



## The Description of the Funeral Prayer<sup>1</sup>

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الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على نبيه ورسوله محمد وعلى آله أما بعد:

So this a summarized [article] on the description of the funeral prayer (صلاة الجنازة) as has come in the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ):

### Before the Prayer:

Make wudu [like] how you make wudu for the [regular] prayer and then face the Qiblah. Stand at the waist [of the deceased if it is] a woman and at the head [if the deceased is] a man.

### First Takbir:

1. Raise your hands to the level of your ears or shoulders and make Takbir [i.e. say: Allahu Akbar]
2. Seek refuge in Allah from Shaytan, the accursed. Then say the *basmalah* [i.e. Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Raheem] and recite Fatiha

### Second Takbir:

1. Make Takbir (it was not established from the Prophet (ﷺ) that he raised his hands in the funeral prayer in other than the first Takbir)
2. Then send blessings upon the Prophet (ﷺ). The best [thing] is to send blessings upon him with what was established in Saheeh Bukhari (no. 3370) and in Saheeh Muslim (no. 406) on the authority of Ka'b ibn 'Ujarah (may Allah be pleased with him) who said: the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

قُولُوا اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ، كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ، اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ، كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ، وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

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<sup>1</sup> The original Arabic text used for the translation can be found on the Shaikh's website here:

<http://sh-eryani.com/detail.php?type=art&id=20>

Say: “O Allah, send salah upon Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad, just as You sent salah upon Ibraheem and upon the followers of Ibraheem. Verily, You are full of praise and majesty. O Allah, send blessings upon Muhammad and upon the family of Muhammad, just as You sent blessings upon Ibraheem and upon the family of Ibraheem. Verily, You are full of praise and majesty”.

### Third Takbir:

1. Make Takbir
2. Then supplicate for the deceased by asking for forgiveness and mercy for them. Supplicate sincerely for them. The best [thing] is to supplicate with what is established from the Prophet (ﷺ). From that:

- A. In Saheeh Muslim (no. 963) on the authority of ‘Awf ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) who said:

صَلَّى رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى جَنَازَةٍ فَحَفِظْتُ مِنْ دُعَائِهِ وَهُوَ يَقُولُ: اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمْهُ وَعَافِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنْهُ وَأَكْرِمْ نُزُلَهُ وَوَسِّعْ مَدْخَلَهُ وَاغْسِلْهُ بِالْمَاءِ وَالتَّلْجِ وَالْبَرَدِ وَنَقِّهِ مِنَ الْخَطَايَا كَمَا نَقَّيْتَ الثَّوْبَ الْأَبْيَضَ مِنَ الدَّنَسِ وَأَبْدِلْهُ دَارًا خَيْرًا مِنْ دَارِهِ وَأَهْلًا خَيْرًا مِنْ أَهْلِهِ وَزَوْجًا خَيْرًا مِنْ زَوْجِهِ وَأَدْخِلْهُ الْجَنَّةَ وَأَعِذْهُ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ أَوْ مِنْ عَذَابِ النَّارِ. قَالَ حَتَّى تَمْنَيْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ أَنَا ذَلِكَ الْمَيِّتَ

The Prophet (ﷺ) prayed on the dead body and I remembered his prayer: “O Allah! forgive him, have mercy upon him, give him peace and absolve him. Receive him with honour and make his grave spacious; wash him with water, snow and hail. Cleanse him from faults as You would cleanse a white garment from impurity. Requite him with an abode more excellent than his abode, with a family better than his family, and with a mate better than his mate. Admit him to the Garden, and protect him from the torment of the grave and the torment of the Fire.” (‘Awf bin Malik) said: I earnestly desired that I were this dead body.

- B. It is reported in Abu Dawood (no. 3201) on the authority Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) who said:

صَلَّى رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى جَنَازَةٍ فَقَالَ: اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِحَيِّنَا وَمَيِّتِنَا وَصَغِيرِنَا وَكَبِيرِنَا وَذَكَرِنَا وَأُنثَانَا وَشَاهِدِنَا وَغَائِبِنَا اللَّهُمَّ مَنْ أَحْيَيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَأَحْيِهِ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ وَمَنْ تَوَفَّيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَتَوَفَّهُ عَلَى الْإِسْلَامِ اللَّهُمَّ لَا تَحْرِمْنَا أَجْرَهُ وَلَا تَضِلَّنَا بَعْدَهُ

When the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) prayed over a dead person, he said: “O Allah, forgive those of us who are living and those of us who are dead, those of us who are present and those of us who are absent, our young and our old, our male and our female. O Allah, to whomsoever of us You give life grant him life as a believer, and whomsoever of us You take in death, take him in death as a follower of Islam. O Allah, do not withhold from us the reward (of faith) and do not lead us astray after his death”.

- C. In Abu Dawood (no. 3202) on the authority of Wathilah ibn Asqa' (may Allah be pleased with him) who said:

صَلَّى بِنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى رَجُلٍ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ فَسَمِعْتُهُ يَقُولُ: اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّ فُلَانَ بَنَ فُلَانٍ فِي ذِمَّتِكَ وَحَبْلِ جَوَارِكَ فَقِهِ مِنْ فِتْنَةِ الْقَبْرِ وَعَذَابِ النَّارِ وَأَنْتَ أَهْلُ الْوَفَاءِ وَالْحَمْدِ اللَّهُمَّ فَاغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمْهُ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) led us in prayer over bier of a Muslim and I heard him say: “O Allah, so and so, son of so and so, is in your protection and nearer presence, so guard him from the trial in the grave and the punishment in Hell. You are the Faithful and Worthy of praise. O Allah, forgive him and show him mercy. You are the Oft-forgiving and the Merciful one”

#### Fourth Takbir

1. Then make Takbir
2. Then give tasleem (salutations) like how you give tasleem (salutations) in the [regular] prayer

#### Note:

It is established from the Prophet (ﷺ) in the Saheehayn from a group of Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) that he (ﷺ) only made four Takbirs. However, it is established also in Saheeh Muslim (no. 957) on the authority of Zaid ibn Arqam (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (ﷺ) made five Takbirs. So it is upon a person to act upon this Sunnah sometimes. [In this situation], he supplicates after the fourth Takbir, then makes the fifth Takbir, then makes tasleem (salutations).

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