

# GHUSL & KAFAN SESSION

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*Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Association of Edmonton*

*January 25, 2020*

*In this seminar, you will learn on how to do ghusl (Washing the body),  
Hunoot (Procedure), Kafan (Shrouding the body).*

*You will learn the fiqh behind the ghusl, kafan, dealing with the deceased  
and before and during the time of death.*

# INTRODUCTION FROM THE QUR'AN

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Death is a reality. The Qur'an in says:

*"Every person (nafs) will taste death, ....." (Surah 3:185) (taste can be either sweet or bitter!)*

*"... no one knows (where) in what land (or place) he will die". (Surah 31:34)*

*"Allah does not give any breather (or let up) to anyone for death when its fixed time comes." (Surah 63:11)*

*"...To Allah We belong, and to Him is our return" (Surah 2:156)*

Therefore, one should not dread death but take it as crossing the bridge from this temporary life to the permanent, everlasting life. So, what should be done when one is confronted with it? This is the topic for our discussion.

# WHAT IS DEATH? ANSWERS OF THE INFALLIBLES

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“For the believer, it is like a nice fragrance, which comforts him and cures all his pains. But death for a disbeliever would be like the sting of a snake or scorpion; on the contrary it would be much more severe”<sup>1</sup> **Imam As-Sadiq (A)**

“It is greatest happiness that would be bestowed to the believers when they would be transferred from the world full of hardships to the bounties of the everlasting world. And it is the great destruction that would befall the disbelievers, when they would be transferred from their worldly paradise to the everlasting fire (of Hell).”<sup>2</sup> **Imam Hasan (A)**

“People are of two kinds, one is those from whom others will get relief and the other kind are those who would get the relief themselves. Those who get the relief themselves are believers. When death approaches them they would get relief from hardships and pains of this world. And those from whom others would get relief are the disbelievers. When they die, the trees, animals and a large number of people would get relief from them.”<sup>3</sup> **Prophet Muhammad (S)**

# WHAT IS DEATH? ANSWERS OF THE INFALLIBLES

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“For the believer it is like the taking off of a dirty garment and an iron collar and chain; changing into the nicest garments, the most fragrant perfumes and riding the best mount and the best of the abodes. For the disbeliever, it is like taking off the garment of pride and transfer from the best abodes into the filthiest and the roughest garments and into the most terrifying houses and to the most severe chastisements.”<sup>4</sup> **Imam As-Sadiq (A)**

“At the time of death, the angel of death says: ‘What you hope for will be given to you and that from which you fear, you will be given security.’ At that moment, a door to Paradise will be opened before him and he will see his position. He would be told, ‘Look at your abode in Paradise and look at the Prophet, Ali, Hasan and Husain (as); they are your neighbours.’ This is statement of the Almighty Allah in the Holy Quran:

*Those who believe and guarded (against evil): they shall have good news in this world’s life and in the hereafter. (10:63-64)*”<sup>5</sup> **Imam Al-Baqir (A)**

# PREPARING AND ACTIONS

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*In Preparation of Death*

*At the time of Death*

*After the Death*

*After Death Rituals*

# IN PREPARATION FOR DEATH

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- ◉ Before death, try your best to fulfil the obligations, which are upon you in regard to the creatures as well as the Creator
- ◉ Return to the owners whatever has been given to you as a trust or write it down in your will so that the executor of your will shall return the trust to its rightful owner.
- ◉ In Islam, you are allowed to dispose up to one-third of your estate for whomsoever or whatever cause you like. As for the two thirds, it must be distributed among your heirs according to the shares allocated for them in the shari'ah.
- ◉ Make a will in writing or verbally about those religious obligations which you could not fulfil by yourself and which cannot be done on your behalf by others except after your death: the qadha prayers, fasting and pilgrimage (hajj), etc. You should specify the amount from the one-third of your estate to be used to hire people to do such deeds. If you cannot afford this, then you may request your heirs to do unfulfilled rituals on your behalf voluntarily or pay someone else to do so.
- ◉ It is also recommended, if your financial circumstances allow you, to include your deserving relations in the one-third of your estate.
- ◉ It is recommended to forgive your brethren in iman for whatever wrong they may have done to you. On the other hand, you should ask your brethren in iman to forgive you for the intentional and unintentional wrong you may have done to them.

# AT THE TIME OF DEATH

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- ◉ When death approaches you, it is wajib on you to lie down on your back in such a way that the soles of your feet face the qiblah (direction of Mecca). Or you may turn your bed in such a way that your soles will face the qiblah. If you cannot do so yourself, then it is wajib on those who are with you to help you.
- ◉ It is recommended to say by yourself or repeat after someone else the declaration of faith and statement of faraj.
- ◉ The declaration of faith: It is a declaration in which you reconfirm your belief in Allah, Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.), the twelve Imams (a.s.), the Qu'ran, and the Day of Judgement.
- ◉ It is recommended to move the dying person to his/her usual place of prayer in the home. This is recommended only if it does not cause pain or inconvenience to the dying person.
- ◉ It is recommended to recite two surahs, Surah Yasin (no. 36) and Surah as-Saffat (no. 37), near the dying person. According to the traditions, this will relive the pangs of death.

