

Namāz-e Wahshat

What?

After the deceased has been buried, it is recommended to recite *salātu 'l-wahshat* (also known as *salāt laylati 'l-dafn* — the prayer of burial night).

The Prophet (s.a.w.) once said that the most difficult night for a dead person is the night of his burial; therefore have mercy on your dead people by giving charity in their name. If you cannot give charity in their name, then one person should recite two rak'at namaz (referring to namaz-e wahshat).

When?

This namaz can be said at any time of that night although it is better to say it after the 'ishā prayer.

By Whom?

Namaz-e wahshat is to be recited once by the *wali* (heir) of the deceased or by someone who has been asked by the *wali* to do that namaz. In our sources, only one recital of namaz-e wahshat is mentioned.

So what we see that whenever a news of someone's death in a far away land is announced at our centers, all the people recite namaz-e wahshat (even if it is already the next day in the country where the burial took place) — this does not have a valid basis in our religious sources. Otherwise, if you count the entire Shí'a world, then hundreds of mu'mineen pass away every day — then namaz-e wahshat would become a daily part of our prayers!

How?

Namaz-e wahshat consists of two rak'ats. There are three methods of doing this namaz.

First Method:

In 1st rak'at: recite al-Hamd and Āyatul Kursi.

In 2nd rak'at: recite al-Hamd and al-Qadr 10 times.

Second Method:

In 1st rak'at: recite al-Hamd and at-Tawhid 2 times.

In 2nd rak'at: recite al-Hamd and at-Takāthur (sruah # 102) 10 times.

Third Method which combines the last two methods:

In 1st rak'at: recite al-Hamd and at-Tawhid 2 times.

In 2nd rak'at: recite al-Hamd and al-Qadr 10 times.

After ending the namaz in any of these three methods, recite a *salawāt* and then pray as follows: “*wab 'ath thawābahā ila qabr*” *وَأَبْعَثْ ثَوَابَهَا إِلَى قَبْرِ*

(“Send the reward of this prayer to the grave of”)

In place of blank mention the name of the deceased.

Namāz-e Hadya-e Mayyit

What?

Namaz-e Hadya-e Mayyit means the salat that is done for sending its reward as gift to a deceased person.

When?

This salat can be done at any time, as many times, and for as many deceased people as possible. (Unlike the namaz-e wahshat which can be done only for one person at a time.)

How?

Namaz-e Hadya-e Mayyit can be said like the subh prayer; only the *niyyat* (intention) will change. However, it is better to do this namaz in the method taught by Imam Ja‘far as-Sādiq (a.s.) as follows:

1st Rak‘at: al-Hamd and then surah al-Qadr once.

2nd Rak‘at: al-Hamd and then al-Kawthar once.

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by Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi