

One day, the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Give presents to your dead people."

"O Allah's Messenger," we asked, "what should we give as presents to our dead people?"

"You should present them alms and supplications," instructed the Holy Prophet (ﷺ).

He then added, "Every Friday, the souls of the believers come down to the lowest sky directly on their houses and homes and each one of them cry out with sad tone and weep, saying, 'O my family members! O my sons! O my father! O my mother! O my relatives! Be kind to us, may Allah have mercy upon you, by presenting us some of that which was possessed by us!'

Imam al-Ridā (‘a) said, 'Whoever comes to the graves of his brother-in-faith and puts his hand on the grave ,directs his face towards the kiblah and recites Sūrah al-Qadr (No. 97) seven times, will be secured on the Great Horror Day.'

Abdullāh ibn Sinān has reported that he asked Imam al-Sādiq (‘a) to teach him how to salute the inhabitants in graves. The Imam (‘a) replied that he might say the following words:

Peace be upon the inhabitants of these graves, the faithful believers and Muslims.

alssalāmu `alā ahli alddiyāri
min almu'minā
walmusliminā

You have preceded us,

antum lanā faraṭun

and we, Allah willing, shall join you.

wa naḥnu in shā'a allāhu
bikum lāhiqūna

السَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ أهْلِ الْدِيَارِ مِنْ
الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ

أَنْتُمْ لَنَا فَرَطٌ

وَتَحْنُ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ بِكُمْ لَاحِقُونَ

Imam al-Ḥusayn, peace be upon him, is reported to have said that whoever enters a graveyard and says the following words, Almighty Allah will record for him rewards that are as many as the creatures from the time of (Prophet) Adam up to the coming of the Hour (of Resurrection):

O Allah, O Lord of these extinct souls,

allāhumma rabba hādhihī al-
arwāḥi alfāniyati

اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّ هَذِهِ الْأَرْوَاحِ الْفَانِيَةِ

rotten bodies,

wal-ajsādi albāliyati

وَالْجُسَادِ الْبَالِيَّةِ

and crumbled bones

wal` iżāmi alnnakhirati

وَالْعِظَامِ النَّخْرَةِ

that left this worldly life bearing faith in You,

allatī kharajat min
alddunyā wa hiya bika
mu'minatun

أَلَّتِي خَرَجْتُ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَهِيَ بِكَ مُؤْمِنَةٌ

(please) insert into them rest from You and salutation from me.

adkhil `alayhim rawhan
minka wa salāman minnī

ادْخِلْ عَلَيْهِمْ رَوْحًا مِنْكَ وَسَلَامًا مِنِّي

Imam `Alī, peace be upon him, is reported to have said that whoever enters a graveyard and says the following words, Almighty Allah will grant him the reward of fifty-year worship and erases from him and his parents the punishment of fifty-year wrongdoings:

Peace be upon the group of "There is no god save Allah"

alssalāmu `lā ahli lā ilāha
illā allāhu

السَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ أهْلِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

from the group of "There is no god save Allah."

min ahli lā ilāha illā allāhu

مِنْ أهْلِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

O group of "There is no god save Allah,"

yā ahla lā ilāha illā allāhu

يَا أهْلِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

in the name of "There is no god save Allah,"

bihāqqi lā ilāha illā allāhu

بِحَقِّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

how have you found the profession of "There is no god save Allah"

from "There is no god save Allah?"

O He to Whom "There is no god save Allah" is said,

I beseech You in the name of "There is no god save Allah"

to forgive any one who professed that "There is no god save Allah"

and to include us in the group of those who professed that "There is no god save Allah."

Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.

'Alī is the authority from Allah."

kayfa wajadtum qawla lā ilāha illā allāhu

min lā ilāha illā allāhu

yā lā ilāha illā allāhu

biḥaqqi lā ilāha illā allāhu

ighfir liman qāla lā ilāha illā allāhu

waḥshurnā fī zumrati man qāla lā ilāha illā allāhu

muhammadun rasūlu allāhi

'aliyyun waliyyu allāhi

كَيْفَ وَجَدْتُمْ قَوْلَ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

مِنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

يَا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

بِحَقِّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

أَغْفِرْ لِمَنْ قَالَ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

وَاحْشُرْنَا فِي زُمْرَةٍ مَنْ قَالَ لَا إِلَهَ

إِلَّا اللَّهُ

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

عَلَيْهِ وَلِيُّ اللَّهِ

According to another tradition, the best thing to be said whenever one passes by a graveyard is the following words, after stopping there:

O Allah, (please) turn them to that to which they have turned

allāhumma wallihim mā tawallaw

and join them to those whom they have loved.

waḥshurhum ma`a man ahabbū

اللَّهُمَّ وَلَهُمْ مَا تَوَلَّوْا

وَاحْشُرْهُمْ مَعَ مَنْ أَحْبَبُوا

In his book of *Miṣbāḥ al-Zā'ir*, Sayyid ibn Ṭāwūs says: When you intend to visit the graves of the faithful believers, you may choose Thursday; otherwise, you may visit them on any other day. To do so, you may turn your face towards the kiblah direction, put your hand on the grave, and say the following words:

O Allah, (please) have mercy on his strangeness,

allāhumma irham
ghurbatahū

connect his loneliness,

wa šil waḥdatahū

entertain his isolation,

wa ānis waḥshatahū

secure his horror,

wa āmin raw` atahū

attach Your mercy to him;

wa askin ilayhi min
rahmatika

such mercy by which he can do without the mercy of anyone other than You,

raḥmatan yastaghni
bihā `an rahmati man
siwāka

and join him to those to whom he has adhered.

wa alhiqhu biman kāna
yatwallāhu

اللَّهُمَّ أَرْحَمْ عَرْبَتَهُ

وَصِيلٌ وَحْدَتَهُ

وَآنسٌ وَحْشَتَهُ

وَآمِنٌ رَوْعَتَهُ

وَاسْكِنْ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَحْمَتِكَ

رَحْمَةً يَسْتَغْنِي بِهَا عَنْ رَحْمَةِ مَنْ

سِوَالَّ

وَلِحِقْهُ بِمَنْ كَانَ يَتَوَلَّهُ