



Guidelines

“Bathing the Deceased”

National Khidmat-e-Khalq Department
Lajna Ima'illah UK



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Introduction

When somebody seems to be approaching the time of death, recitation of the Surah Ya- Sin (Chapter 36 of the Holy Quran) is recommended)

Also, recite in a low but audible tone, **KALIMAH TAYYABA** and **KALIMAH SHAHADAH** near the person concerned after death.

Once the person dies, all present should recite: **'INNA-LILLAHI WA INNA ILAYI HI RAA JI- OON.'** *i.e* Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.'(2:157)



First steps to take after the death of a person

- ❑ One should remain calm and patient, and avoid wailing loud. In Islam death is treated with great dignity. A deceased Muslim is given utmost respect and his/her body is handled according to the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad(sa).
- ❑ Gently lower the eyelids by hand so that the eyes are closed. Then using a piece of cloth , tie round the chin and head so that the mouth remains closed.
- ❑ Legs should be straightened as much as possible.
- ❑ The Body should be covered with a clean sheet.

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METHOD OF BATHING THE DECEASED

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LIST OF ITEMS REQUIRED

1. **Shroud**
2. **4 medium sized terry towels/cloths**
3. **4 bath towels**
4. **3 pieces of absorbent cotton roll**
5. **Either a bar of soap with subtle smell, shower gel or bubble bath.**
6. **Shampoo (if using a bar soap)**
7. **Comb or hair brush**
8. **Q-tips/cotton buds**
9. **Camphor (small bottle or a few tablets)**
10. **Gloves/any cloths**
11. **Perfume (either one used by the deceased in their life or a very soft scented perfume)**
12. **Scissors**



Bathing the deceased

- Wudhu should be performed by those who are to give Ghussl
- Women can only perform Ghussl on women, except if women are performing Ghussl on her husband if no other person is available and vice versa.
- Gloves should be worn at all times whilst bathing the deceased.
- During Ghussl, the body should be kept covered at all times in order to maintain privacy and respect, from the navel to the knee and the chest area, with a towel or piece of cloth.
- Body's unclean parts i.e. the underarms and private parts should be cleaned first using a piece of cloth or towel. This cloth should then be disposed of.

Bathing the deceased



- **Following the cleaning of the private parts, wudhu should be performed on the deceased. Care should be taken throughout that water does not enter the mouth and nostrils.**
- **Next the body should be washed. First the right side, then the left.**
- **Last wash should be given of water mixed with camphor and berry sidr leaves if available.**
- **The body must be washed at least once or three times if preferred.**
- **Dua for Wudhu should be recited throughout the washing process.**
- **Hair of the deceased should be untied and kept at the back while bathing.**
- **After body and hair are washed, hair is to be separated into two parts and brought to the front (if possible) of the shoulders and left there.**

Bathing the deceased



- **The body and hair should then be dried using clean towels.**
- **Finally the body should be wrapped in the shroud.**
- **Please note that it is important for those giving Ghussl that they take a bath and perform Wudhu after bathing the deceased.**
- **After Ghussl men can see the face of the deceased man and women that of a woman, but only near relatives are permitted to see the face, if of the other gender.**



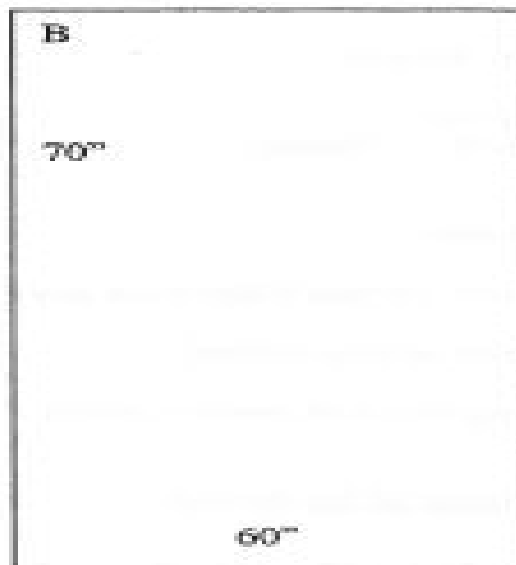
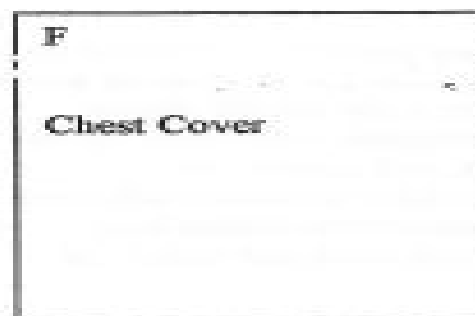
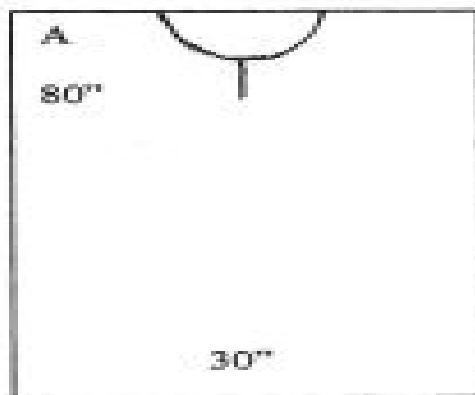
WOMEN'S SHROUD

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- Shroud should be made using inexpensive white cotton cloth, as the Sunnah tells us.
 - Shroud is a wrap of three pieces of cloth for men and a wrap of 5 pieces of cloth for women.
 - **WOMAN'S SHROUD:**
 1. Lifafah-outer sheet : (96"x60")
 2. Shirt for top part of body (80"x30") (fold in half and make opening for neck)
 3. Azar - (70"x60")
 4. Sina-band-7ft by 5ft
 5. Odhni/Scarf - 4ft by 2ft
- TOTAL** of about 35 ft by 5 which is around 13 m.
Note: The length of the shroud can be adjusted according to the persons' height.

