

# The Ruling Regarding Praying Funeral Prayer Whilst Wearing Shoes

Darulifta Ahlesunnat

(Dawateislami)

## Question

What do the scholars of Islam say regarding the following matter: Can funeral prayer be offered in shoes?

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْجَوَابُ بِعَوْنِ الْمَلِكِ الْوَهَّابِ اللَّهُمَّ هِدَايَةَ الْحَقِّ وَالصَّوَابِ

If the shoes and ground beneath it is pure, it is permissible to offer funeral prayer with shoes on. If any of these conditions are not fulfilled, i.e., if the ground or the shoe is impure, the prayer will be invalid. If the ground is pure and there is no compelling need, it is appropriate to remove one's shoes. This is because even if the shoes are pure, they will still be dirty.

If there is doubt regarding the purity of the ground, caution lies in removing the shoes and offering the funeral prayer whilst standing on top of them. In this case, it is only necessary for the upper portion of the shoe to be pure. If the bottom part of the shoe or the ground is impure, then according to the opinion of Imam Muḥammad رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, upon which fatwā is issued, the prayer will be valid.

It is stated in *Fatāwā 'Ālamgīrī*:

ولو قام على النجاسة وفي رجليه نعلان أو جوربان لم تجز صلواته. كذا في محيط السرخسي ولو خدع نعليه وقام عليها جاز سواء كان ما يلي الأرض منه نجسا أو

طاهرا إذا كان ما يلي القدم طاهرا، هكذا في فتاوى قاضي خان<sup>1</sup>

In response to a question regarding offering funeral prayer with shoes in a place where horses urinated, Imām Aḥmad Razā Khān رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ writes:

If said place was impure due to urine or those who offered prayer did so in impure shoes, their prayer is not valid. Caution lies in removing the shoes and offering prayer whilst standing on them, because even if the ground or bottom of the shoe is impure, it will not affect the prayer.

It is stated in *Radd al-Muḥtār*:

قد توضع في بعض المواضع خارج المسجد في الشارع فيصل على عليها ويلزم منه فسادها من كثير من المصلين لعيوم النجاسة وعدم خلعهم نعالهم المتنجسة

In some areas, the funeral bier is placed on the road outside the masjid and funeral prayer is offered. This results in the prayer of many people being invalid, as those places are impure and people do not remove their impurity-stained shoes.

It is also mentioned in it:

<sup>1</sup> *Fatāwā 'Ālamgīrī*, vol. 1, p. 69

في البدائع لو صلى على مكعب اعلاه طاهر وباطنه نجس عند محمد يجوز لانه صلى في موضع طاهر كشوب طاهر تحته ثوب نجس الا وظاهرة ترجيح قول محمد وهو الاشبه

It is stated in *Badā'ī* that if he offered prayer on a shawl of which the upper part was pure but inner portion was impure; according to Imam Muhammad رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, it is permissible, because prayer was offered in a pure place. Just as is the case when there is a pure cloth and there is an impure cloth beneath it. Its apparent is giving preference to Imam Muhammad's opinion and that is most preponderant.<sup>2</sup>

وَاللّٰهُ اَعْلَمُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ وَرَسُوْلُهُ اَعْلَمُ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

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<sup>2</sup> *Fatāwā al-Razawīyah*, vol. 9, pp. 188-189