

Ramadan Immersion



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Waheed

The steps taken after death, post burial.

- As mentioned in the previous session, it's a sunnah that when a loved one dies that they are buried as soon as possible.
- The prophet SAW said that as the person is leaving this world we should try to have them say the "kalimah".
- As they are being put into the grave and the dirt is placed on them it's recommended to read and do a few things.
 - Reading the ayah:

وَلَقَدْ أَرَيْنَاهُ آيَاتِنَا كُلَّهَا فَكَذَّبَ وَأَبَىٰ

From the earth We created you, and into it We will return you, and from it We will bring you back again.

- This ayah is not necessarily read for the person that's transitioning to the next world, but rather for the people left behind to remind them we all will be there too.
- Making dua
 - The prophet SAW said to his companions as they were burying someone to make dua for Thabit.
 - This is because they will be questioned by Munkar and Nakir.

يُثَبِّتُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِالْقَوْلِ الثَّابِتِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَيُضِلُّ
اللَّهُ الظَّالِمِينَ وَيَفْعَلُ اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ

Allah makes the believers steadfast with the firm Word of faith¹ in this worldly life and the Hereafter. And Allah leaves the wrongdoers to stray. For Allah does what He wills.

- Telling the person being buried about what they are going to face and the questions that they are going to be asked.
 - A great scholar by the name of Shabib bin Abi Shaiba says that:

قَالَ شَيْبِ بْنِ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ أَوْصَتْنِي أُمِّي عِنْدَ مَوْتِهَا فَقَالَتْ لِي يَا بَنِي إِذَا دَفَنْتَنِي فَاقُمْ عِنْدَ قَبْرِي وَقُلْ يَا أُمَّ شَيْبَةَ قَوْلِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ قَالَ فَلَمَّا دَفَنْتَهَا قُمْتُ عِنْدَ قَبْرِهَا فَقُلْتُ يَا أُمَّ شَيْبَةَ قَوْلِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ انصرفت فَلَمَّا كَانَ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ رَأَيْتَهَا فِي الْمَنَامِ فَقَالَتْ لِي يَا بَنِي كَدْتُ أَنْ أَهْلِكَ لَوْلَا أَنْ تَدَارَكْنِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ فَلَقَدْ حَفِظْتَ وَصِيَّتِي يَا بَنِي

Shabib bin Abi Shaiba said that my mother advised me at the time of her death, and she said to me, O sons, when you buried me, then stand next to my grave, and say, O mother of Shaiba, say: No god but Allah, then I left. Then when it was night time I saw her in my dreams she said to me, "O my son, I would have perished had it not been for your help. For you have kept my will, my son."

- Reciting surah al Baqarah.
 - When reading this we should be standing at the head of the person.
 - Even though it is difficult to recite all of surah Al Baqarah, one should at least recite the first and last pages.
- Reciting surah Al Fatiha
 - There isn't any set number, however, it should be recited as much as possible.
- Reciting surah Yaseen.
 - Some narrations mention that the prophet SAW speaks about reading surah Yeseen upon the person who is about to leave this world as well as after they leave.
- Reciting Surah Mulk
 - The prophet SAW spoke about Surah Mulk being the ultimate protector from the punishment of the grave.
 - It's recommended to read Surah Al Mulk before going to sleep every night.

The etiquettes of the graveyard.

- Hassan al Basra said that no one should be speaking in the graveyard.
- This is because the graveyard is the closest that we can get to the Mahshar in this life.

يَوْمَئِذٍ يَتَّبِعُونَ الدَّاعِيَ لَا عِوَجَ لَهُ^١ وَخَشَعَتِ الْأَصْوَاتُ لِلرَّحْمَنِ فَلَا تَسْمَعُ إِلَّا هَمْسًا

On that Day all will follow the caller 'for assembly', 'and' none will dare to deviate. All voices will be hushed before the Most Compassionate. Only whispers¹ will be heard.

