

Janazah Salah (Funeral Prayer) ﴿الصَّلَاةُ الْجَنَازَةُ﴾

When a Muslim dies a Janazah Salah (Funeral Prayer) performed before burying her/him. The Imam and a few people offer the Janazah Salah (but even one person apart from the Imam would be sufficient for fulfilling this duty). Holding a Jama'at is not required for Janazah Salah. Janazah Salah is called "**Fardh-e-Kifaayah**", which means that some Muslims from the community should offer this Prayer. If some people cannot attend the Prayer, then they will be excused or free from this responsibility "Bari-uz-zimmah". However, if nobody offers the Janazah Prayer then the Muslims living in the town will be sinful in neglecting their obligatory duty.

The guardian of the deceased should wash, wrap, and arrange for the burial of the body soon after the funeral Prayer for the deceased, because the body might deteriorate if burial is delayed. This is based on a report, recorded by Hazrat al-Husayn ibn Wujuh ؓ that when Talhah ibn al-Bara ؓ fell ill, the Prophet ﷺ said; "I see that Talhah is on the verge of death, Inform me about him (when he passes away) and make immediate preparations for his burial, for a Muslim's remains should not be left long with his family after his death." (Abu Dawud)

If a Shaheed (Martyr) has died fighting in Jihad his body will not be washed. He will be given the greatest respect by offering a proper Janazah Salah and a burial.

Janazah Salah cannot be performed of such as:

- A person who has committed suicide.
- A child born dead.

How to perform Janazah Salah:

There is no Adhan, Iqaamah or any Raka'at, Rukoo (bowing) or Sajdah (prostrate) in the Janazah Salah. First of all, the Imam and the people in the congregation should ensure that the washed body of the dead person (deceased) is present, as you cannot do the Janazah Salah without the body.

Imam's Position in Funeral Prayer for a Male or a Female:

It is Sunnah for the Imam to stand opposite the head of a male body, and opposite the middle of a female body. This is based on a Hadith reported from Hazrat Anas ؓ that he offered a funeral Prayer for a male standing opposite his head. As soon as the body of the man was removed, a female body was brought in for funeral Prayer. He led the Prayer standing opposite the middle of her body. Thereupon he was asked, "Did the Prophet ﷺ stand where you stood in the cases of a man and a woman?" He answered: "Yes." This is narrated by Ahmad, Abu Dawud, Ibn Maajah and Tirmidhi, who regards it as a sound Hadith. Al-Tahawi said; this is the most preferred position, because it is supported by other reports from Allah's Messenger ﷺ. When the body is present, The body should be placed in such a way that the head is at the right side and the feet facing to one's left hands side of the Imam. It is Mustahab (preferred) that the deceased's right side head is turned towards the Qiblah. The Imam and his Muqtadee (followers) have made rows/lines in odd numbers and then the Janazah Salah can begin.

1- **The Niyyah (intention) for the Prayer:** I intend to Pray Janazah Salah with 4 Takbeers, Sanaa (praise) is for Allah ﷻ, Du'ood for Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and du'a for the deceased, behind this Imam, I am facing the Qiblah, "Allahu Akbar."

2- First Takbeer:

"Allahu Akbar" and folds his hands below the navel - the Muqtadee (followers) should do also say the Takbeer silently and fold their hands up to reciting the Salam.

3- Then you recite the with the Imam silently:

Recite Thanā (Sanaa), then Ta'awwuz (A'oozu-billah) and then recite Tasmiyyah (Bismillah).

4- Second Takbeer, you recite Durood Ibrahime :

“Allahumma salli alaa Muhammadin wa alaa aali Muhammadin kamaa sallaita alaa Ibraheema wa alaa aali Ibraheema innaka hameedun majeed”

“Allahumma baarik alaa Muhammadin wa alaa aali Muhammadin, kamaa baarakta alaa Ibraheema wa alaa aali Ibraheema innaka hameedun majeed”

5- Third Takbeer, you recite the du'a for the deceased:

See below du'a for adults or children.

6- Fourth Takbeer and Salam:

“Assalaamu alaikum wa rahmatullah”

After the Janazah Salah, the Saff (rows) are broken up, the al-Jama'at (congregation) do the Zikr of Shahaadah "Laa ilaaha illallah", and the Imam Prays with the people for the deceased. The Surah Al-Fatiha is recited with Surah Al-Ikhlaas, for the "Isaal-e-Sawaab" (sending of rewards) of the deceased. This benefits the dead person very much.

Du'a for adult male/female Muslim:

This is the du'a for adult Muslim whether a male or a female:

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِحَيِّنَا وَمَيِّتِنَا وَشَا هِدِنَا وَغَا بُنَا وَصَغِيرِنَا وَكَبِيرِنَا وَذَكَرِنَا
وَ أَنْثَانَا اللَّهُمَّ مَنْ أَحْيَيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَاحْيِهِ عَلَى الْإِسْلَامِ وَمَنْ تَوَفَّيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَتَوَفَّهُ
عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ اللَّهُمَّ لَا تَحْرِمْنَا أَجْرَهُ وَلَا تَفْتِنَّا بَعْدَهُ

"O Allah! Forgive our living and our dead, our present and our absent, our young and our old, and our males and our females. O Allah! Give to those of us who are living the ability to live in the practice of Islam, and bless those from us who meet with death in a condition of Iman (faith). O Allah! Do not deprive us of his reward and do not make us fall into trial after him."

