

Salatul-Mayyit [Salat over the Dead Person]

1. The *Salat* over the *Mayyit* (dead) is a *Kifa'i Wajib*. That is performing *Ghuslul-Mayyit*, wrapping it in the *Kafan* [shroud], and performing the *Salat*, over it, are all *Kifa'i Wajibs*, so, when a Muslim dies and somebody, or some people, perform the *Salat* over him, the others would be exempted from performing it. But if they have neglected the body and nobody offered to perform the *Salat* over it, then all of them would be considered sinners.
2. This *Salat* is not *Wajib* on a *Mayyit* who has not yet reached 6 years of age.¹
3. The *Salat* is performed over the dead after giving it the *Ghusl*, anointing it with the *Hunut*², and wrapping it in the *Kafan*.

How to Perform the Salat over the Mayyit

1. The body is stretched on its back, with its head to the right, and its legs to the left of the *Musalli*, who is to face the *Qiblah*.
2. The *Musalli* makes the *Niyah* that he performs *Salatul-Mayyit*, and starts the *Salat*, which consists of five *Takbirs*³, as follows:
 - a. The *Musalli* says the *Takbir* and the *Shahadatan* [*Tashahhud*].
 - b. He says the second *Takbir* and sends blessings on Muhammad and Alee Muhammad,
 - c. He says the third *Takbir* and asks forgiveness and pardon for the *Mu'minin* [the believers].
 - d. He says the fourth *Takbir* and asks forgiveness and pardon for the *Mayyit*. If the *Mayyit* was a child, he is to say: "*Allahumma-J'alhu Li'abawayhi Wa Lana Salafan Wa Faratan Wa Ajan*".
 - e. He says the fifth *Takbir* and finishes the *Salat*.

Explanations

1. There is no *Qira'ah* in this *Salat* as is in the daily *Salats*, nor *Ruku* nor *Sujud*, and it does not need *Taharah*.⁴
2. The women are allowed to perform the *Salat* over a male *Mayyit*, as the males are allowed to perform it over a female *Mayyit*.
3. It is *Mustahabb* to perform this *Salat* in *Jama'ah*.
4. If a *Mayyit* was buried without performing the *Salat* over it, negligently or for any other reason, or the *Salat* which has already been performed was not correct, the *Salat* would be performed over its grave in the same original manner as usually done before burial.

Discussion

Q1. Tell which of the following *Salats* is correct and which is *Batil*.

- a. A *Musalli*, without being *Tahir* performed *Salatul-Mayyit*.
- b. A *Musalli* performed *Salatul-Mayyit* over a dead body with a curtain in between.
- c. A *Musalli*, who has performed *Salatul-Mayyit* without facing the *Qiblah*.

Q2. How many *Takbirs* are there in *Salatul-Mayyit*?

- ^{1.} The Shafi'is and the Malikis say that, in the case of a child, if the child cried after birth, the *Salat* is to be performed over it. The Hanbalis and the Hanafis say: The *Salat* is to be performed over it, if it stayed 4 months in its mother's womb.
- ^{2.} *Al-Hunut* is to anoint the 7 parts of *Sujud* with camphor. The *Sujud* parts are: the forehead, the two palms, the two knees and the two tips of the big toes of the feet.
- ^{3.} The four Islamic sects [the Hanafis, the Hanbalis, the Shafi'is and the Malikis say that only 4 *Takbirs* are *Wajib*.
- ^{4.} The four sects conditioned for the correctness of the *Salat* that the *Taharah* is to be observed, as in the incumbent *Salat*.

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