Shroud Measurement



- A) Shirt for top part of body (80" x 30") (fold in half and made an opening for neck)
- B) Azar for bottom part of the body (70" x 60")
- C) Large cover sheet or Chadar to cover head to feet. (100" x 60")
- D) For the head (2" x 30")
- E) For feet (2" x 30")
- F) For woman's Chest
- G) For woman's head

Note: These measurements are for approximately for 5.8" to 5.10" of height. The length of the shroud can be adjusted according to person's height.



Order of sheets in wrapping of the shroud

- First, place the cover sheet in the casket known as Lifafah
- Second, the bottom sheet (azar or trousers)
- Third, place the top sheet (kurta or shirt) last. Having the top part of the sheet rolled up to the shoulders, so that when the body is placed on it, can easily slide over the head and onto the front torso of the body.
- Finally, place the body on the sheets of the casket.
- To enclose the shroud: cover the chest, in the case of a woman; then cover upper torso with rolled sheet. Enclose Azar or trousers and finally cover with large sheet or chaddar. The chaddar or cover is left open for viewing.
- Just before closing the casket this sheet covers the whole body including the face.
- Gently tie the shroud above the head and below the toes.

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Method for offering the funeral prayers

Funeral prayers are to be conducted in utmost simplicity.

- After bathing and wrapping the body is to be carried on shoulders to the place where the funeral prayer is to commence.
- Funeral prayer is held in the open or in a place built for this purpose called JANAZAH GAH or in a Funeral Home.
- Namaz-e-Janazah is performed by the Imam with the body resting in front of him with the position of the body so that the right side of the body should be towards the Kaabah.
- There's no ruku or sajda in the janaza prayer.



Dua-e-janazah *Funeral prayer*

أَللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِحَيِّنَا وَ مَيِّتِنَا وَ شَاهِدِنَا وَ غَائِبِنَا وَ صَغِيرِنَا وَ كَبِيرِنَا
وَ ذَكَرِنَا وَ أَنْثَانَا . أَللَّهُمَّ مَنْ أَحْيَيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَأَحْيِهِ عَلَى الْإِسْلَامِ
وَ مَنْ تَوَفَّيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَتَوَفَّهُ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ . أَللَّهُمَّ لَا تَحْرِمْنَا أَجْرَهُ
وَ لَا تَفْتِنَّا بَعْدَهُ .

Transliteration:

*Allahumaghfir lihayyina wa mayyitina wa shahidina wa ghaibina wa saghirina wa kabirina,
wa thakarina wa unthana. Allahumma man ahyaitahu minna fa ahyihi 'alal Islam, wa man
tawaffaitahu minna fa tawaffahu 'alal-Iman. Allahumma la tahrinna ajrahu wala taftinna
b'adah.*

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Translation

O Allāh! Forgive our living ones and our deceased ones and those of us who are present and those who are absent, and our young ones and our old ones and our males and our females.

O Allāh! Those of us whom You grant life, keep them firm on Islām, and those of us whom You cause to die, cause them to die in the faith. Deprive us not, O Allāh, of the benefits relating to the deceased and subject us not to trial after him.

(Tirmidhī Kitābul Janā'iz Bāb mā yaqūlu fī Ṣalātal mayyat and Abū Dā'ūd Kitābul Janā'iz wa Kitābud Du'ā' Lil Ṭibrānī Vol. 3S p 1351)

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Dua-e -Janazah: cont'd

(Tirmidhī Kitābul Janā'iz Bāb mā yaqūlu fī Ṣalātal mayyat and Abū Dā'ūd Kitābul Janā'iz wa Kitābud Du'ā' Lil Ṭibrānī Vol. 3S p 1351)

Note: If the deceased is a female, read

أَجْرَهَا وَلَا تَفْتِنَّا بَعْدَهَا

ajrahā wa lā taftinnā ba'dahā

instead of

أَجْرَهُ وَلَا تَفْتِنَّا بَعْدَهُ

Some frequently asked questions

QUESTION	ANSWER
▪ Can ladies help in bathing the deceased during periods (khaas ayyam)? Are women allowed to touch the deceased during periods?	Yes they can. Touching and bathing of the deceased, by ladies during menstruation is not forbidden.
▪ Is it permissible to remove hair from the deceased's body?	No this is unnecessary and should not be done.
▪ Is it permissible for a wife to give bath to her husband's deceased body or vice versa?	Yes, it is permissible.
▪ Is it appropriate to bury dead person's favourite things along with the body?	This is not allowed.
▪ Is it the Islamic perspective on putting flowers on or by the grave?	It is not part of Islamic practice or Sunnah; hence Ahmadis should refrain from such practices.
▪ Do we need to remove any kind of nail polish etc. from the dead body's hands or feet?	It is not necessary and the body should be left as it was at the time of death.
▪ Are women allowed to visit graveyards during menstruation?	There are no restrictions on women visiting graveyards during their periods



The references have been taken from:

- www.alislam.org
- **Fiqah Ahmadiyya PART 1 (Hissa Ibadaat)**
- **Welcome to Ahmadiyyat, The True Islam by Dr. Karimullah Zirvi**
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