



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Lesson 30

### Prayer on the Dead and Burial

- One of the obligatory acts that must be done for the dead is Hanoot. It is the act of embalming the seven body-parts of Sujud with camphor. The seven areas of sujud are the forehead, two palms, both the knees and the toes.
- Camphor should be applied before the Kafan.
- If the deceased is in the state of Ihram, then applying camphor (Hanoot) is not required for him.

#### Salat al-Mayyit

- Another obligatory act for the dead is to pray on his body. It is obligatory on us to pray on the body of all Muslims, irrespective of whether they were practising or not.
- The minimum age for Salat al-Mayyit to be obligatory is 6 and above.
- Imam Sadiq (as): When the Prophet (pbuh) used to pray on a dead body, he would say Takbir (Allahu Akbar), then say Shahadah; then say Takbir and recite Salawaat on the prophets, and pray. Then he would say Takbir, pray and do Istighfar for the believing men and women. Then he would say Takbir and pray for the dead person; and then he would say the final Takbir. (Al-Wafi, v. 24, pg. 437)

#### Conditions of Salat al-Mayyit

- To offer Salat al-Mayyit, the dead person must be laid on the ground on his back.
- His head must be towards the right side of those who are offering prayer on him and his feet must be towards their left side.



- There should be no barrier, curtain or partition between the body and those offering the prayer.
- The prayer must be offered in the standing position.
- Taharah (purification) is not a condition for this prayer because this is not a full Salah, as it does not have Ruku and Sujud.

### Method of Salat al-Mayyit

1. Make the intention (niyyah)
2. Say Takbir and recite the following testimonies:

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَرْسَلَهُ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا بَيْنَ يَدَيِ السَّاعَةِ

3. Then say second Takbir and recite:

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَارْحَمْ مُحَمَّدًا وَآلَ مُحَمَّدٍ كَأَفْضَلِ مَا صَلَّيْتَ وَبَارَكْتَ وَتَرَحَّمْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَآلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ وَصَلِّ عَلَى جَمِيعِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَجَمِيعِ عِبَادِ اللَّهِ الصَّالِحِينَ

4. Then say third Takbir and recite:

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ تَابِعْ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَهُمْ بِالْخَيْرَاتِ إِنَّكَ مُجِيبُ الدَّعَوَاتِ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

5. Then say the fourth Takbir and recite:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّ هَذَا الْمَسْجِعَ عَبْدُكَ وَابْنُ عَبْدِكَ وَابْنُ أُمَّتِكَ نَزَلَ بِكَ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ مَنْزُولٍ بِهِ اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا لَا نَعْلَمُ مِنْهُ إِلَّا خَيْرًا وَأَنْتَ أَعْلَمُ بِهِ مِنَّا اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كَانَ مُحْسِنًا فَزِدْ فِي إِحْسَانِهِ وَإِنْ كَانَ مُسِيئًا فَتَجَاوَزْ عَنْهُ وَاعْفِرْ لَهُ اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ عِنْدَكَ فِي أَعْلَى عِلِّيِّينَ وَاخْلُفْ عَلَى أَهْلِهِ فِي الْغَابِرِينَ وَارْحَمْهُ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ

6. Then say the fifth Takbir.

Note: Salat al-Mayyit can be prayed alone as well. Congregation is not a condition for this prayer.

- If a dead body is buried without having the prayer offered on him, one must stand over the grave and offer the prayer on him.
- One of the recommended acts for the dead is called Tash'yi which means to walk with the dead body during the funeral ceremony before the burial.



### **Recommendations of burial:**

1. It is highly recommended to choose a nearby cemetery for the burial of the dead.
2. It is also highly recommended, in the narrations, for a person to write in his will and request for his dead body to be transported to the holy sites such as Wadi al-Salam (located in the city of Najaf).
3. The body must not be taken directly into the grave. It is Mustahab to carry the body to the grave in three steps by placing it thrice on the ground before the burial.

### **Conditions of Burial:**

1. The body should be buried under the ground.
2. It is recommended that the depth of the grave must be equal to the average height of a human being.
3. It is Mustahab to bury the body in a *Lahad*. The *Lahad* is an L shaped section under the ground and its elevation must be same as an area that is required for sitting.
4. We must position the dead inside the grave such that it leans on the right side and faces the Qibla.
5. For burial, husband has the greatest right to bury the wife.

- Any body part that contains flesh and bone, must be buried. The body part that must be given Ghusl is the chest that contains the heart.
- If a person dies on a ship and the journey is so long that the body might rot before reaching the shore, the body must be sealed in a container and thrown in the sea. If there is no container, the body can be tied to a rock and thrown in the sea.
- It is highly recommended that a body of a woman is buried by the male Mahram relatives.

### **Prohibitions of burial**

1. It is Haram to bury the dead in a non-Muslim cemetery.
2. It is Haram to bury the dead in usurped land.
3. The dead cannot be buried somewhere the body can be desecrated.



Note: If the dead is buried in a non-Muslim cemetery or usurped land, it must be desecrated and buried in a Muslim cemetery and on a permissible land.

### **Rules of transporting the body**

It is Haram to uncover and desecrate the body except in the few cases, for e.g. to honour the will of the deceased.

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