# AFTER THE DEATH

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- ◉ Soon after a person dies, it is recommended to do the following things:
- ◉ Close the eye-lids of the dead person
- ◉ Close the mouth of the dead person
- ◉ Tie the two jaws so that the mouth does not open
- ◉ Straighten his/her arms and place them on the two sides of his body
- ◉ Straighten his/her legs
- ◉ Cover the dead body
- ◉ Switch on the light in the room where the dead body is kept
- ◉ Arrange the funeral as soon as possible
- ◉ Inform the mu'mineen to attend the funeral.



# AFTER DEATH RITUALS

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- They cover *Ghusl/Kafan/Dafan* i.e., washing, shrouding, and burying. Basically, these are *Wajib* (obligatory) acts for all of us but *Kifai - Wajibe Kifai*, which means if one or more persons undertake to do, others are absolved. Else it is *wajib* on everyone.
- Therefore, it is essential for all of us to know the basics of burial rituals in case we are called upon to perform them when it becomes obligatory for us to do so according to the *Shar'ia*.

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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*What is Ghusl Mayyit?*

*How to perform Ghusl Mayyit*

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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## BASIC FACTS

- Giving ghusl, kafan, hunoot, prayers, and burial is wajib upon every muslim regardless if they are shia ithna-asheri or not.
- It is considered wajib-e-kifae; ie: if some people undertake to fulfill the obligation, others will be relieved of the responsibility.
- If one feels that the ghusl, kafan, and so on is performed incorrectly, then it is one's responsibility to step forward and perform them correctly.
- The dead body needs to receive three ghusl in total;
  1. water mixed with berry leaves
  2. water with camphor,
  3. pure water.

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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## BASIC FACTS

- ◉ A person giving ghusl to a dead body should be a muslim, preferably shia ithna asheri, adult, sane, and should know the rules pertaining to giving ghusl. However, an intelligent boy/girl who is not yet baligh gives ghusl correctly, it is okay.
- ◉ Intention/niyyat should be “Qurbatan Illallah”
- ◉ It is haraam to look at the private parts of a corpse when giving ghusl.
- ◉ This ghusl is similar to other ghusl ie: janabat and needs to be performed in the way of tartibi (step by step)
- ◉ It is haraam to charge a fee for giving ghusl, but can charge for the preliminary preparations before ghusl.

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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**Step One:** *what do you do when you receive the body?*

1. Whatever you see in the room stays in the room
2. Apply appropriate protective equipment to give ghusl (gloves, gown, etc).
3. Place the body on the wash table
4. Permission from the guardian/next of kin etc.
5. Remove all the clothes and **COVER THE PRIVATE PARTS.**
6. Do not remove any dressings or objects that you suspect will start bleeding.
7. Prepare the appropriate ghusl water (we have 2 separate containers one for berry leaves, and one for camphor)
8. Clean the body thoroughly of all najasat/dirt using soap and water prior to giving the obligatory ghusl.

***NOTE:** The amount of sidr (berry leaves) or camphor should not be so much that the water becomes mixed, and not so little that you feel like nothing has been added to the water.*

If there isn't enough amount of berry leaves and camphor, then mix the water with whatever you have.

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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## **Step Two:** *Ghusl with Sidr/Berry Leaves Water*

1. Niyyat/Intention: “I am washing this dead body (of so and so) in front of me with sidr water wajib qurbatan illallah.
2. Wash the head and neck thoroughly front and back.
3. Wash the right side front and back and ensuring the water reaches the private parts
4. Wash the left side front and back ensuring the water reaches the private parts.

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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## Step Three: *Ghusl with Camphor Water*

1. Niyyat/Intention: “I am washing this dead body (of so and so) in front of me with camphor water wajib qurbatan illallah.
2. Wash the head and neck thoroughly front and back.
3. Wash the right side front and back and ensuring the water reaches the private parts
4. Wash the left side front and back ensuring the water reaches the private parts.

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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## Step Four: *Ghusl with Pure Water*

1. Niyyat/Intention: “I am washing this dead body (of so and so) in front of me with pure water wajib qurbatan illallah.
2. Wash the head and neck thoroughly front and back.
3. Wash the right side front and back and ensuring the water reaches the private parts
4. Wash the left side front and back ensuring the water reaches the private parts.
5. After all 3 ghusl gently dry the body with a clean towel.

