

Chapter – 19

Funeral

(جنازه)

Quran:

وَكُنْتُمْ أَمْوَاتًا فَأَحْيَاكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ

{Whereas you were dead and He gave life to you; then He will give you death, then bring you to life again, and then it is to him you will remain. (02:28)}

وَأَنَّهُ هُوَ أَمَاتَ وَأَحْيَا

{And that it is He who gave death and gave life. (53:44)}

ثُمَّ أَمَاتَهُ فَأَقْبَرَهُ

{Then gave him death, so had him put in the grave (80:21)}

Hadith:

Narrated Abu Hurairah:

It is the saying of Prophet, "There are five rights of a Muslim on the Muslims: Return the greeting; Visit to the sick person; Follow the funeral procession; Accept invitations; and to reply to the sneezer". (Sahih Bukhari: 1166)

Narrated Um 'Atiyyah, Hafsa bint Sirin, Ayyub Ansari:

Allah's Prophet came to us while we were giving a bath to his (dead) daughter and he said, "Put some leaves of the jujube in water then give bath for an odd number of times, 3 or 5 times. It was also said that start with the right side and with the parts which were washed in ablution and said sprinkle camphor on her at the end. We did the same and we combed the washed hair and divided them in to three parts. After finishing we informed the Prophet. He gave us his waist sheet and told us to cover her with this sheet. (Sahih Bukhari: 1178 to 1187)

Narrated 'Amir Bin Rabi'a:

The Prophet said, "Whenever you see a funeral procession, stand up till the procession goes ahead of you, or is put down." (Sahih Bukhari: 1227 and 1228)

Narrated Saeed Al-Maqburi:

While we were accompanying a funeral procession, Abu Hurairah got hold of the hand of Marwan and they sat down before the coffin was put down. Then Abu Saeed came and took hold of Marwan's hand and said, "Get up. By Allah, Prophet forbade us not to sit before the coffin is put down." Abu Hurairah said, "He (Abu Saeed) has spoken the truth." (Sahih Bukhari: 1229)

Important Aspects of Islamic Doctrine

Obligatory (فرض):

(1) Prayer for Funeral is Obligatory Kifayah. That means, if few persons belonging to the area offer prayer would be considered as if all persons have offered. (2) Fatawa Aalamgiri says that prayer in congregation is not essential. If one offers means all offered. (3) However, prayer in congregation is preferable; rather it is better if more and more persons join the congregation.

Essential (واجب):

(1) Giving bath to the dead body. (2) First cleaning the filthy parts; then ablution and then washing the whole body. (3) Covering the body with neat, clean and unstitched new sheets. (4) Burial in a proper grave in the graveyard. (5) If the dead person had any debts, clearing of it at the earliest by his heirs.

Sunnah (سنة):

(1) Washing the whole body three times by rolling it. (2) Using leaves of the jujube in water. (3) Coffin sheets should be white. (4) Avoiding delays in bathing, coffin and burial. (5) Lifting of funeral by 4 persons. (6) Congregation should carry the funeral by average speed. (7) Offering prayers as recommended by the Prophet. (8) Recitations of verses as suggested by the Prophet.

Desirable (مستحب):

(1) Keeping scent close to the coffin. (2) Giving shoulder to the funeral is worship, so should be done as much as possible. (3) Try to give shoulders to all the 4 corners. (4) Avoid any transport for carrying coffin to the graveyard. (5) The dead body should face to the Qiblah. (6) At the end, throwing three handful of earth on the grave. (7) Reciting first and last parts of Surat-ul-Baqarah. (8) Lastly, offering Fatiha.

