

On hearing of a death

It is usual, on hearing of a death of a fellow Muslim, to recite the following brief prayer:

Innaa Ilayhi Wa Innaa Ilayhi Raaji'oon

(Verily we belong to Allah and will return to Allah)

Visiting the Cemetery

Rasulullah (s.a.w.) taught these words as salutation to the people of the graves and to pray for their forgiveness:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَهْلَ الدِّيَارِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ
وَإِنَّا إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ بِكُمْ لَارْحِمُونَ نَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ لَنَا وَلَكُمْ الْعَافِيَةَ

Peace be upon you, O you of the believers and Muslims dwelling in these abodes. Behold, if Allah wills, we shall meet you. We beseech Oh Allah safety for us and for you.

Prayers at the graveside

There are many supplications that may be read at the grave side, the best being the recital of the Holy Quraan.

Stand facing the grave (back towards the Qiblah) and recite as much of the Quraan as possible and make Dua for the forgiveness of the deceased.

A few other ways of praying for the dead are given below:

- In a Hadith it is reported that you should recite Surah IKHLAAS 11 times

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

- In a Hadith it is reported that if a person recites Surah YASEEN in the cemetery, the punishment of the dead will be eased and the reciter will be rewarded just as much as the deceased.

يَسَّ

- In a Hadith it is reported that whoever visits the cemetery and recites the following Surahs and then prays for the dead, the people of the grave will also ask Allah for such a person's forgiveness.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ FAATIAH (ALHAMDU)

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ IKHLAAS (QULHUWALLAH)

الْهَيْكُمُ التَّكَاثُرُ TAKAASUR (ALHAKUMUT TAKAASUR)