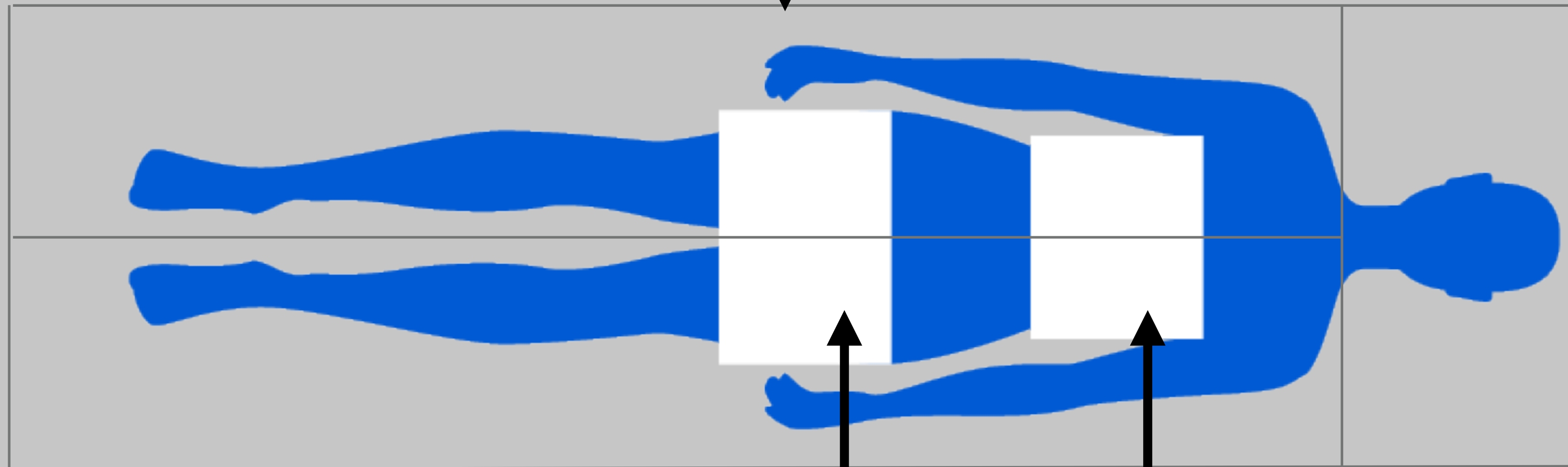


# GHUSL MAYYIT

**1** I am giving ghusl to this corpse with [mention type of water being used to give ghusl] wajib qurbatan ilallah

**3** Wash Right Side

**2** Wash Head & Neck



**4** Wash Left Side

Private Parts should be covered at all times

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- Is ghusl obligatory for a fetus?

**Yes/No.**

No: if less than four months and doesn't have any human features. Wrapped in a cloth and buried.

Yes: Less than 4 months with human features, or more than 4 months.

Male/Female can give ghusl to the little child of the opposite gender.

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- ◉ What if berry leaves/camphor is not available/ghasbi?

The dead body should be given ghusl on the basis of precaution with pure-unmixed water and after the three ghusl it should also be given one tayammum

- ◉ What if the dead body was in the state of janabat when passed away?

It is not necessary to give him the respective ghusl, the ghusl given to the dead body will suffice.

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- Should ghusl be given to a muslim illegitimate child?

Yes

- What if there is no man to give ghusl to a male dead body?

1. It is unlawful for a man to give ghusl to the dead body of a woman and vice versa.
2. However, in above question mahram women can give ghusl to the dead body.

# GHUSL MAYYIT

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- What if there is no water to give ghusl, or the body has open bleeding wounds or no water is available?

One tayammum should be given instead of a ghusl. The recommended precaution is to give 3 tayammums, and in one of the tayammums, there should be a niyyat of “Ma fi-zimmah” which means that the person giving tayammum resolves that this tayammum is given to absolve him of his responsibility.

- When do you apply the rule of jabira?

If by any chance the dead body has a tape/bandaid etc and by which if removed it will bleed profusely, the rule of jabira can be used by which you perform ghusl and let the water pass over the tape/bandaid.

# HUNOOT & KAFAN

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*What is Hunoot?*

*How to do Hunoot*

*What is Kafan?*

*How to do Kafan*

# HUNOOT & KAFAN

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## BASIC FACTS

- Giving ghusl, kafan, hunoot, prayers, and burial is wajib upon every muslim regardless if they are shia ithna-asheri or not.
- It is considered wajib-e-kifaae; ie: if some people undertake to fulfill the obligation, others will be relieved of the responsibility.
- If one feels that the ghusl, kafan, and so on is performed incorrectly, then it is one's responsibility to step forward and perform them correctly.
- The Kafan should contain three pieces of cloth
  1. a loin cloth
  2. a shirt or tunic
  3. a full cover.

# HUNOOT & KAFAN

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## BASIC FACTS

- ◉ Intention/niyyat should be “Wajib Qurbatan Illallah”
- ◉ After the ghusl, it is wajib to give Hunut (application of camphor to the forehead, both palms, knees, and the big toes to the feet)
- ◉ The three pieces used for the kafan should not be so thin that the body of the deceased can be seen. However, if the body is fully concealed after the application of all the three pieces, then it will be sufficient.
- ◉ It is not permissible to give kafan which is najis, or which is made of pure silk, or which is woven with gold, except in the situation of helplessness, when no alternative is to be found.
- ◉ If the kafan becomes Najis, the part of the kafan that is najis can be cut or washed, even if the body has been placed in the grave. If washing or cutting of the najis part is impossible, then the kafan should be changed.



