

SNMC -6- Al-Kafan Shrouding a Dead Body

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6.0 Al-Kafan, the Shroud

Shrouding the body of the deceased, even it be with just one piece of cloth is Fard of the Muslims. Bukhari narrated from Khabbab, Musa'ab ibn 'Umayr was was killed in the Battle of Uhud. We did not find anything to shroud him in except a piece of cloth. When we covered his head, his feet would show, and if we covered his feet, his head would show. Allah 's Messenger (PBUH), ordered us to use the cloth to cover his head and cover his feet with some grass."

6.1 Preferable Practices in Shrouding

- The shroud should be nice, clean, and large enough to cover the entire body. Abu Qatadah reported that the Prophet (PBUH) said: "If one of you is a guardian to his deceased brother, he should give him the best shroud he can." (Ibn Majah and Tirmizhi)
- A shroud should be white. Ibn 'Abbas reported that the Prophet (PBUH), said: "Wear white clothes, for these are your best clothes, and enshroud your dead in them." (Ahmad, Abu Daw'ud, and Tirmizhi)
- The shroud should be scented and perfumed. Jabir's narrated that the Prophet, (PBUH) said: "If you perfume a dead body, do it three times." (Ahmad and by Al-Hakim). Abu Sa'id, Ibn 'Umar, and Ibn 'Abbas directed their heirs in their wills to perfume their shrouds with aloes-wood.
- The shroud should be three wraps for a man and five wraps for a woman. 'Aishah ® who said: "The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) was wrapped in three pieces of new white sheets of cloth from Yemen, without a shirt or a turban." (Tirmizhi) "The majority of the scholars among the Companions of the Prophet (R) and others hold this view."

6.2 No Extravagance in Shrouding

A shroud should be nice, but not so expensive that it would unduly burden a person. Ash-Shafi'i remarked, "Ali said: 'Do not be extravagant in shrouding me. I have heard Allah's Messenger (PBUH), say: "Do not be extravagant in preparing your shroud for it will soon be taken away."

6.3 The Shroud Should Be Purchased with the Deceased's Money

A person (male or female) who dies and leaves some money behind should have his shroud purchased with his money. If the deceased did not leave any money, then, whoever is responsible for taking care of his living expenses should provide his shroud. In case the deceased leaves no money and there is no one to take care of him, then his shroud should be purchased by local Muslims.