

SNMC-4 Visiting a Person at Death Bed

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4.0 Visiting a person at Death Bed:

The Prophet (PBUH), said: "Prompt your dying people to say: 'La ilaha illa-Allah'. (There is no Diety except One God). The Messenger of God (PBUH), said: "He whose last words are 'La ilaha illa- Allah' shall enter Paradise. The prompting (talqin) is necessary only when the dying person is unable to utter the shahadah. If such a person is able to utter these words then there is no need for prompting, but he should rather be advised to do so.

We should lay Dying Person so that the Qibla is on his Right Side and recite Sura Ya seen from the Qur'an .The Prophet (PBUH), said: "Ya Sin is the heart of the Qur'an. Whoever recites it seeking the pleasure of Allah and the hereafter will receive God's forgiveness. So recite it to your dead."

4.1 Close the eyes of the deceased and Cover the Body:

'Aishah (R) said: "When the Messenger of God died, he was covered with a piece of cloth that had some designs on it." The objective here is clearly to safeguard the respect and dignity of the deceased in death against prying eyes and against the exposure of his or her body to the idle curiosity of those looking for changes in its physical condition and features.

4.2 Settle the debt of the deceased.

The Messenger of God said: "A believer's soul remains in suspense until all his debts are paid off."

4.3 Reciting Dua Hearing the Death News:

A believer should, at the death of a relative or a friend, should say, Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un, "Verily we belong to God, and truly to Him shall we return."

4.4 Informing the Deceased's Family and Friends:

It desirable that the deceased's family, friends, and other good people be informed about his death, so that they may share in the reward of participating in his funeral. The Prophet, (PBUH), informed his companions about the death of Negus (Najashi), the King of Abyssinia, the day that he passed away. And then the Prophet (PBUH), led them to the prayer ground where he lined them up and offered funeral prayer (for him) with four takbirs.

4.5 Weeping over the Dead is permissible, not crying and wailing.

The Prophet,(PBUH), wept on the death of his son, Ibrahim, and said: "The eyes shed tears and the heart feels pain, but we utter only what pleases our Lord. O Ibrahim! We are aggrieved at your demise."

4.6 Mourning for a Deceased:

It is permissible to mourn for a period of three days on the death of a near relative. In the case of her husband's death, a woman is to mourn for four months and ten days.

4.7 Prepare Food for the Bereaved Family:

It is recommended that the relatives of the deceased prepare enough food to feed all the deceased's family for one day and night, for it is the sunnah of the Prophet,(PBUH), and a practice of good people and an act of virtue and kindness and brings friends and neighbors closer to each other." The scholars hold it commendable to urge the deceased's family to eat so that their sorrow or excessive grief will not cause them to avoid food and thereby become weak.

Scholars disapprove of the deceased's family preparing food for the people coming to pay their condolences, for it adds to their grief and further burdens them unnecessarily. **Some scholars consider this to be absolutely forbidden (haram).**