# HUNOOT PROCESS

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# HUNOOT PROCESS

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Once you receive the body after the ghusl has been completed:

1. **Whatever you see in the room stays in the room.**
2. Cover the private parts
3. Lay the body on top of the already cut/prepared kafan to make the process easier.
4. It is better to give Hunut before Kafan. However, there is no harm in giving Hunut during kafan or after.
5. Camphor must be powdered and fresh, and if it is stale that it has lost its fragrance, then it will not suffice.
6. After the ghusl, apply camphor to the forehead, both palms, both knees, and big toes of the feet. It is not necessary to rub the camphor, it must be seen on those parts. Application of camphor to the nose tip is mustahab.
7. As a recommended precaution, the camphor should be applied to the forehead first. It is not necessary to observe sequence while applying camphor to the mentioned parts.

# HUNOOT PROCESS

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7. It is mustahab to mix a small quantity of Turbah (soil of the land around the shrine of Imam Husayn (A.S) with camphor. It should not be applied to those parts of the body, where its use may imply any disrespect (ie: knees, and toes).
8. The quantity of Turbah (after mixing it with camphor) should not be so much to change the identity of camphor.
9. If the amount of camphor available is only sufficient for ghusl only, then it is not wajib to apply Hunut. However, if small amount of camphor is left after ghusl but not enough to provide Hunut to all the mentioned parts; then as a recommended precaution, camphor should be applied to the forehead first, and the remainder (if any) will be applied to other parts.
10. It is also Mustahab that 2 pieces of fresh and green twigs are placed in the grave with the dead body (we use the branches from the tree that is seen at the main gate upon entering the center). Applied in the Kafan, on the right and left arms, under armpits.

# KAFAN PROCESS

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# KAFAN PROCESS

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## WAJIB PIECES:

1. **Loin Cloth**: an apron like cloth worn around the waist. It should completely cover both the front and back part of the body from the navel to the knees. It is recommended that the cloth should be long enough to cover the body from chest up to the feet.
2. **Tunic**: a piece of cloth similar to a long shirt that covers the body from the shoulders to below the knees, preferably to the ankles.
3. **Inner Wrapper**: a large sheet of cloth that covers the entire body. As a precaution, it should be long and wide enough so that the front and the back part overlap each other, and the top and the bottom ends can be tied with a string.

# KAFAN PROCESS

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## MUSTAHAAB PIECES:

1. **Outer Wrapper:** a second large sheet like the first sheet
2. **Scarf:** to cover the head and the neck for females only.
3. **Briefs:** made up of a cotton pad or its substitute sprinkled with a little camphor (for males & females) to cover the complete area of the private parts and a strap to tie up around the hips.
4. **Breast Cloth:** a strip of cloth to cover the whole area of the breast (for females only).

\* Pre-arrange the cloths systematically and lay them down in sequence on the floor/mat etc. to facilitate easy process when performing hunut and shrouding of the body.

# KAFAN PROCESS

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## From Bottom to the Top (arranged before the body is placed)

Belts (Upper, middle and lower to tighten the whole <i>kafan</i> )		Male	Female
Chaddar	Wajib	Male	Female
Chaddar	Mustahab	Male	Female
Scarf	Mustahab		Female
Turban (Amama)	Mustahab	Male	
Qamis (Long Shirt)	Wajib	Male	Female
Loin Cloth (Lungi)	Wajib	Male	Female
Briefs/Knickers	Mustahab	Male	Female
Belt (to tighten briefs)	Mustahab	Male	Female
Breast Cloth (to cover breast)	Mustahab		Female
Cotton Pad	Mustahab		Female

The wrapping is then done from the top to the bottom to finally reach the belts to tie up the whole body after shrouding.

# KAFAN PROCESS

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## **MUSTAHAAB THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:**

- The cloth used for Kafan should be white
- The body should be positioned so that the right shoulder should face Qibla.
- Recite surahs/ayats from the Qur'an and Istaghfar while shrouding the body.



# KAFAN PROCESS

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## **MUSTAHAAB THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:**

- The cloth used for Kafan should be white
- The body should be positioned so that the right shoulder should face Qibla.
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# KAFAN PROCESS

