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Salat al-Janazah

How to Pray the Janazah

*The funeral prayer, step by step,
with what to say after each takbir*

HANAFI · FOR EVERYONE



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Before you *begin*

The Janazah prayer is a du'a for a Muslim who has passed away. It is prayed standing the whole time, with four takbirs and no ruku' or sajdah. It is fard kifayah: when some people in the community pray it, the duty is lifted from the rest, but everyone who joins earns great reward.

WUDU

Be in wudu

The Janazah is a prayer, so wudu, clean clothes and facing the qiblah are needed, as for any Salah.

ROWS

Stand behind the imam

The imam stands in line with the chest of the deceased. Everyone else stands in rows behind him. There is no adhan or iqamah.

TAKBIRS

Four takbirs in all

The imam says each takbir aloud. Behind him, you say each one quietly, then recite the words for that part.

QUIETLY

Everything is silent

Everything you recite in the Janazah is said quietly. Only the imam says the takbirs and the salam aloud.

FROM THE SUNNAH

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Whoever attends the funeral until the prayer is offered will have a reward of one qirat, and whoever stays until the burial will have two qirats." He was asked what the two qirats are, and said: "Like two huge mountains."

Sahih al-Bukhari 1325

01

POSITION

Standing

First takbir, then the Thana

- Make the intention in your heart to pray the Janazah for Allah, for this deceased person, behind the imam.
- With the imam's first takbir, raise your hands to your earlobes and say the takbir quietly.
- Fold your hands below the navel and recite the Thana quietly.

WHAT TO SAY

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Allāhu Akbar

ONCE

RAISE HANDS

Arabic: Abi Dawud 857

THEN SAY

سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ وَتَبَارَكَ اسْمُكَ وَتَعَالَى
جَدُّكَ وَجَلَّ ثَنَّاؤُكَ وَلَا إِلَهَ غَيْرُكَ

*Subhānaka-llāhumma wa bi-ḥamdika, wa tabāraka-smuka, wa ta'ālā
jadduka, wa jalla thanā'uka, wa lā ilāha ghayruk.*

ONCE

SILENTLY

Arabic: Abi Dawud 776 · addition: Tirmidhi 3523

In the Janazah, the words "wa jalla thanā'uk" are added to the Thana, as taught in the Hanafi school.

02

POSITION

Standing

Second takbir, then the Durood

- With the imam's second takbir, say the takbir quietly. Do not raise your hands this time.
- Keep your hands folded and recite the Durood Ibrahimi, as in the final sitting of every Salah.

WHAT TO SAY

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ، كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى
إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ، اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ
عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ، كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ،
وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

Allāhumma ṣalli ‘alā Muḥammadin wa ‘alā āli Muḥammad, kamā ṣallayta ‘alā Ibrāhīma wa ‘alā āli Ibrāhīm, innaka ḥamīdun majīd.
Allāhumma bārik ‘alā Muḥammadin wa ‘alā āli Muḥammad, kamā bārakta ‘alā Ibrāhīma wa ‘alā āli Ibrāhīm, innaka ḥamīdun majīd.

ONCE

SILENTLY

Arabic: Bukhari 3370

03

POSITION
Standing

Third takbir, then the du'a

- With the imam's third takbir, say the takbir quietly, without raising your hands.
- Make du'a for the deceased. This du'a, taught by the Prophet ﷺ, is for an adult, man or woman.

WHAT TO SAY

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِحَيِّنَا وَمَيِّتِنَا وَشَاهِدِنَا وَغَائِبِنَا وَصَغِيرِنَا
وَكَبِيرِنَا وَذَكَرِنَا وَأُنْثَانَا اللَّهُمَّ مَنْ أَحْيَيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَأَحْيِهِ عَلَى
الْإِسْلَامِ وَمَنْ تَوَفَّيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَتَوَفَّهُ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ

*Allāhumma-ghfir li-ḥayyīnā wa mayyitīnā, wa shāhidīnā wa ghā'ibīnā,
wa ṣaghīrīnā wa kabīrīnā, wa dhakarīnā wa unthānā. Allāhumma man
aḥyaytahū minnā fa-aḥyihī 'ala-l-islām, wa man tawaffaytahū minnā fa-
tawaffahū 'ala-l-īmān.*

ONCE

SILENTLY

Arabic: Tirmidhi 1024

For a child who had not reached puberty, a different du'a is read. Ask your teacher to teach it to you.

04

POSITION
Standing

Fourth takbir, then the salam

- With the imam's fourth takbir, say the takbir quietly. Nothing is recited after it.
- When the imam gives salam, turn your head to the right and say the salam, then to the left.
- Lower your hands. The prayer is complete.

WHAT TO SAY

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ

As-salāmu 'alaykum wa raḥmatu-llāh

RIGHT, THEN LEFT

TWICE

Arabic: Abi Dawud 996

The Janazah *at a glance*

Keep this page folded in your wallet or on your phone, and read it just before the prayer begins.

TAKBIR 1 · RAISE YOUR HANDS

Thana

Subhānaka-Ilāhumma wa bi-ḥamdika...

TAKBIR 2

Durood Ibrahimi

Allāhumma ṣalli ‘alā Muḥammad...

TAKBIR 3

Du‘a for the deceased

Allāhumma-ghfir li-ḥayyīnā wa mayyitinā...

TAKBIR 4

Salam to the right, then the left

As-salāmu ‘alaykum wa raḥmatu-Ilāh

If you join late, follow the imam from where he is. After his salam, say the takbirs you missed before the body is lifted, then give salam. Ask your teacher if you are unsure.



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Hadith Arabic copied from the collections of al-Bukhari, Abu Dawud and at-Tirmidhi, with references beside each recitation.
Transliteration is a guide only; learn the pronunciation from a teacher.

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