

Laying the Deceased to rest on his Right side

Q: Janaa'iz-98: It is customary in our area to lay the deceased in the grave with only the face facing towards the Qibla whereas the books usually speak about laying the deceased on his right side. Will facing only the face towards Qibla suffice to fulfil the Sunnah or does the entire body have to be placed on the right side?

Answer: The Sunnah method is for the entire body to be placed on the right side and a support of sand to be placed behind the body so that it does not turn over. If this cannot be done for some reason, it would suffice to turn only the face towards the Qibla. See also Imdaadul Fataawaa (Vol.1 Pg.461)

Umdatul Fiqh (Vol. Pg.) states, "It is Sunnah for the entire body to be placed on the right side, facing towards the Qibla. A support of sand is to be placed behind the body so that it remains on the right side and does not turn over on to the back. The practice of placing the body on the back with only the face towards the Qibla conflicts with the Sunnah practice that has been passed down from generation to generation. When the deceased is placed on the back with only the face towards Qibla, the face eventually turns back to face upwards. This practice therefore needs to be stopped and the Sunnah method brought back into vogue because the Ahadeeth actually forbid the practice of laying the deceased on the back. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

Fatawa Rahimiyyah vol.3