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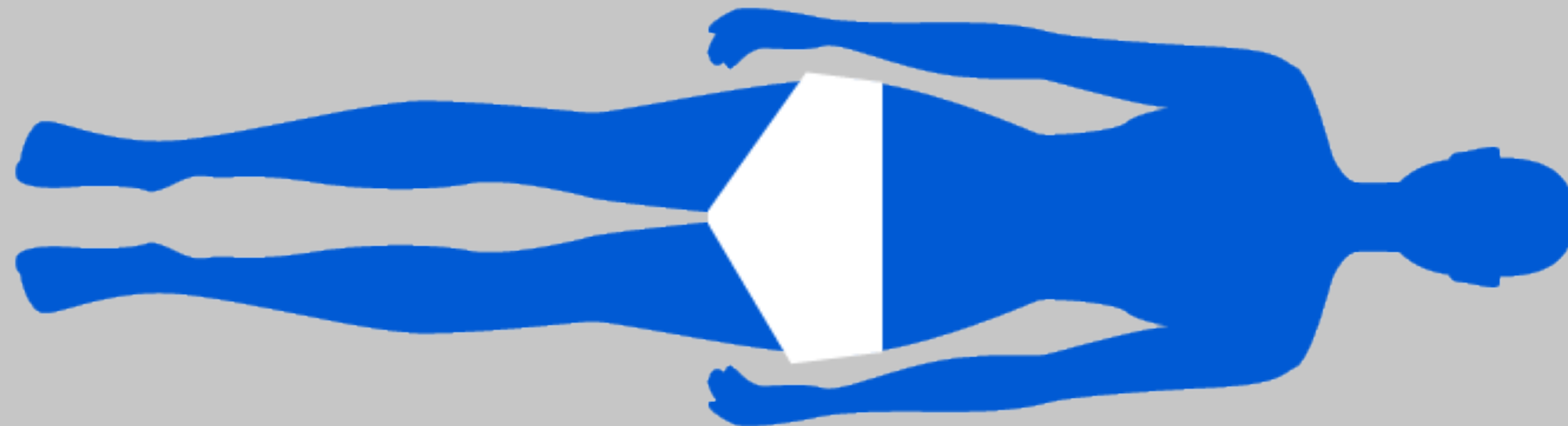
## Method & Procedure of Shrouding a Female Mayyit (Deceased Woman)

Note: The measurements taken are for a 5 feet to 6 feet person, average built

### Sequence

#### Step One: Briefs/Pads

The brief is a pad made of cotton wool with a little camphor spread over it. This is a **Mustahab** part of shrouding



Measurements: 14" by 63" (0.35m by 1.58m)

Approximate length of strip is twice the waist measurement, width of the strip is half of the waist measurement. Belt made of strip of cloth is used around to tie around the waist

# KAFAN PROCESS

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## Step Two: The Upper (Chest) Cover

The chest cover is a piece of cloth wrapped around the chest so as to cover the entire chest. This is **Mustahab** part of Shrouding.



Measurements: 14" by 54" (0.35m by 1.35m)

The length should cover 5" above and below the bust of the female body.

The width is one and a half times the chest measurements.

# KAFAN PROCESS

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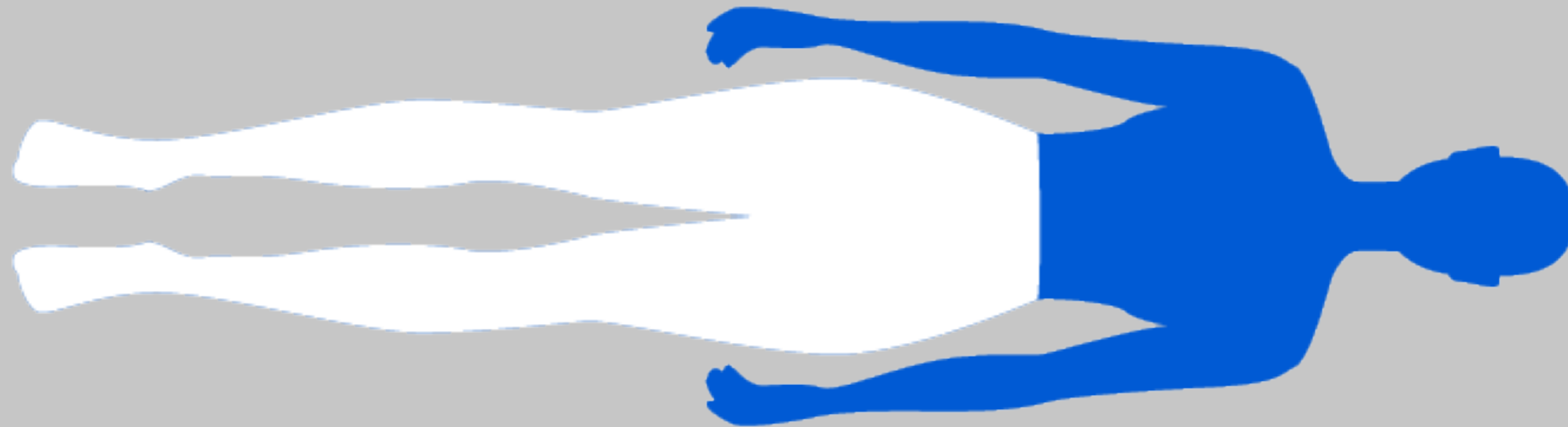
## Step Three: The Lower Wrapper (Waist to Feet)

The lower wrapper is a piece of cloth that covers the body from the waist to the feet.

The leg portion is cut and is wrapped around each leg.

For the **left leg**, the wrapping is in a **clockwise form**. For the **right leg**, it is wrapped in **counter-clockwise form**.

This is **Mustahab** part of shrouding.



Measurements: 45” by 108” (1.13m by 2.70m)

The length is three times the measurement of the waist.

The width is one and a quarter times the measurement of the waist.