- Abdullah bin Masood once heard a man laughing in a Janazh, he told "How could you laugh in a Janazah?" And he swore to never speak to him again.
- It is mentioned by Sufyan al-Thawri that no one would have a meal on the day of the Janazah due to the grave that they would all feel.
- It's mentioned that when they would attend a Janazh, they would be unable to recognize who to console from the people.
- This is because it would look like that the person that died was related to them.
- Feeling sad when a Muslim dies is a part of our unity as an ummah.
- Not much needs to be said in these situations, rather saying less is actually saying more.
- The prophet SAW said that we should wait after burial for as long as it takes for a camel to be slaughtered and all of its meat to be distributed. This is around 2-3 hours there after the burial.
- The Prophet SAW said, "Support your brother/sister with dua as they are being questioned right now."

The state of the person after being buried.

- Our deeds including the the Quran takes care of the person after being buried.
- It's mentioned in a narration that the Prophet SAW said that the Quran comforts the person and ascends to the heavens. Then it asks the angels to bring the clothing, wind, and scent of Jannah. The Quran then brings back these things to the grave of that person.
- The person that is resting in the grave knows that we visited them.
- Amr ibn Dinar says that there is not a single person who leaves this world except that they know what happens to their family members.
- Amr ibn al-As when he was dying asked his son that after they bury him to stand next to his grave. Because he would take comfort by his presence.
- The Prophet SAW said that the person being buried can hear the footsteps of their family members as they leave the graveyard.

Visitation after burial

- The majority of opinions say that when we go to visit loved ones in the grave they know and feel us being there.
- we are taught that when we go to visit it them we should say "Al salaam alaykum ya ahil alqabur" "Peace be upon you, O people of the graves"
- This is a call upon people that can hear.
- This salaam is not just for that specific loved one but also everyone in the graveyard. This is among the virtues of being buried among pious people.

- It's mentioned that a guy went to Ahmed bin Hamabl's son and thanked him for allowing his father to be buried in that graveyard. He told him in his dreams he had seen his father three days in a row and that his father told him to go and find him. He told Ahmed bin Hamabl's son that when the gate and doors of Jannah were opened for his father, the people around him in the graveyard were also able to benefit and experience it with them.
- The Prophet SAW in a Hadith said that:

ما من مسلم يمر على قبر أخيه كان يعرفه في الدنيا فيسلم عليه إلا رد الله عليه روحه حتى يرد عليه السلام

There is no Muslim who passes by the grave of his brother, whom he knew in this world, and greets him except that God will return his soul to him so that he may return his greetings to him. (Sahih Muslim)

- A narration by Abu Dawood states that whenever we go to visit a loved one they feel at ease with their visitation.
- Narration mentioned by Sufyan bin Awaina said that the death of his father was very difficult for him to manage. He would visit his grave everyday. Then he started going less and less. After some time he came to visit his father and fell asleep while resting next to his grave. He saw his father in a dream and started crying. His father then asked him why he wasn't visiting him as often as he was. Surprisingly he asked, you know when I came to visit you. And his father told him that yes, there is not a single time that you came to visit me except that I was aware of your visitation.
- All these narrations show us that people in the grave can hear us when we visit them.

Their knowledge about our actions

- There is a difference of opinion on if our loved ones who have passed away know about our actions.
- One opinion says that no they have no knowledge of our actions.
- The second opinion says that they are simply informed about our deaths.
- On Thursday night the deeds of the Ummah are presented to the Prophet SAW. This is why on Thursday night we try to send more salawat to the Prophet SAW.
- Our loved ones feel very happy when they see the good that we are doing.
- We should make dua that Allah shows our loved ones the good that we are doing.
- When they see our bad deeds they make dua that Allah allows us to have more time to repent and that Allah guides us.
- A man entered upon Ibrahim ibn Salah who was a governor of Palestine and he asked him for advice. He said “what advice do you want me to give you?”. He said that I’ve heard that our deeds are presented to our relatives who have passed away. He responded by saying “That’s true, though your focus should be on what is presented to the Prophet SAW” Then Ibrahim started weeping until his beard was wet.
- In a narration, it mentioned that when a child leaves this world and their father has passed away they are the first to come and greet us.