Narrated by Hazrat Abu Hurayrah (Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud, Ahmad, Ibn Maajaah)

Du'a for a boy:

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ لَنَا فَرَطًا وَاجْعَلْهُ لَنَا أَجْرًا وَذُخْرًا وَاجْعَلْهُ لَنَا شَا فِعَاوً مُشَفِّعًا

"O Allah ! Make him our forerunner, and make him for us a reward and a treasure, and make him for us a pleader and an intercessor, and accept his pleading." (Hadaya)

Du'a for a girl:

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهَا لَنَا فَرَطًا وَاجْعَلْهَا لَنَا أَجْرًا وَذُخْرًا وَاجْعَلْهَا لَنَا شَا فِعَةً وَ مُشَفِّعَةً

"O Allah ! Make her our forerunner, and make her for us a reward and a treasure, and make her for us a pleader and an intercessor, and accept her pleading."

Women are permitted to offer Funeral Prayers:

A woman may offer a funeral Prayer in a congregation.

An-Nawawi said; "Women may offer (funeral) Prayer in congregation just as they are permitted to perform other Sunnah Prayers. Ahmad and the Hanafi School also hold the same view.

Talqin (remind) when dying:

Advise the dying person to say;

﴿أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ﴾

"I bear witness that there is no god but Allah ﷻ, He is alone, He has no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is His servant and Messenger."

- Hazrat Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "Prompt your dying people to say: 'La ilaha illal-lah'." (Muslim, Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi)
- Hazrat Mu'adh ibn Jabal ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "He whose last words are 'La ilaha illal-lah' shall enter Paradise." (Abu Dawud, Al-Hakim)

Those who are grieved by this demise may read:

﴿إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ﴾

Surely we belong to Allah ﷻ and to Him is our return. (Tirmidhi)

Ta'ziyah (condolences, sorrow and support of comfort):

Ta'ziyah to the relatives of the deceased, as it is the Sunnah of Rasulullah ﷺ. However, the relatives of the deceased must not moan, wail, scream or tear their clothes, because it is Haram/forbidden and contrary to the Shariah. One should take note of these few points;

- Express grief.
- One should be humble
- Speak less about worldly affairs.
- Should not joke or laugh.
- Mention the good acts and deeds of the deceased and abstain from the ill ones.
- The time for ta'ziyat extend for three days after the death. It is Makrooh to make ta'ziyat after this period except in cases where one is not present at the Janazah or when the bereaved is absent.

Visiting the Graveyard (Qabrastaan):

The purpose of visiting graves is to remember the Hereafter, which is something that both men and women need. Men are by no means more in need of this reminder than women. Some scholars disliked it for women to visit graves as they are less patient and too emotional.

- Hazrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "May Allah curse the women who are frequent visitors of the graves." (Tirmidhi)
- Hazrat Abdullah ibn Mas'ud ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "...Make Ziyaarat (frequent) of the graveyard, for verily, visiting the graves diminishes the love of this world and makes (one) remember the Akhirah (hereafter)." (Ibn Maajaah)
- Hazrat Buraidah ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "When who visit graveyard then greeting, Salam to the people of the graves and Pray (du'a) for their (forgiveness)."

﴿السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَهْلَ الدِّيَارِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَإِنَّا إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ
بِكُمْ لَاحِقُونَ﴾ نَسَأَلُ اللَّهَ لَنَا وَلَكُمْ الْعَافِيَةَ ط

"May the Peace (of Allah) be upon you, O people of this land (the graveyard), who are among the Believers! Insha Allah, we too shall (soon) be joining you. We ask Allah protection for you and for ourselves." (Muslim)

Once you have recited this du'a or any other similar du'a recorded in the Ahaadith, you will have discharged your duty and fulfilled the right which the inmates of the graves had over you.

What to recite when in the graveyard

There are many supplications that may be read at the graveside, the best being the recital of the Qur'an and make du'a for the Maghfirah (forgiveness) of the departed. A few ways of Praying for the dead, as related in the Ahaadith reciting of Surah Al-Fatiha, Surah Yaseen and Surah Ikhlāas.

- Hazrat Ma'qil ibn Yasar al-Muzani ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "If anyone recites Surah Yaseen out of a desire for Allah's favour, his past sins will be forgiven him; so recite it over those of you who are dying." (Tirmidhi)

The graveyard could be visited on any day. Friday is preferred to this visit, and if possible it should be weekly visit. It has been related in a Hadith that: "Whoever will visit his parents' grave every Friday will be granted Maghfirah and he will be recorded as an obedient son of his parents."

One should take note of these few points:

It is also necessary to respect the graveyard. To sit, sleep or lean against the grave is unethical. It is not allowed for one to jump over graves. To place your feet (walk) on a grave is totally wrong. It is also forbidden to perform Salah in the direction of a grave and to make Sajdah on a grave is forbidden. To make Sajdah to a grave is Kufr.