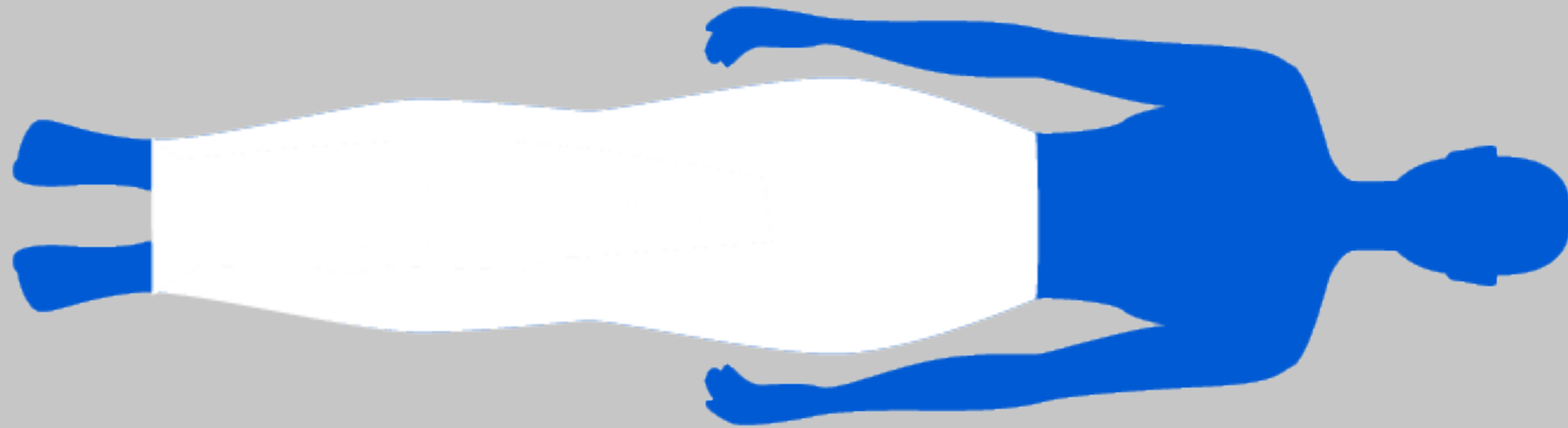
# KAFAN PROCESS

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## Step Four: Loin Cloth (Covering Waist to Ankles)

The loin cloth is wrapped around the body from waist to the ankles.

This is **Wajib** part of shrouding.



Measurements: 41" by 90" (1.03m by 2.25m)

The length is the measurement from waist to the ankles.

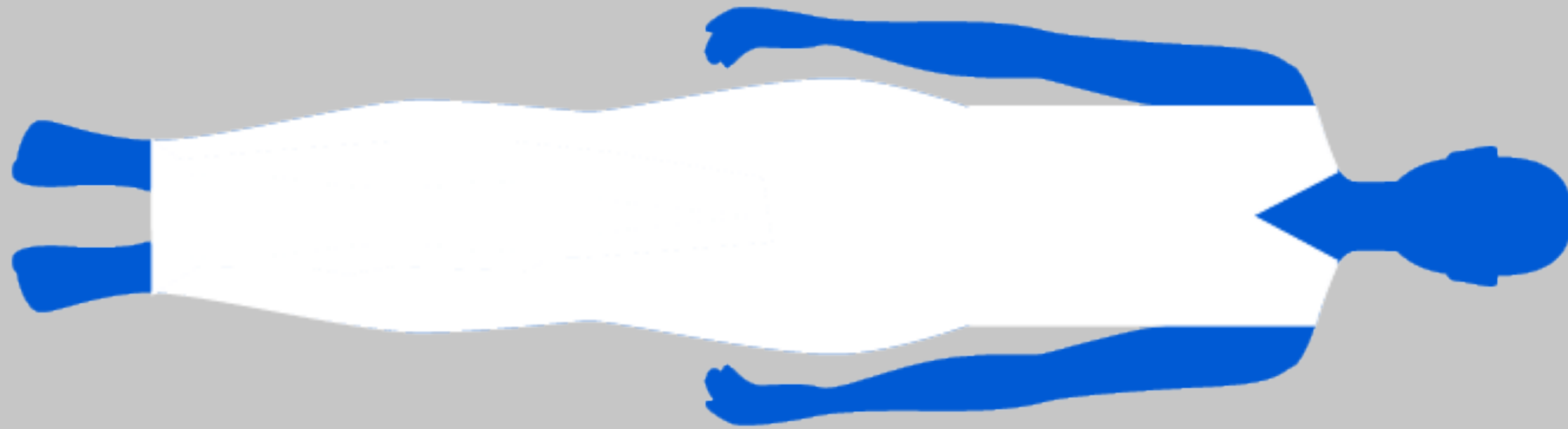
The width is two and a half times the bust measurement.

# KAFAN PROCESS

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## Step Five: Tunic (Shirt)

The tunic is a long piece of cloth that covers the body from shoulders to the ankles. This is **Wajib** part of shrouding.



Measurements: 36" by 108" (0.90m by 2.70m)

The length is three times the bust measurement.

