



FUNERAL PRAYER

**Its Excellence
and Legislated Invocations
Recited Therein**

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The Excellence of Witnessing the Funeral, The Prayer and Burying

The Messenger of Allah, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: "Whoever follows the funeral procession until the funeral prayers are performed, will get a reward equal to one Qirat, and Whoever follows it till burial, will get a reward equal to two Qirat." It was asked, "What are two Qirat?" He, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, replied, "Equal to two huge mountains," [Agreed Upon].

How to Perform The Funeral Prayer

- **Takbir** (Saying: "Allahu Akbar") is recited four times.
- The **first takbir** is pronounced, then protection is sought from Allah from Shaitaan (Satan), followed by reciting Surah Al-Fatiha silently.
- The **second takbir** is pronounced, and prayers are sent upon the Prophet by saying: Allahuma Sali Alaa Muhammad wa ala Aali Muhammad kama salait ala ibrahim wa ala Aali Ibrahim Innaka Hamidun Majid.
- The **third takbir** is pronounced, and invocations are made for the deceased saying, "O Allah, forgive him and shower your mercy upon him ..." this will be explained in detail.
- The **fourth takbir** is pronounced, and there is a short pause before saying salaam on the right hand side only.

Invocations Which Are Recited During the Funeral Prayer

*Invocations for the deceased is recited after
the third Takbir (the Legislated Invocation)*

- It was narrated by Abu Hurairah, may Allah be

pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah, Sala Allahu Alihi Wasalam, prayed over a dead person and invoked: "O-Allah, forgive those of us who are living and those of us who are dead, our young and our old, our male and our female, those of us who are present and those of us who are absent. 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 performing Salah upon him "i.e. the deceased") and do not lead us astray after his death. [Abu Dawood].

- It was narrated by Awf bin Malik, may allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah, Sala Allahu Alihi Wasalam, O Allah! Forgive him and have mercy on him (on her). Grant him ease and respite. Make his resting place a noble one, and facilitate his entry. Wash him with the most pure and clean water, snow and hail. Purify him from sins as a white arment is cleansed of dirt. Give him in exchange a home better than his home (on earth) and a family better than his family and a spouse better than his spouse. Grant him entrance to Paradise and protect him from trials of the grave and the torture of Hell Fire." [Muslim].

- O Allah, make his grave spacious for him, and grant him light in it. [Ibn Abi Shaibah]

- However, if the deceased is a female then one should say: "O Allah forgive her", or a group. "O Allah forgive them".

- If a child, one should invoke: "O Allah, make him for us a herald of happiness in the Hereafter and a means for reward". [Bukhari]

The Ruling of Women Following the Funeral Procession

- Women are forbidden from following the funeral procession: It was narrated by Umm Atiyah, may Allah be pleased with her, We (womenfolk) were forbidden to accompany funeral processions, but this prohibition was not mandatory for us. [Agreed Upon]
- This prohibition was with regards to following the funeral to the graves. As for the prayer, this is legislated for both men and women as the women in the time of the Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, used to preform it with him.
- It is forbidden for the women to visit the graves, due to the hadith: "Allah curses the women who frequently visit the graves".

What is Said in the Prayer over the Child

What is said in the prayer over the child, as what is said in the prayer over the old deceased person, one should invoke: "O Allah, make him a preceding reward and a stored treasure for his parents, and an answered intercessor. O Allah, by virtue of his death, Make heavy his parents scales and magnify their reward. Unite him with the righteous believers, place him under the care of Ibrahim (peace be upon him), and protect him by Your mercy from the torment of Hell." because it is proven that the Messenger of Allah, Sala Allahu Alihi Wasalam, said: the child prayed over him and invoke for his parents.