

Funeral provision



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Introduction:

Praise be to Allah, Who is Everlasting and had prescribed death upon all living beings; and peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad and his family, Companions, and his followers!

Human beings are bound to face afflictions and misfortunes in this world. Allah Almighty says:

﴿وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ
وَالشَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِيرِ الصَّابِرِينَ﴾ [البقرة: 155]

{And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits)
[Surat al-Baqarah:155]

He subsequently tells us about what the afflicted people should do: show patience. {But give good tidings to the patient} and to exhibit contentment and submission regarding whatever Allah decrees.

﴿الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ﴾ [البقرة: 156]

{Who, when a disaster strikes them, say: "Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return"}
}

[Surat al-Baqarah:156] Whoever does so shall have a good consequence.

﴿أُولَئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٥٧﴾﴾ [البقرة:

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{Those are the ones upon whom are blessings from their Lord and mercy. And it is those who are rightly guided} [Surat al-Baqarah:157] Here is a short message for you who have lost a relative or a loved one. We implore Allah Almighty to make it useful for you and ourselves! The message is entitled: "Rulings of Funerals".

We ask Allah Almighty to give you reward and comfort and bestow His forgiveness and pleasure upon the deceased.

Divine glad tidings:

Dear brother, O you who have been afflicted with the calamity of death, remember the divine statement: {Give good tidings to the patient.}

* The Prophet's death should be a great source of solace for you. He (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "If a calamity befalls anyone of you, let him remember his calamity in (my death), for indeed it is one of the greatest calamities." [Narrated by At-Tabārani]

* You are promised compensation, as stated by the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). Umm Salamah, may Allah be pleased with her, reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) say: "If a calamity befalls any person and he says, 'Indeed, we belong to Allah, and we shall indeed return to Him; O Allah, reward me for my calamity and compensate me with something better,' Allah will surely reward him for his calamity and compensate him with something better." [Narrated by Muslim]

* Your Lord has afflicted you so as to expiate your sins. Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri and Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with them, reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "No fatigue, disease, sorrow, sadness, hurt, or distress befalls a Muslim, even if it were a prick of thorn, except that Allah will expiate some of his sins for that." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri]

Allah Almighty promised you a house in Paradise. Abu Mūsa al-Ash'ari (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "If a person's child dies, Allah says to His angels: 'Have you taken the life of My servant's child?' They reply: 'Yes!' He says: 'Have you taken the apple of his eye?' They reply: 'Yes!' He says: 'What did My servant say?' They reply: 'He praised You and said: 'We belong to Allah and we shall return to Him!'" He says: 'Build for my servant a house in Paradise and call it the House of Praise.'" [Narrated by At-Tirmidhi; classified as Hasan by Al-Albāni]

* Allah Almighty even promised you Paradise. Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon

him) said: "Allah Almighty said: I have no reward except Paradise for a believing servant of Mine who shows patience and anticipates My reward if I take away the one he loves most from among the people of this world.'" [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri]

* Do not fear or grieve for the loved one you have lost, but trust your Lord and expect good from Him. 'Abdullah ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"When one of you dies, he is shown his place both in the morning and in the evening. If he is one of the people of Paradise, he is shown his place in it, and if he is from the people of Hell, he is shown his place in it. Then, it will be said to him: 'This is your place till Allah resurrect you on the Day of Judgment.'" [Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Virtue of following funeral processions:

First: Following the procession from home till prayer is offered on the deceased.

Second: Following it from home till the end of burial, which is better and more rewarded.

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Whoever follows a funeral procession and offers the funeral prayer will get one Qirāt in reward; and whoever attends it till burial will get two Qirāts." It was asked: "What are the two Qirāts?" He said: "Equal to two huge mountains." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri and Muslim]

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Who amongst you is fasting today?" Abu Bakr said: 'I am.' He said: 'Who amongst you followed a funeral procession today?' Abu Bakr said: 'I did.' He again said: 'Who amongst you served food to the needy today?' Abu Bakr said: 'I did.' He further asked: 'Who amongst you visited a sick person today?' Abu Bakr said: 'I did.' Thereupon, the Messenger of

Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:
'Whoever combines these will certainly enter
Paradise.'" [Narrated by Muslim]

The manner of performing funeral prayer:

The first Takbir: Seek refuge with Allah from the accursed Satan, mention the name of Allah, and recite Surat al-Fātihah and a short Sūrah or just a few verses.