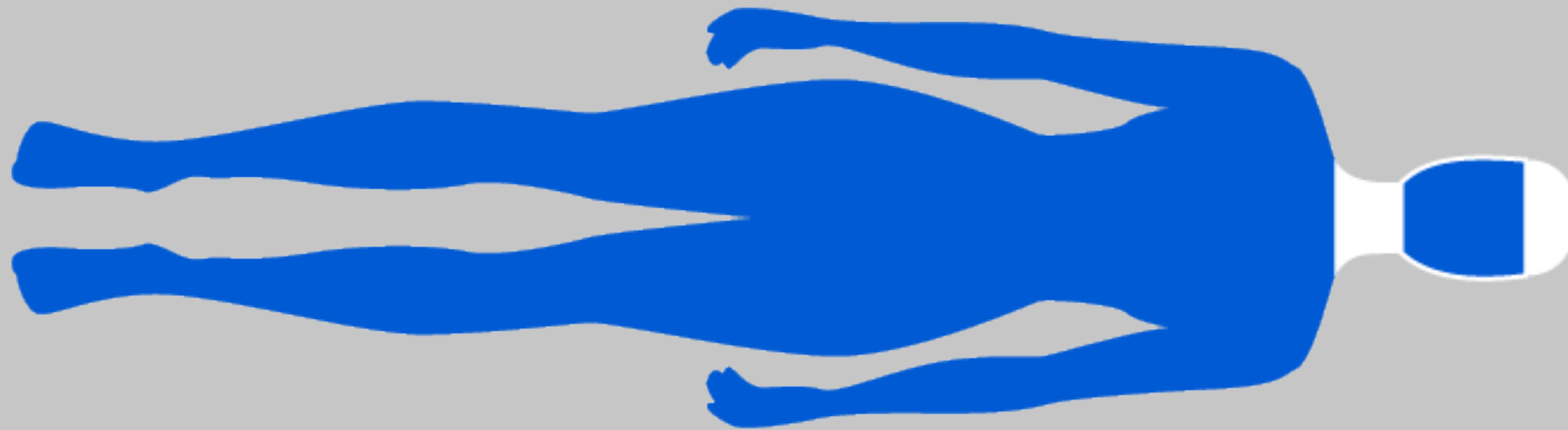
The width is the measurement of the bust.

# KAFAN PROCESS

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## Step Six: The Head Cover

The head cover is a piece of cloth which serves as a scarf and covers the head and neck of the body. This is **Mustahab** part of shrouding.



Measurements: 27" by 63" (0.68m by 1.58m)

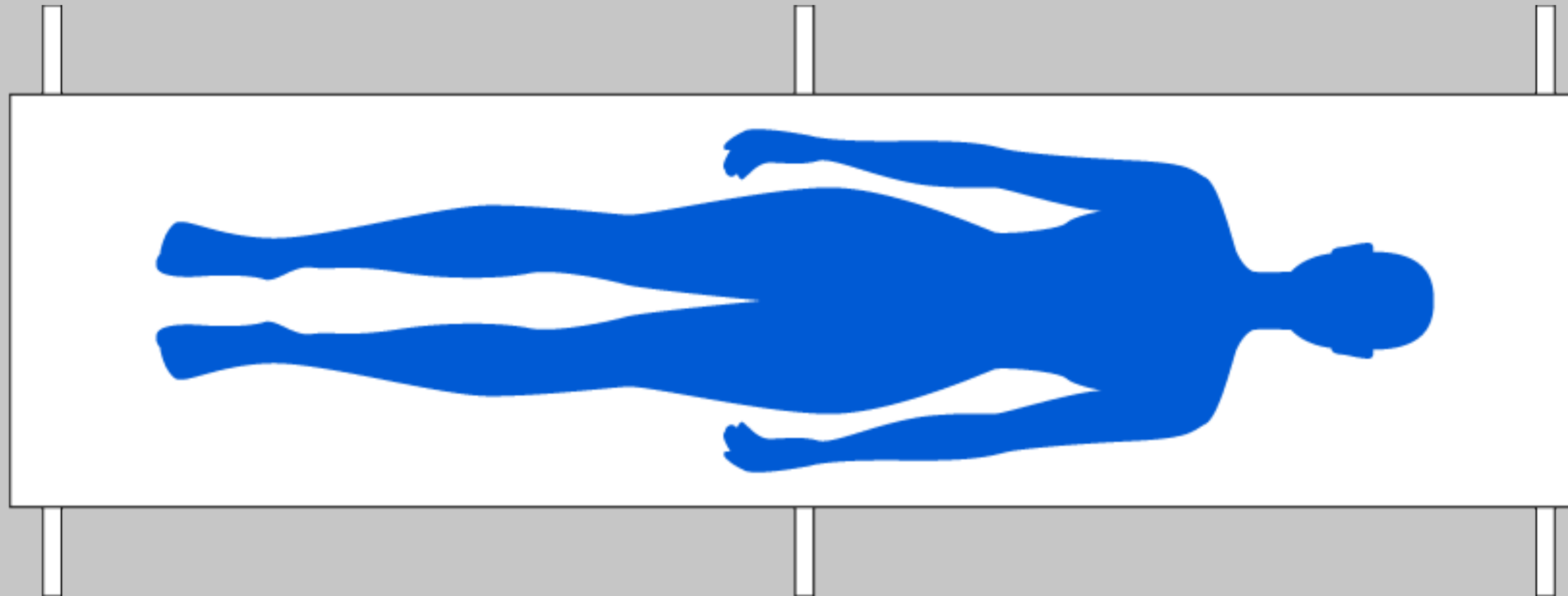
# KAFAN PROCESS

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## Step Seven: The Inner Wrapper (Chaddar)

The Inner Wrapper is an inner broad sheet of cloth which wraps all the parts of the shroud. It covers the whole body from top to the bottom.

