



Guidance on Islamic Funerals

Islam encourages us to do the following during a dying person's last moments.

Advise the dying person to say *La ilaha illa-Allah* [There is no god but Allah]. The purpose is to remind him/her of the Oneness of Allah.

Mu'adh ibn Jabal states that the messenger of Allah, (pbuh) said, "He whose last words are 'La ilaha illa-Allah', shall enter Paradise." [Abu Daw'ud; Al-Hakim - a sound hadith]. But one who is unable to speak might say these words in his heart. The scholars state that no pressure should be put on the dying person.

When Death Occurs

Once the person is confirmed dead, family members or those who are present should first say:

Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un [Verily we belong to Allah, and truly to Him shall we return]

Close the eyes of the deceased.

- They should try to close his/her lower jaw to his head so that it does not sag.
- They should cover all his/her body completely with a clean sheet.
- They should make Dua' (Supplicate) to Allah to forgive him/her.

Muslims strive to bury the deceased as soon as possible after death, avoiding the need for embalming or otherwise disturbing the body of the deceased. An autopsy may be performed, if legally required, but should be done with the utmost respect for the dead.

Washing and Shrouding

In preparation for burial, the family or other members of the community will wash and shroud the body. (If the deceased was killed as a martyr, this step is not performed; martyrs are buried in the clothes they died in.) The deceased will be washed respectfully, with clean and scented water, in a manner similar to how Muslims make ablutions for prayer. The body will then be wrapped in sheets of clean, white cloth (called the *kafan*).

Funeral Prayers

The deceased is then transported to the site of the funeral prayers (*salat-l-janazah*). These prayers can be held outdoors, in a courtyard or public square and, not necessarily inside the mosque. The community gathers, and the *imam* (prayer leader) stands in front of the deceased, facing away from the worshippers. The funeral prayer is detailed on page 3 (**there is no bowing or prostration, and the entire prayer is said silently**).

Burial

The deceased is then taken to the cemetery for burial (*al-dafin*). While all members of the community attend the funeral prayers, only the men of the community accompany the body to the gravesite. It is preferred for a Muslim to be buried in the land where he or she died, and not be transported to another location or country (which may cause delays or require embalming the body). If available, a cemetery (or section of one) set aside for Muslims is preferred. The deceased is laid in the grave (without a coffin if permitted by local law) on his or her right side, facing Mecca. At the gravesite, it is discouraged for people to erect tombstones, elaborate markers, or other mementoes. Rather, one should humbly remember Allah and His mercy, and pray for the deceased.

Mourning

Widows observe a mourning period (*iddah*), 4 months and 10 days long, in accordance with the *Qur'an 2:234*. During this time, she is not to remarry.

When one dies, everything in this earthly life is left behind, and there are no more opportunities to perform acts of righteousness and faith. The Prophet Muhammad once said that there are three things, however, which may continue to benefit a person after death: charity given during life which continues to help others, knowledge from which people continue to benefit, and a righteous child who prays for him or her.

STEPS OF SALAT-UL-JANAZAH (The Funeral Prayer)

All conditions for regular Salat are required in Salat-ul-Janazah such as clean body and clothes (Wudu), Intention, and facing the Kab'ba (Qiblah).

Muslims should form a minimum of three lines facing the Qiblah. The one who leads the Salat is the Imam (leader) or his deputy, or the deceased's father or most pious among Musalli.

If there is only one Muslim with the Imam, he should stand behind the Imam.

The body (ies) should be placed in front of the person who leads the prayer. In case there are more than one dead Muslim (Males and females), then the female(s) should be placed in the first row(s) in the direction of the Qiblah, then the male(s) in the following row(s), then the Imam.

Behind the Imam, men stand in lines, then children, then women.

There is **NO** Athan, Iqama, Rukuh or Sujud.

Saying the appropriate Intention (neeyah), raise your hands in the usual manner, **follow the Imam** and say:

1) " Allah-u Akbar ". Fold your right hand over the left hand in the usual manner. Recite the **THANA** *silently*.

سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ وَتَبَارَكَ اسْمُكَ وَ
وَتَعَالَى جَدُّكَ وَجَلَّ شَأْنُكَ وَلَا إِلَهَ غَيْرُكَ

*Subhaanaka allaahumma wa bihamdika wa tabaaraka
ismuka wa ta'aala jadduka wa jalla thannaa-uka wa laal
ilaaha ghayruka*

(Translation: Glory be to you Oh Allah, and praise be to You, and blessed is your name, and exalted is Your Majesty, and there is none to be served besides you.)

And then, recite **Surah Fatiha** *silently*.

2) Follow the Imam and say : "**Allah-u Akbar**". After which **recite the Tashahud** *silently*.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ
مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ
إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مُجِيدٌ
اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ
كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مُجِيدٌ

Allahumma sallee ala-Muhammad wa'ala alee Muhammad kama sallayta ala Ibrahim wa ala alee Ibrahim, innaka hamidun Majeed. Allahumma barik ala Muhammad wa'ala alee Muhammad kama barakta ala Ibrahim wa ala alee Ibrahim, innaka hamidun Majeed.

(Translation: O Allah! Shower Your mercy upon Muhammad (SAW) and the followers of Muhammad (SAW), as You showered Your mercy upon Ibrahim and the followers of Ibrahim. Truly you are Most Glorious and Most Praiseworthy. Oh Allah! Shower Your blessing upon Muhammad (SAW), and

the followers of Muhammad (SAW) as You showered Your blessings upon Ibrahim and the followers of Ibrahim Truly you are Most Glorious and Most Praiseworthy.

3) Follow the Imam and say: "**Allah-o Akbar**". Then **make dua' (Supplicate) for the deceased and make dua (Supplicate) for all dead Muslims**. In the case of a dead baby or young child, make dua (Supplicate) for his parents.

4) Follow the Imam and say: "**Allah-o Akbar**". After which say: "**Assalamu alykum**", like you say in other Salats.

This concludes the Janazah Salah.

Cemetery Locations & Contact Details

The cost of grave plots vary between cemeteries, please enquire directly with them or contact our office for details.

Muslim Cemeteries

The following is a list of cemeteries, which are owned and operated by Muslims:

Gardens of Peace (Riadh ul-Islam) www.gardens-of-peace.org.uk Elmbridge Road Hainault, Ilford, Essex IG6 3SW Tel: 020 8502 6000 Mob: 07729 707 013	Waltham Forest Muslim Trust Folley Lane London E17 Tel: 020 8989 0400 / 020 8558 9948 Mob: 07976 378 239
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Cemeteries with Muslim Sections

The following is a list of cemeteries that have sections for Muslims:

<p>Edmonton Cemetery www.enfield.gov.uk Montague Road Edmonton, London N7 Tel: 01375 891 440 M: 07961 170659</p>	<p>East Finchley Cemetery www.islington.gov.uk High Road East Finchley, London N2 9AG Tel: 020 8883 1230 Fax: 020 8883 2784</p>
<p>Trent Park Cemetery www.islington.gov.uk Cockfosters Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN4 0DZ Tel: 020 7527 8300 Fax: 020 8883 2784</p>	<p>St Pancras Cemetery www.camden.gov.uk High Road East Finchley, London N2 9AG Tel: 020 8883 1231 Fax: 020 8365 2178</p>
<p>Hendon Cemetery www.barnet.gov.uk Holders Hill Road London NW7 1NB Tel: 020 8346 0657 Fax: 020 8343 4568</p>	<p>Harrow Weald Cemetery www.harrow.gov.uk Clamphill (off Uxbridge Road) Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3JS Tel: 020 8424 1596 Fax: 020 8424 1109</p>
<p>Greenford Cemetery www.ealing.gov.uk Widnmill Lane Greenford, Middlesex Tel: 020 8825 6030 Fax: 020 8825 6336</p>	<p>Hatton Cemetery www.hounslow.info Faggs Road Feltham Tel: 020 8894 2677 Fax: 020 8894 2396</p>
<p>Hortus Cemetery www.ealing.gov.uk Merrick Road Southall, Middlesex Tel: 020 8825 6030 Fax: 020 8825 6336</p>	<p>North Watford Cemetery www.watford.gov.uk North West Avenue Watford WD25 0AW Tel: 01923 672157 Fax: 01923 672157</p>