The second Takbir: Invoke the peace and blessings of Allah upon Prophet Muhammad: (As-Salah al-Ibrāhimiyyah, i.e. the one recited in Tashahhud).

The third Takbir: Supplicate for the deceased, preferably with the following invocation: "O Allah, forgive the living amongst us and the dead, those who are present and those who are absent, the young and old, and the male and female. O Allah, whosoever of us You keep alive, keep him alive upon Islam; and whosoever of us You cause to die, let him die upon faith." "O Allah, forgive him, bestow mercy upon him, pardon him, accord him a noble provision and make his grave spacious, wash him with water, snow, and hail, and cleanse him from sins as white garment is cleansed from dirt. O Allah, give him a better abode instead of his present abode and a better spouse instead of his present spouse. O Allah, admit him to Paradise and protect him from the punishment of the grave and the punishment of Hellfire, and make his grave

spacious and give him light therein. O Allah, do not deprive us of the reward (for supplicating for him) and do not cause us to go astray after him." These invocations are reported from the Prophet, may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him. It is also good if you want to make other supplications, like "O Allah, if he was righteous, increase his good deeds; and if he was evildoer, pardon his evil deeds. O Allah, forgive him and make him firm with the firm statement!"

The fourth Takbir: Stand for a little while and make one Taslīm to the right, saying: Assalamu 'Alaykum Wa Rahmatullah.

States of funeral prayer:

It could be offered in the place of funeral prayer; in the mosque; before burial in the graveyard; or after burial in the graveyard, immediately or after a while.

Ibn 'Abbās (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) passed by a grave of a deceased person who had just been buried at night. He said: 'When was he buried?' They said: 'Yesterday.' He said: 'Why did you not inform me?' They said: 'We buried him in the darkness of night and did not like to wake you up.' Thereupon, he stood up and we lined behind him. I was one of them. The Prophet offered the funeral prayer for him.'" [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri and Muslim]

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that a black person, man or woman, who used to clean the mosque, passed away. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) did not know about it. One day the Prophet remembered him/her and said: "What happened to that person?" The people replied: 'O Messenger of Allah! He/she died.'" He said: "Why did you not inform me?" They said: "He was such-and-

such." The narrator said: "They regarded him as insignificant." Thereupon, the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Show me his/her grave." He then went to the grave and offered the funeral prayer. [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri]

Key guidelines:

First: The funeral should be prepared quickly and the burial should take place without unjustified delay. Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Hurry up with the funeral. If the deceased is righteous, then you are speeding him to goodness; and if he is otherwise, then you are laying an evil off your necks." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri and Muslim]

Second: One should not refrain from offering the funeral prayer or be too lazy to follow the funeral procession.

Third: There should be no delay in settling the deceased person's debts. Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), said: "The soul of a believer remains suspended on account of his debt until it is settled." [Narrated by Ahmad and At-Tirmidhi]

Fourth: There should be no wailing, in which one loudly cries and enumerates good traits and feats of the deceased. This attitude belongs to the pre-Islamic period of ignorance. Abu Mālik al-Ash'ari (may Allah be pleased

with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "There are four characteristics belonging to the pre-Islamic period which my followers will not abandon: boasting of high rank, reviling other peoples' linages, seeking rain through stars, and wailing." [Narrated by Muslim]

Fifth: One should not walk or sit on the grave: 'Uqbah ibn 'Āmir (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "If I were to walk on a live coal or a sword or sew my shoes to my feet, that would be better for me than walking on the grave of a Muslim." [Narrated by Ibn Mājah]

Sixth: There should be no hastiness in supplicating for the deceased and leaving after burial. 'Uthmān ibn 'Affān (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: Whenever the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) finished the burial of a dead person, he would stand by the grave and say: "Seek forgiveness for your brother and pray for him to be steadfast, for he is being questioned now." [Narrated by Abu Dāwud]

Seventh: Greeting the dwellers of graves upon visiting them or passing by them. Buraydah (may Allah be pleased

with him) reported: "The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) used to teach them that whenever they went out to visit the graveyard, to say: "Peace be upon you, O believing and Muslim dwellers of the abodes! We shall follow you, Allah willing. May Allah grant safety to you and us!" [Narrated by Muslim]

Eighth: People should not engage in talk about worldly matters, without paying due attention to the place and situation they are in.

Conclusion

Death is a door through which all people will pass. Indeed, nothing can preach us better than the death of others. May Allah have mercy upon your dead and forgive them and all dead Muslims!

May Allah's peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his Companions all!

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