This is **Wajib** part of shrouding.



Measurements: 90" by 90" (2.25m by 2.25m)

The length of the Chaddar is one and a half times the height of the body.



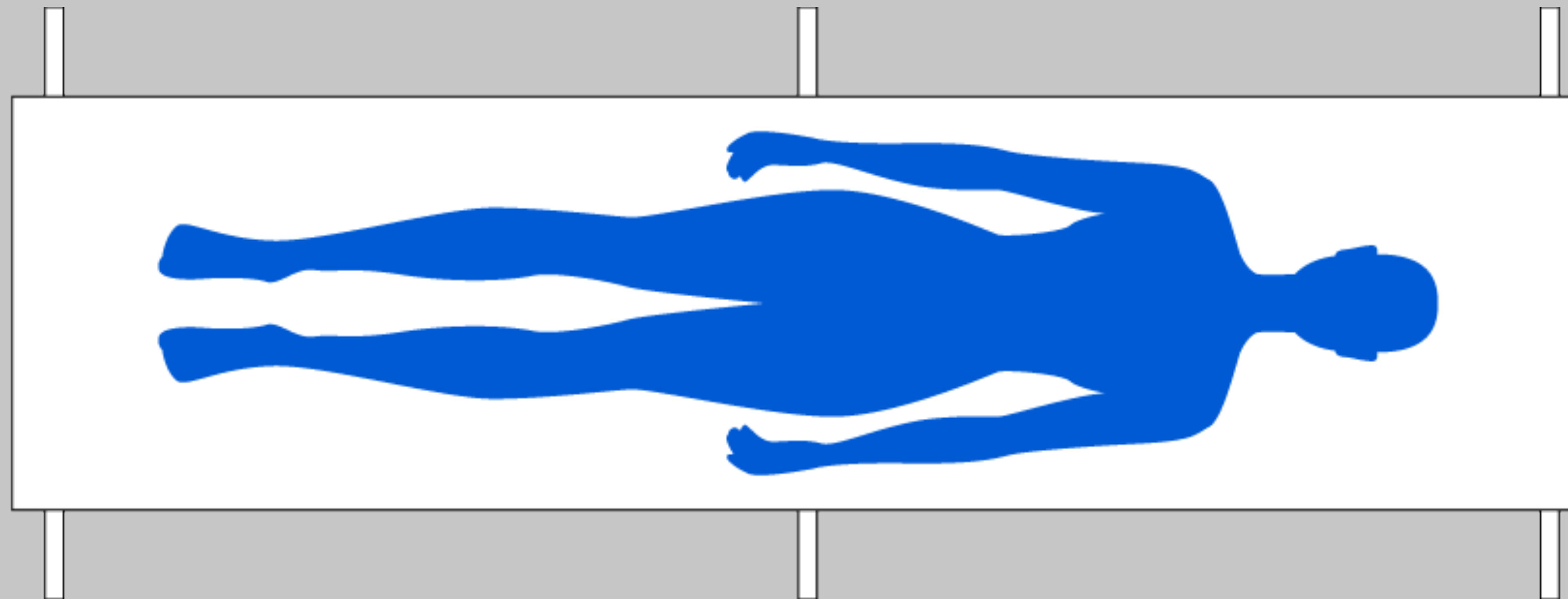
# KAFAN PROCESS

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## Step Eight: The Outer Wrapper (Chaddar)

This is the outer broad sheet of cloth that covers the body from the top to the bottom, including the inner wrapper. It is tied securely at the top, bottom and the middle of the body with the strips of cloth.

This is **Mustahab** part of shrouding.



Measurements: 90" by 90" (2.25m by 2.25m)

The length of the Chaddar is one and a half times the height of the body.

# REFERENCES

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Maalim Muhammadhussein Kermali: **Crossing the bridge.**

Maalim Muhammadhussein Kermali: **Burial Rituals**

Islamic Laws: **Sayyid Ali Hussaini Sistani**

Resurrection (Ma'ad) in the Quran: **Ibrahim Amini**

What You Should Do Just Before Death: **Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi**

1. Biharul Anwar, Vol. 6, Pg. 152.
2. Biharul Anwar, Vol. 6, Pg. 154.
3. Biharul Anwar, Vol. 6, Pg. 151.
4. Biharul Anwar, Vol. 6, Pg. 155.
5. Biharul Anwar, Vol. 6, Pg. 177.