

Understanding the Janazah

7 Procedures One Should Not Practice

A. During the washing of the body: DO NOT -

1. Clip the deceased nails, or shave the armpit or pubic hair.
2. Recite specific dhikir while conducting the wash for each part of the body being washed.
3. Recite portions of the Quran while washing or shrouding the body.
4. Arrange the woman's hair between her breasts.

B. During the shrouding of the body: DO NOT -

1. Use expensive shrouds.
2. Write the Kalimah, name, or anything on the body.
3. Write supplication(s) on the shroud.
4. Use more than the necessary 3 sheets for the male and 5 sheets for the female.
5. Use additional sheet(s) to wrap the deceased's private area.
6. Use a Khamis-type (shirt) sheet for the male.

C. When carrying the body/casket: DO NOT -

1. Adore the janazah.
2. Walk slowly to the graveyard.
3. Raise one's voice with dhikir or Quranic recitation for the deceased.
4. Slaughter an animal on behalf of the deceased.
5. Talk about worldly affairs while following the janazah.

D. During the burial process: DO NOT -

1. Prompt the deceased with the Kalimah (Shahadah) while in the grave.
2. Place two stones on a woman's grave.
3. Praise the deceased after burial.
4. Put food or drink over the grave to be taken by the poor.
5. Pour water over the grave.
6. Spread flower petals over the grave.
7. Raise and build the grave with marble and upright tombstones.
8. Write Quran, yearly dates, or poetry on the tombstone.
9. Plant flowers, plants, or place green branches on the grave when it is being visited.
10. Hang the deceased's picture on the tombstone.
11. Deliver a speech after the burial, except for the supplication.
12. Call the Adhan or Qamat while lowering the body into the grave.

E. When visiting the graves:

1. DO NOT specifically visit:
 - a. The graves on the 3rd, 7th, 15th, 40th, 100th day, or 1-year anniversary after the burial.
 - b. The parent's graves every Friday (this is a fabricated Hadith).
 - c. The graves on the two days of Eid, or the day of Ashura (10th), or the middle night of Sha'ban.
 - d. The graves during the months of Rajab, Sha'ban, or Ramadhan.

Understanding the Janazah

7 Procedures One Should Not Practice

2. DO NOT perform unsubstantiated rituals, such as:
 - a. Stand near the grave with hands on the chest, as if in prayer.
 - b. Walk slowly to the grave.
 - c. Carry or bring flags, flowers, wreaths, or the deceased pictures to the grave.
 - d. Perform tayammum (dry ablution) upon reaching the graves.
 - e. Reverse the salam (greeting) by saying 'alaikum as-salam.
 - f. Raise the voice with forms of dhikir, or saying 'La ilaha illa-Allah'.
 - g. Seek help from the deceased or ask them to supplicate for the visitor.
 - h. Slaughter or sacrifice animals by the grave.

3. DO NOT pray and/or Recite Quran:
 - a. By beginning the visit with praying two Rak'at.
 - b. By reciting Surat-ul Ikhlas (Quran - 112), or Yasin (Quran - 36) over the graves.
 - c. Or pay someone to recite Quran over a grave, and offer the reward of the recitation to the deceased.
 - d. Or take the Quran or books to the graveyards to read from them, or place them by the graves for others to read.

NOTE: These are some of the innovations that one should not practice or perform. There are other rituals that are being done, so please practice what is authentic Sunnah, and eliminate any cultural rituals or practices that have been passed down from generations to generations. Bid'ah or innovations is a major sin and earns those who practice innovation the punishment of the Hell Fire.

