



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Lesson 29

Kafan (Shrouding the Dead)

- The minimum for a *Kafan* (shroud) to be valid is three pieces of clothes. The *Sunna* (recommendation) is five pieces of clothes. According to a Hadith, anything more than five pieces of clothes is *Bid'ah* (innovation).
 - a) The first piece is a garment called *Mi'zar*. It is a garment which must cover the area from the belly to the knees.
 - b) The second piece is called the *Qamees* (shirt). It must cover from the shoulder to the feet.
 - c) The third piece is called *Izar*. It is a full covering which covers the body from the head to the toes.
 - d) For men, it is Mustahab to include a turban (*amamah*). It is a piece of cloth which is wrapped around the head and its two ends are brought under the chin and tied there.
 - e) The fifth piece is wrapped fully around the middle-part of the body. This cloth is also for a male.
- For a woman, instead of the *Amamah*, a *Maqna* (headscarf) is recommended and apart from the belt that covers the middle-part of the body, a piece of cloth must also be wrapped around the thighs.

Recommendations for Kafan

1. The Kafan must be of good quality. It is Mustahab that some part of the Kafan be from Yemen.
2. It is Mustahab to have the Holy Quran written on the Kafan (one must ensure that the piece of cloth remains away from any Najasah).
3. It is Mustahab for the Kafan to be white in colour and to be made of pure cotton.



4. One must ensure that Kafan is bought from lawful money; and that money is purified by paying off all the religious dues like Khums and Zakat. It is better to specifically pay Khums on the amount spend on Kafan.
5. It is Mustahab to write the phrase of Talqeen on the Kafan.
6. It is recommended to write Duaa Jaushan al-Kabir and Jaushan al-Saghir on the Kafan or on a paper.
7. It is Mustahab to write those two lines of poetry on the Kafan that were written by Imam Ali (as) for his companion Salman (ra):

وفدت على الكريم بغير زاد

I have come in the presence of the Generous one without any provision

من الحسنات و القلب السليم

Lacking good deeds and a pure heart

و حمل الزاد اقبح كل شيء

اذا كان الوفود على الكريم

It is inappropriate to carry the provision, if you are visiting someone who is Al-Karim (the generous).

8. To include the Turbah (grave) of Imam Husain (As) in the Kafan.
9. To make Kafan from the Ihram that was used for Hajj.

Conditions of the pieces of cloth used for Kafan

1. It must be pure.
2. It must be Mubah (permissible to use)
3. It must not be made from silk.
4. It must not be made from Haram leather.

- All the laws of Kafan must apply to any child that dies, any foetus that is developed over 16 weeks or is fully formed.
- If the foetus is younger than the mentioned age (16 weeks), it can be wrapped in a cloth and buried.
- The Kafan of the wife is to be provided by the husband mandatorily. If she made it available for herself, the obligation will be lifted from the husband.