

1. What is death and Hereafter?

Physical body dies and the soul is 'transferred' to the Hereafter for the accountability.

Man is given enough intelligence and the power of discretion; hence, responsible and answerable.

2. Etiquettes of Mosque (Masjid)

People of all faiths gender and age are welcomed into the Masjid.

Dress code: full length attire and no specific color. Any kind of head dress or scarf will be appreciated for ladies.

Please leave shoes on the shoe racks before entering the prayer area.

Chairs will be available (could be limited in number). Otherwise, the prayer hall is carpeted to sit down.

3. Funeral preparation

Burial is done without unnecessary delay.

Body is washed by family & friends of the same gender. Shrouded in white unstitched sheets and laid in the simplest casket.

Viewing is generally by the close family before the funeral prayer.

Wreaths or Flowers are not expected and there is no music or hymns.

4. Funeral prayer

Inside the Masjid, you may notice that some would be performing prayers individually.

A congregational prayer might also take place if it is time for the regular daily prayer. This is **not** the 'Funeral Prayer'.

Funeral prayer would be announced. Non-Muslims need not join in the lines any time. Kindly just sit down & observe.

Actual funeral Prayer is done in congregation silently and is as follows: This could be led by the closest relative of the deceased or the Imam of the Masjid.

With the Coffin in front, congregants, men & women in their sections stand in lines. Prostration and bowing is not done in this prayer. The Imam starts the prayer with an announcement *Allahu Akbar* (God is Great), every one silently praises The God Almighty The Most Merciful & and The Most Benevolent.

Congregants make supplication for The Prophet Muhammad and his family, and The Prophet Abraham, the father of all the three great monotheist religions and his family, followed by making supplication to Allah for the deceased's forgiveness and a place in The paradise.

Lastly, the congregation prays for everyone, young and old, male and female who is present and those who could not make it and for the whole community for their forgiveness & to remain steadfast in the submission to God.

This concludes the Funeral Prayer.

Eulogy: it is not a regular practice; but it is certainly accepted. Generally The Imam reminds the congregation about the lessons to be taken from this tragedy.

There is no formal lineup of the family members to receive condolences from guests.

On behalf of the deceased, the family might ask the congregation to kindly forgive any shortcomings, commitments or any unfulfilled promises.

Also, a family member may come forward to take care of any thing that the deceased owed to any one.

5. Funeral procession & Burial

After the funeral prayers, the casket is taken to the Muslim cemetery. No assigned Pall Bearers. All men participate and take turns to carry the casket.

Body is laid to rest in the grave; each one throws some dirt into the grave by reminding oneself the Quranic verse, '*From this [earth] have We [Allah] created you; to it shall We return you; and from it shall We bring you forth once again.* – Quran 20:55.

Thus, finally the grave is closed by the cemetery staff.

The family thanks the people present before departure.

6. Words of Sympathy & Condolences

It is up to the individuals as per the situation.

In the words of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be on him), "*Definitely Allah has taken what belongs to Him. He has given us what belongs to Him. He has stipulated a time for everyone. Have patience and hope for the reward (from Allah for your patience)*".

"May Allah Almighty forgive the deceased, pardon him/her, shower him/her with His Mercy, grant you patience upon this calamity, and reward you for his/her death (because of your patience)"

About Islam

Islamic Code: *“There no deity except Allah; Muhammad is Allah’s Messenger”*

Islam means peace & submission to the Will of Allah. Islam is the continuation of God’s Message to mankind through thousands of prophets & Messengers to peoples (Ref: Quran 10:47, and many more). Among them were Adam, to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, to Jesus and finally Muhammad (Allah’s peace be upon them all).

Some **Quotations** from Quran:

“O Mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you.” Quran 49:13

“Say (O Muhammad): We believe in Allah and that which was revealed to us and that which was revealed to Abraham & Ishmael & Isaac & Jacob & the tribes & that which was given to Moses & Jesus & to the Prophets from their Lord; we make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we submit”. Quran 3:83

“It is not righteous that you turn your faces to the East or the West, but righteous is he who believes in Allah and the last Day & the Angels & the Book & the Prophets & gives his wealth for the love of Him to kinsfolk & to orphans & the needy & the wayfarer & to those who ask, & set slaves free; & observe proper worship & pay the zakaa (charity). And those who keep their treaty when they make one, & the patient in tribulation & adversity & at the time of stress; such are those who are sincere. Such are the Allah fearing (conscientious)”. Quran 2:177

“And for every nation there is a messenger ...” Quran 10:48

Islamic Teachings:

Five Pillars of Islam are:
Belief in the Supreme Almighty God Allah; Prayers, 5 times a day; Fasting in the lunar month of Ramadan; paying the (compulsory portion of) Charity & finally performing Pilgrimage to Makkah if one can afford.

Islamic Faith:

Belief in the Almighty Allah & the Angels & the Books (of David, Moses, Jesus & Muhammad) & the Messengers (as described in Q 3:83), & in the Last Day & in the destiny; good or bad in the authority of Allah and finally in the resurrection after death (for the accountability).

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has guided us at a tragedy like death, to say as in Qur’an, “we belong to Allah and to Him is our return” and ask Allah to compensate something better due to this tragedy.

“If You punish them, they are Your servants, & if You forgive them (lo! They are Your servants). You are the Exalted in power, the Wise.”
Quran 5:118

Guests are welcomed to pick up a complementary copy of the English translation of Quran here at The ISNA Bookstore 416-403-8406 x 218.

Amjad R M Syed
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*In the name of Allah
The Most Merciful & the Most
Benevolent*

*“To Allah we belong, & to Him is our
return”*
(Quran 2:156)

Islamic Funeral Information for the *Guests* attending the Funeral Service



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(The Islamic Centre of Canada)

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