

L15

## **Topic: Burial of a Deceased**

### **Rules Relating to People around a Person in the State of *Ihtidar***

**Lay the Dying Person (*Muhtadir*) Facing the *Qibla*:** It is obligatory upon Muslims to lay a dying person **facing the *Qibla*** (on his/her back **with the soles of the feet** facing the *Qibla*).

**The Recommended Rules:** The *shahadatain* of Islam (testimony in Allah and His Messenger), the acknowledgment of the 12 Imams, and the other tenets of faith be repeated to the dying person in such a manner that he or she would understand them.

**Recommended Du'as to be recited:** The recitation of *Du'a Adeela* is recommended, as well as recitation of a number of short supplications in which the *shahadatain* is repeated, Allah is acknowledged as the ultimate guardian, the **Day of Resurrection** is mentioned, and prayers are made for **acceptance of good deeds and mercy**.

For a person in the agony of death, it is recommended to recite Surah *Ya Sin*, Surah al-*Saffat*, Surah al-*Ahzab*, *Ayat al-Kursi*, the 54th verse of Surah of al-*Aaraf*, the last three verses of Surah al-*Baqarah* by his side, and **as much as possible from the Holy Qur'an**.

### Preparing the Body for Burial

Once the person has departed from this world, it is recommended to **shut the eyes and lips, close the mouth, straighten the hands and feet, spread a cloth over the dead body and call on the Muslim people to gather for his funeral**.

The *wajib* actions for burial (*Ghusl, Tahnit, Shrouding, Funeral prayer*) become the obligation of the rightful *guardian* of the deceased, and if there is no guardian, then all surrounding Muslims become responsible. If any one person takes up the responsibility, then all others will be relieved of the responsibility; however, if nobody attends to the dead body as prescribed, then all will be considered sinful.

*Ghusl:*

According to *Imamiyya jurists*, the *ghusl* should be performed *three times*: first with water *mixed with cedar*, then with water *mixed with camphor*, and then with *pure water*.

*Tahnit:*

After *ghusl*, *tahnit* should be performed, that is, *camphor should be rubbed on seven parts* of the body that touch the earth in *sajda* (forehead, two palms, two knees, and the tips of the big toes).

***Kafan (shrouding):***

*Kafan* is the obligatory *three pieces of cloth* used (loin cloth, a shirt or tunic, and a full cover) to dress the whole body of the deceased after the obligatory *Ghusl al-Mayyit*.

***Salat al-Mayyit:*** It is obligatory to offer *Salat al-Mayyit* (funeral prayers) for every Muslim, as well as for a Muslim child if it has completed 6 years of its age (or a younger child who was aware of what prayer is). *Salat al-Mayyit* should be offered *after the dead body has been given Ghusl, Hunut, and Kafan*.

**Note:**

- Unlike other prayers, *ritual purity* (that is, *wudu, ghusl, or tayammum*) or ritual cleanness of the worshiper's body or clothes or taking off one's shoes are *not required*.
- The corpse should be put in the direction of *qibla* such that its *head is placed on the right side of the worshipers*.

**The Procedure:**

The worshipers should first intend the funeral prayer and, while standing, they should recite *takbir* five times. After the first four *takbirs*, they should recite particular supplications, and with the 5th *takbir*, the prayer is finished.

Takbir	Obligatory Supplication
First →	أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ
Translation	I witness that there is no god but Allah. I witness that Muhammad (s) is His messenger
Second→	اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَ آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ
Translation	O' Allah! Send regards to Muhammad (s) and his progeny
Third→	اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَ الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ
Translation	O' Allah! Forgive all Muslim men and women
Fourth→	If the deceased is male: اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِهَذَا الْمَيِّتِ

	and If the deceased is female: اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِهَذِهِ الْمَيِّتَةِ
Translation	O' Allah, forgive this deceased

- The deceased must be laid to rest in a grave in a **Muslim graveyard on his/her right side facing the Qiblah**. The grave must be **deep enough** that its smell does not come out, nor does it allow beasts of prey to dig it out.

#### **Ghusl of touching the corpse**

If one touches a dead person's corpse that has gone cold and has not yet been washed [the ghusl of the corpse] with any part of one's body, it is obligatory for him to perform the "ghusl of touching the corpse".