- Hazrat Abu Marthad Kannaz bin Husain ؓ said I heard the Rasulullah ﷺ saying; "Do not offer Salah (Prayer) facing the graves and do not sit on them." (Muslim)

Points to ponder:

Allah ﷻ has stated in the Qur'an the following verses for us to remember. Thy when remembered will help us forget our temporary worries and make us instead concentrate on our preparation for eternity.

﴿مِنْهَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ وَفِيهَا نُعِيدُكُمْ وَمِنْهَا نُخْرِجُكُمْ تَارَةً أُخْرَى﴾

"We have created you from the earth, into it We shall return you and from it We shall bring you back to life once again." (Qur'an 20:55)

﴿أَيْنَمَا تَكُونُوا يُدْرِكُكُمُ الْمَوْتُ وَلَوْ كُنْتُمْ فِي بُرُوجٍ مُّشِيدَةٍ﴾

"Wherever you are death will find you out even if you are in towers built up strong and high!"
(Qur'an 4:78)

﴿قُلْ يَتَوَفَّكُم مَّلَكُ الْمَوْتِ الَّذِي وُكِّلَ بِكُمْ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ تُرْجَعُونَ﴾

Say: "The Angel of Death put in charge of you will (duly) take your souls: then shall ye be brought back to your Lord." (Qur'an 32:11)

- Hazrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "when the dead body (of a Muslim) is buried in the grave there appear before him two Angels, both having black faces and blue eyes. One is called Munkar and the other is called Nakir and they say: Say what you have to say about this person and he will say: He is the servant of Allah ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ. I bear testimony to the fact that there is no god but Allah ﷻ and that Muhammad ﷺ is His Messenger and they both will say: We already knew that you would say this. Then his grave will be expanded to the extent of 4900 square cubic feet and it will be illuminated, then it will be said to him: Go to sleep and he will say: I intend to go to my family in order to inform them and they would say: Go to sleep like the sleep of a newly wedded bride whom no one awakens but one who is dearest to her amongst his family members. Only Allah ﷻ would resurrect him from his resting place. If he (the dead) were a hypocrite he will say: I heard people making a statement (pertaining to the oneness of Allah ﷻ and the apostle hood of Muhammad ﷺ) and I said the same but I do not know. And they would say: We already knew that you would say this and the earth will be told to press him and it will press him till his ribs are clasped together and he will not be relieved of the torment till Allah ﷻ resurrects him from his resting-place." (Tirmidhi)
- Hazrat Qatadah ؓ reported that Anas ibn Malik ؓ said; The Rasulullah ﷺ said; "When a human is laid in his grave and his companions return and he hears their footsteps, two angels will come to him and make him sit and ask him, "What did you say about this man, Muhammad ﷺ?" He will say, "I testify that he is Allah's servant and His Messenger." Then it will be said to him, Look at your place in Hell-Fire. Allah ﷻ has exchanged for you a place in Paradise instead of it. The Prophet ﷺ added the dead person will see both his places. As for a non-believer or a hypocrite, he will respond to the angels, I do not know, but I used to say what the people used to say! It will be said to him, Neither did you know nor did you seek guidance from those who had knowledge. Then he will be hit with an iron hammer between his two ears, and he will cry and that cry will be heard by all except human beings and jinn's." (Bukhari, Muslim)
- Hazrat Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ went out to the Prayer and saw the people looking as if they were grinning He said; "If you were to keep much in remembrance death which is the cutter-off of pleasures, it would distract you from what I see. Keep much in remembrance death which is the cutter-off of pleasure, for a day does not come to the grave without its saying, I am the house of exile, I am the house of solitude, I am the house of dust, I am the house of worms. When a believer dies the grave says to him, Welcome and greeting; you are indeed the dearest to me of those who walk upon me. I have been given charge of you today and you have come to me and you will see how I shall treat you. It will then expand for him as far as the eye can see and a door to Paradise will be opened for him. But when the profligate or infidel is buried the grave says to him, No welcome and no greeting to you; you are the most hateful to me of those who walk upon me. I have been given charge of you today and you have come to me and you will see how I shall treat you. Abu Sa'eed ؓ told that Rasulullah ﷺ indicated it by interlacing his fingers. Then he said, "Seventy dragons will be put in charge of him of such a nature that if one of them were to breathe on the earth it would produce no crops as long as the world lasted, and they will bite and scratch him till he is brought to the reckoning." He also reported Rasulullah ﷺ as saying. "The grave is one of the gardens of Paradise, or one of the pits of Hell." (Tirmidhi)
- The Prophet ﷺ said; "The grave is the first stage of the hereafter. If a person is saved from its torment, then what comes after it is really easy. If one is not saved from it, what follows is really severer." (Ibn Maajaah)
- The Prophet ﷺ said; "I have never seen a more horrible sight than that of the grave." (Tirmidhi)
- Ummul-Mo'meneen Hazrat Ayisha ؓ narrates Rasulullah ﷺ said; "Do not abuse the dead, because they have attained that which they had forwarded (i.e. their deeds, good or bad)." (Bukhari)