

Burial – ‘Witness’ document of Belief & Good of deceased

From Mafatih al Jinan – Shaikh Abbas Qummi

Shaykh al-Ṭūsī has advised that an inscription should be written down on a document as a Witness of the belief. This document is made/signed by one witness & further attested by 40 Momins (who can sign despite their knowledge of any faults of the deceased)

This document is then folded enveloped & put with the palm-leaf stalk on the right side of the deceased. It is preferably written with camphor (i.e. water with which camphor is mixed) and non-aromatic aloe-wood, must be put on the dead person’s forehead

It is said that HE will forgive the deceased for his faults if 40 momins testify in this way

Before writing down this inscription, the writer/first witness is to **say the following** words:

In the Name of Allah; the All-beneficent, the All-merciful.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

I bear witness that there is no god save Allah, One and Only Lord and having no associate with Him.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

I also bear witness that Muḥammad is His servant and messenger, May Allah bless him and his Household.

وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ

وَرَسُولُهُ

[I also bear witness that] Paradise is true,

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ

وَأَنَّ الْجَنَّةَ حَقٌّ

Hellfire is true,

وَأَنَّ النَّارَ حَقٌّ

the Hour [of Resurrection] is true and is coming; there is no doubt about it,

وَأَنَّ السَّاعَةَ حَقٌّ آتِيَةٌ لَا رَيْبَ

فِيهَا

and Allah shall resurrect those who are in graves.

وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَبْعَثُ مَنْ فِي الْقُبُورِ

THE INSCRIPTION to be written & kept on the Right side of the dead body

In the Name of Allah; the All-beneficent, the All-merciful.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The witnesses whose names are mentioned in this document-paper witness

شَهِدَ الشُّهُودُ الْمُسَمَّوْنَ فِي هَذَا الْكِتَابِ

that their brother-in-Allah [_____]

أَنَّ أَخَاهُمْ فِي اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ كَ

has asked them to witness for him, entrusted with them this statement, and confessed in their presence

أَشْهَدَهُمْ وَاسْتَوَدَعَهُمْ وَاقْرَأَ عَنْدَهُمْ

that he bears witness that there is no god save Allah,

أَنَّهُ يَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

One and Only and having no associate with Him,

وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ

that Muḥammad, may Allah bless him and his Household, is His servant and messenger,

وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ

وَآلِهِ عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

that he acknowledges all of the prophets and the messengers [of God], peace be upon them,

وَأَنَّهُ مُقَرَّرٌ بِجَمِيعِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ

وَالرُّسُلِ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ

that `Alī is the representative of Allah and the leader appointed by Him,

وَأَنَّ عَلِيًّا وَوَلِيُّ اللَّهِ وَإِمَامُهُ

that the Imams from `Alī’s progeny are his leaders,

وَأَنَّ الْإِمَّةَ مِنْ وَوَلِدِهِ إِتْبَتُهُ

that they are in sequence are al-Ḥasan, al-Ḥusayn, `Alī the son of al-Ḥusayn, Muḥammad the son of `Alī, Ja`far the son of Muḥammad, Mūsā the son of Ja`far, `Alī the son of Mūsā, Muḥammad the son of `Alī, `Alī the son of Muḥammad, al-Ḥasan the son of `Alī, and the Rising Argument-person, peace be upon them all; and that Paradise is true, Hellfire is true, the Hour [of Resurrection] shall be coming; there is no doubt about it, and Allah shall resurrect those who are in graves; and that Muḥammad, may Allah bless him and his Household, is Allah's servant and messenger; he has come with the truth, that `Alī is the representative of Allah, the vicegerent after Allah's Messenger,

