MAN

Three white sheets, each large enough to wrap the whole body. Lay them one over another, place the body upon them, and fold the left edge over, then the right, for each in turn.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣāḥiḥ — the Prophet ﷺ was shrouded in three white Yemeni cloths, with no shirt or turban.

A WOMAN

Five pieces — a waist wrapper, a shift, a head cover, and two enveloping sheets.

Abū Dāwūd · the report of Laylā bint Qānif ^{رضي} · ḥasan in its meaning; the practice of the ^{رضي} Companions.

Perfume the shroud, except for one who died in iḥrām — they are neither perfumed nor have the head covered, for they are raised pronouncing the talbiyah.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣāḥiḥ

Tie the ends above the head and below the feet; untie them once the body is laid in the grave.

05 Ṣalāt al-Janāzah

Standing only — no bowing, no prostration, no adhān and no iqāmah. Four takbīrs, then one salām.

Takbīr 1 — raise the hands, then recite al-Fātiḥah.

Takbīr 2 — the ṣalāt upon the Prophet ﷺ, as in the tashahhud.

Takbīr 3 — the du‘ā for the deceased (card 06).

Takbīr 4 — pause briefly, ask for yourself and the Muslims, then say salām to the right.

Bukhārī · ṣāḥiḥ — Ibn ‘Abbās ^{رضي} recited al-Fātiḥah aloud “so they would know it is sunnah.”

WHERE THE MADHĀHIB DIFFER

Al-Fātiḥah — obligatory per S and Ḥb; Ḥ recites the opening praise instead; M confines it to praise and du‘ā.

Raising the hands — at every takbīr per S, Ḥb and Ḥ; at the first alone per M.

Salām — one to the right per Ḥ, M and Ḥb; two are permitted per S.

The imam stands level with the head of a man and the middle of a woman. Rows behind are best made three or more.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣāḥiḥ — the ḥadīth of Samurah ^{رضي}; Tirmidhī · ḥasan

06 The du‘ā

FOR AN ADULT

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمْهُ، وَعَافِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنْهُ، وَأَكْرِمْ نَزْلَهُ، وَوَسِّعْ مَدْخَلَهُ، وَاعْسِلْهُ بِالْمَاءِ وَالتَّلَجِّ وَالْبَرَدِ، وَنَقِّهِ مِنَ الْخَطَايَا كَمَا نَقَّيْتَ الثَّوْبَ الْأَبْيَضَ مِنَ الدَّنَسِ

Allāhumma-ghfir lahu warḥamh, wa ‘āfihi wa’fu ‘anh, wa akrim nuzulh, wa wassi’ mudkhalah, waghsilhu bil-mā’i wath-thalji wal-barad, wa naqqihi minal-khaṭāyā kamā naqqaytath-thawbal-abyaḍa minad-danas

O Allah, forgive him and have mercy on him; pardon him; honour his arrival and widen his entry; wash him with water, snow and hail, and cleanse him of sin as a white garment is cleansed of grime.

Muslim · ṣāḥiḥ — the ḥadīth of ‘Awf ibn Mālik ^{رضي}. For a woman, change *lahu* to *lahā* throughout.

FOR A CHILD

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ فَرْطًا وَذُخْرًا لِوَالِدَيْهِ، وَشَفِيعًا مُجَابًا

Allāhumma-j’alhu farāṭan wa dhukhran li-wālidayh, wa shafi’an mujāban

07 The burial

1 Walk with the bier, and do not sit until it is set down.

2 A lined niche (laḥd) in the qiblah wall is preferred to a trench.

3 Lower the body from the direction of the feet.

4 Lay it on the right side, facing the qiblah, and untie the shroud.

5 Close the niche with unbaked brick, then fill the grave.

6 Each present casts three handfuls of earth from the head end.

7 Raise the grave a hand's span so it is known, and mark it with a plain stone.

SAID WHILE LOWERING

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَى سُنَّةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ

Bismillāhi wa ‘alā sunnati Rasūlillāh

In the name of Allah, and upon the way of the Messenger of Allah.

Abū Dāwūd, Tirmidhī · ṣāḥiḥ

Once filled, stand a while at the grave and ask forgiveness and firmness for them — “for he is now being questioned.”

Abū Dāwūd · ṣāḥiḥ

08 Mourning & the grave

SAID UPON AFFLICTION

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ، اللَّهُمَّ أَجْزِنِي فِي مَصِيبَتِي وَأَخْلِفْ لِي خَيْرًا مِنْهَا

Innā lillāhi wa innā ilayhi rāji‘ūn, Allāhumma’jurni fi muṣibatī wa akhlif li khayran minhā

To Allah we belong and to Him we return. O Allah, reward me in my affliction and replace it with better.

Muslim · ṣāḥiḥ

MOURNING

Three days at most — except a widow, who observes four months and ten days.

Grief and tears are permitted; wailing, striking the face and tearing garments are not.

Neighbours should prepare food for the household.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣāḥiḥ; Q 2:234; Abū Dāwūd, Tirmidhī · ṣāḥiḥ

VISITING — SAID ON ARRIVAL

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَهْلَ الدِّيَارِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَإِنَّا إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لِلْآجِقُونَ

As-salāmu ‘alaykum ahlad-diyāri minal-mu’minina wal-muslimin, wa innā in shā‘Allāhu lalāḥiqūn

Muslim · ṣāḥiḥ

Not from the sunnah: building over or plastering

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