

Making Dua (Supplications) for the Individual Who Passes Away and Janazah (Funeral) Prayer

- Supplication can be made at any time, in any appropriate place and in any language. Although it is preferable to use the supplications included below, any supplications are permissible.
- The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:
"When a person dies all his activities come to an end except for three: charity that is continuous, knowledge* which the deceased left behind which benefits the living, and a righteous child who prays for deceased.

(*Knowledge is not limited to information that one taught others while one was alive, nor just books, articles, etc. that one wrote for the education of others. It can also include certain educational materials that one donated to others during one's lifetime, donations that one made for educational purposes, etc.)

- The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) also said:
"Allah Almighty will raise the rank of a righteous person in paradise." The righteous person will ask in amazement: "O Lord! where has this come from?" Allah will respond: "This is a result of your child's supplication for you."

The Janazah (Funeral) Prayer

Unlike other prayers, the Janazah (Funeral) prayer does not include any ruku' (bowing) or sujud (prostration). That is, the entire prayer is performed while standing, facing the Qibla (direction of Makka).

Those who attend the Janazah prayer are encouraged to form at least three rows. The deceased will be in front of the Imam who is leading the prayer.

The Janazah prayer is offered as follows:

1. The Imam will say, in a loud voice, "Allahu Akbar" (Allah/God is Great), raise his hands upwards, then fold them in front of him. The followers silently say and do the same. The Imam and the followers will all silently recite the Thana¹, a supplication and the Fatiha², the first Chapter of the Qur'an.
2. The Imam will say, in a loud voice, " (Allah/God is Great), raise his hands upwards, then fold them in front of him. The followers silently say and do the same. The Imam and the followers will all silently say the "Abrahamic Prayer"³ which is an invocation of peace and blessings on Prophet Abraham and his family as well as on Prophet Muhammad and his family (peace be upon them all).
3. The Imam will say, in a loud voice, "Allahu Akbar" (Allah/God is Great), raise his hands upwards, then fold them in front of him. The followers silently say and do the same. The Imam and the followers will all silently recite supplications⁴ for the deceased.
4. The Imam will say, in a loud voice, "Allahu Akbar" (Allah/God is Great) out loud, raise his hands upwards, then fold them in front of him. The followers silently say and do the same. The Imam and the followers will all silently recite general supplications.
5. The Imam turns his head to the right and will say, in a loud voice, "Assalamu Alaikum Wa'Rahmatullah" (Peace and Compassion of Allah upon you) . The Imam then turns his head to the left and says the same. The followers will all silently do the same.

This ends the formal prayer. Traditionally, the Imam will recite various supplications for the deceased following the formal prayer.

¹ Glory be to You, Oh Allah, and praise be to You. Blessed is your name, exalted is Your Majesty, and there is none other to be served besides You.

² In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful. All Praise is due to God alone, the Sustainer of the worlds. The Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful. The Lord of the Day of Judgment. It is You alone that we worship and it is to You alone that we turn for aid. Guide us to the straight way. The way of those on who you have bestowed Your Blessings, not those who have been condemned by you, nor those go astray.

³ Oh Allah ! Shower Your Mercy upon Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad, as You showered Your mercy upon Ibrahim and the followers of Ibrahim. Behold You are Praiseworthy, Glorious. Oh Allah! Shower Your blessing upon Muhammad, as you showered Your blessings upon Ibrahim and the followers of Ibrahim. Behold You are Praiseworthy, Glorious.

⁴ Oh Allah ! Forgive those of us who are alive and those who have passed away; those of us who are present, and those of us who are absent; those of us that are young, and those of us that are elderly; those of us who are male and those of us who are female. Oh Allah! Whomsoever of us You keep alive, let him live as a follower of Islam, and whomsoever You cause to die, let him die as a Believer. (If the deceased is a child, the invocation is: Oh Allah, make him/her (this child) a source for our salvation; and make him/her a source of reward and treasure for us; and make him/her an intercessor for us, and one whose intercession is accepted.