وَأَنَّ أَوْلَهُمُ الْحَسَنُ
وَالْحُسَيْنُ
وَعَلِيُّ بْنُ الْحُسَيْنِ
وَمُحَمَّدُ بْنُ عَلِيٍّ
وَجَعْفَرُ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ
وَمُوسَى بْنُ جَعْفَرٍ
وَعَلِيُّ بْنُ مُوسَى
وَمُحَمَّدُ بْنُ عَلِيٍّ
وَعَلِيُّ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ
وَالْحَسَنُ بْنُ عَلِيٍّ
وَالْقَائِمُ الْحُجَّةُ
عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ
وَأَنَّ الْجَنَّةَ حَقٌّ
وَالنَّارَ حَقٌّ
وَالسَّاعَةَ آتِيَةٌ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهَا
وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَبْعَثُ مَنْ فِي الْقُبُورِ
وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ
وَأَلِيهِ عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ
جَاءَ بِالْحَقِّ
وَأَنَّ عَلِيًّا وَلِيُّ اللَّهِ
وَالْخَلِيفَةَ مِنْ بَعْدِ رَسُولِ

may Allah's blessings be upon him and his Household, and the one appointed by Allah's Messenger to succeed him in his nation, carrying out the command of his Lord the All-blessed and All-exalted, that Fāṭimah is the daughter of Allah's Messenger, her two sons al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn are the sons and grandsons of Allah's Messenger, the two leaders to the true guidance, and the two principals of mercy, and that `Alī, Muḥammad, Ja`far, Mūsā, `Alī, Muḥammad, `Alī, al-Ḥasan, and the Argument-person, peace be upon them all, are Imams, leaders, inviters to Allah the All-majestic and All-high, and arguments [of Him] against His servants.

The writer of this document-paper address the witnesses with these words:

اللَّهُ
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ
وَمُسْتَخْلَفُهُ فِي مَا مَتَّهِ
مُؤَدِّيًّا لِأَمْرِ رَبِّهِ تَبَارَكَ
وَتَعَالَى
وَأَنَّ فَاطِمَةَ بِنْتُ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ
وَأَبْنَيْهَا الْحَسَنَ وَالْحُسَيْنَ
أَبْنَا رَسُولِ اللَّهِ وَسِبْطَاهُ
وَأِمَامَا الْهُدَى
وَقَائِدَا الرَّحْمَةِ
وَأَنَّ عَلِيًّا وَمُحَمَّدًا
وَجَعْفَرَ أَوْ مُوسَى
وَعَلِيًّا وَمُحَمَّدًا
وَعَلِيًّا وَحَسَنًا
وَالْحُجَّةَ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ
أَيُّهُ وَقَادَةُ
وَدُعَاةً إِلَى اللَّهِ جَلَّ وَعَلَى
وَحُجَّةً عَلَى عِبَادِهِ

O whose names are mentioned in this document-paper,

يَاكَ وَيَاكَ الْمُسْتَمِينَ فِي هَذَا
الْكِتَابِ

certify for me this testimony of yours

أَشْتُوَالِي هَذِهِ الشَّهَادَةَ
عِنْدَكُمْ

so that you will meet me carrying it at the Divine Pond.

حَتَّى تَلْقَوْنِي بِهَا عَلَى الْحَوْضِ

As a reply, the witnesses say:

O [.....we entrust you with Allah.

يَاكَ نَسْتُوْدَعُكَ اللَّهُ

Our testimony, admission, and brotherhood

وَالشَّهَادَةُ وَالْإِقْرَارُ

وَالْإِخَاءُ

are entrusted with Allah's Messenger,

مَوْدُوْعَةً عِنْدَ رَسُوْلِ اللَّهِ

may Allah bless him and his Household.

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ

We invoke upon you peace,

وَنَقَرْنَا عَلَيْكَ السَّلَامَ

Allah's mercy, and His blessings.

وَرَحْمَةَ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتِهِ

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا لَا نَعْلَمُ مِنْهُ إِلَّا خَيْرًا وَأَنْتَ أَعْلَمُ بِهِ مِنَّا

O Allah, we know nothing except good about him , while You know him better than we do.

Witness Signatures	
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