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Lesson 53: The Prayer for the Deceased (Salat al-Mayyit)

Salat al-mayyit is *wajib al-kifa'i*, i.e. it is obligatory on every Muslim but as soon as it is performed correctly by one of them, it remains no more obligatory on others; but if no one offers the prayer everyone is a sinner.
If the deceased was six years old, the prayer for the deceased is obligatory. In offering this prayer, purity of the body or dress is not necessary; also *ghusl*, *wudhu* or *tayammum* is not obligatory. But the intention of the prayer (*niyyah*) and facing qibla is essential. The dead body should be placed in such a way that the head of the deceased remains on the right of those who offer the prayer. In the case of the dead body of a male, the Imam should stand near his waist; and in the case of a female, near the chest.
Prayer of deceased has 5 *takbirs* (including *Takbiratul-Ihram*).
After the first *takbir* (i.e., *takbiratul-ihram*) the *Kalima al-shahadatayn* is recited. After 2nd the *takbir*, *salawat* is recited. After the 3rd *takbir*, prayer is offered for all the believers and Muslims. After the 4th *takbir*, prayer is offered especially for the deceased one. Then the 5th *takbir* is said And the prayer comes to end.

The shortest method of offering this prayer is as follows:

Niyyah: I pray *Salat al-mayyit* of this corpse *Wajib*, *qurbatan ilal-Laah*. *Allahu Akbar*;
Ashhadu an-la ilaha illallahu wahdahu la sharika lah; Wa Ashhadu Anna Muhammadan Abduhu wa Rasuluh;
Allahu Akbar;
Allahumma salli 'ala Muhammadin wa Aali Muhammad; Allahu Akbar;
Allahummaghfir li'l Mu'minina wa'l Mu'minaat; Allahu Akbar;
Allahummaghfir li haadha'l mayyit (In case the deceased is a female, say *Allahummaghfir li haadhihi'l mayyit*);
Allahu Akbar;
After the completion of the prayer recite "*Rabbana aatina fid-dunya hasanatan wa fi'l aakhera hasanatan waqina adhaban-naar.*"

It is necessary to mention that even if this prayer is offered by *jama'ah*, everyone has to recite the whole prayer. It is not correct just to say *'Allahu Akbar'* and remain silent between the *takbirs*. Such a prayer is invalid (*batil*).

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