

Prayer at Gravesite

While the body is being lowered into the grave the worshippers recite, "With the Name Allah, and according to the Milah (belief and religion) of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah praise and venerate him and grant him perfect peace. Allah, surely our companion has come to You, leaving the world behind his back and he is very poor for what You have. O Allah, give him confidence when he will be asked, and don't try him in his tomb, which is above his ability. And join him with our Holy Prophet, the praises, and veneration and peace be upon him." This is to be repeated until the tomb is closed. The open grave is then filled in, a prayer is offered for the deceased, and the people depart. It is forbidden to sit on the grave.

The tearing of clothing, wailing, lamenting, and complaining over one's misfortune because of the death are forbidden. Anyone who does these things is committing a sin. If the deceased has willed that others do such things for him, the burden of sin falls upon the deceased. Once a person has died, prayers and supplications are offered, and the most positive aspects of his or her life are remembered thereafter. Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) said, "Remember the good of your deceased and refrain from talking about their bad [qualities]." Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) example encourages us to occasionally visit the graves of the departed, and to pray to Allah for them.

Imam Herschel B. Mahmood



Born

June 20, 1922

Deceased

August 13, 2003

Service Held

Islamic School of Seattle
720-25th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122
(Corner of 25th & Cherry)

Burial Prayer

To perform the prayer service the coffin is placed in front of the Imam, who stands at the deceased's head. The deceased is placed on his side, with the feet to the Imam's left. The Imam faces in the direction of the Ka'bah. Members of the congregation also face the Ka'bah and form lines behind them. The number of lines formed should be relative to the number of persons taking part in the service. The general practice is to have at least three rows. For example, if there are six people attending the service, they can make three rows by standing two to a row. If the number of people present is very small a single row will suffice. The entire service is offered from the standing position. The Imam begins the prayer service by silently making the intention, "I intend to pray the funeral prayer upon Imam Herschel B. Mahmood."

1) After stating the intention, he raises both hands to his ears and says, "Allah is the Greatest," at which time the congregation follows his lead. They also follow as he lowers his hands and places the right hand over the left, as in standing (qiyam) position. Next, the Imam and the congregation recite silently:

Pure and glorified are You, O Allah, Blessed is Your Name and exalted is Your Majesty, and there is nothing worthy of worship except You. I seek refuge with Allah from Satan, the accursed.

This is followed by The Opening Chapter of the Qur'an, silently:

With the Name Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Compassionate. Master of the Day of Judgement. You do we worship, and Your Aid we seek, Guide us on the straight way, the way of those whom you have bestowed Your Grace. Those whose portion is not wrath, and who go not astray, Amen.

2) After the Imam finishes the Opening Chapter, the congregation follows as he raises his hands to his ears again and announces, "Allah is the Greatest." The Imam and the congregation then recite silently:

O Allah, praise and venerate Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad, as You praised and venerated Abraham and the followers of Abraham. O Allah, bless Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad, as You blessed Abraham and the followers of Abraham. Surely You are Praised and Magnified.

3) The congregation follows the Imam as he raises his hands to his ears and announces the third time, "Allah is the Greatest." Next, the Imam and the congregation offer private prayers to Allah for forgiveness of the deceased. Different prayers are reported to have been offered by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and it seems that prayers of any form are permissible; however, the following is preferred.

O Allah, forgive him, and have mercy upon him, and pardon his sins, and honor his arrival, and widen his tomb and give him proof, and save him from the disaster of the tomb. And replace his house with a house better than reward, and do not make us subject to trial after him (disaster).

4) The Imam raises his hands to his ears and announces for the fourth time, "Allah is the Greatest." The congregation follows, and then says silently:

O Allah! Forgive our living ones and dead ones, and those of us who are present, and those who are absent, and our young ones and old ones, and our males and females. O Allah! Whosoever among us is kept alive by You, cause him to live in submission of You, and whosoever You cause to die, make him die in (Islamic) faith. O Allah! Do not deprive us of his reward, (for patience on his loss) and do not make us subject to trial after him (by disaster).

To conclude the service the congregation repeats after the Imam as he turns his face to the right and says, "Peace be on you and the Mercy of Allah," as he turns his face to the left and repeats, "Peace be on you and the Mercy of Allah."

Obituary

Imam Herschel B. Mahmood

Herschel B. Mahmood born June 20, 1922 deceased August 13, 2003. Herschel was born in Roslyn, WA to Edward Hart Sr. and Pearl Hart. He attended Cle Elum High School. After graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Army and there he served for 2 years. He later attended Seattle Community College and obtained a 2-year degree. He accepted a position at the Boeing Aircraft Company as a press technician, and after 33 years of service he retired. He always had strong interest in the Real Estate field, so he obtained his Real Estate license and became a Real Estate agent for several years. During those years he became a Minister in the Nation of Islam, and pioneered several Temples in the Washington area. He helped in the birth of the first Islamic TV broadcast in the Washington area. His strength, wisdom, and bravery encouraged other Muslims to step out on their faith to establish the Muslim communities that exist today.

Herschel believed family was most important in his life. He was a strong-willed and proud father. He made a point to teach his children that family was vitally important to a person's growth. He not only taught his family this, he also lived it as well. He was a strong and highly respected leader as an Imam.

He was always available to give wisdom and direction to those who sought for his direction. He was also a great inspiration to all people who knew him. His quiet time interest were outdoor sports—such as camping, fishing, hunting, and sports like boxing and football.

His family consisted of his Father Edward Hart Sr. (deceased), Mother Pearl Hart (deceased), Brother Edward Hart (deceased), Sister Ophelia Hart (deceased), Sister Mary Collins, Wife Ella May Anderson (deceased), (6) Children Maxine James, Arthur Hart, Herschel Hart Jr., Dorothy Hart McDade, Ernest Hart Sr., and William Hart. And a large host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins, and a multitude of friends.

Herschel will be greatly missed by so many people. His life will continue on through his children and family and friends.

Order of Service

Explanation of Service by Imam Benjamin Shabaaz
(Refer to Insert)

Obituary read silently

Acknowledgements

Prayer (Explanation of steps in Funeral Prayer.
(Also, prayer is said in silence)
Copy of prayer is in English in the Program.

Dismissal and proceed to gravesite in Roslyn, WA.

Reception will be held at 6:00 PM —9:00 PM
Gathering Hall at the New Holly
7054 - 32nd Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98118