

Fatiha/ Niaz/ Khatam/ Qul
Terms explained

1. **FATIHA**: - means the opening, first chapter of the Quran, here the term is used because surah AL- FATIHA is always recited at the time of Eisal-e-sawab.
2. **NIAZ**: - Means an offering, here the term is used for offering rewards of good deeds to the souls of deceased Muslims.
3. **KHATAM**: - Means to conclude, to finish, as on such occasions recitation of the whole Quran is a tradition.
4. **QUL**: - Means “say”. The term is used in respect of the recitation of the four surahs of the Quran, beginning with the word “Qul”, on such occasions.

Fatiha/Niaz/Khatam/Qul What is Fatiha?

This is the commonly practised manner of Eisaal-e-Sawab adopted by AHLUS SUNNAH WAL JAMA'AH (SUNNI MUSLIMS). It consists of the following:

1. Performing some good deeds (AMAAL-E-HASANAHA) physically, for example recitation of the Holy Quran and other Holy words.
2. And on many occasions, performing some good deeds by spending a portion of wealth, for example preparation of some food in order to distribute to the poor and needy as SADQAH.
3. Then dedicating the reward (SAWAB) of such good deeds to the souls of deceased Muslims.
4. Also asking ALLAH ALMIGHTY to forgive their sins, and/or elevate their spiritual merits and grant their souls peace.

Normally it is observed by the family members and friends of the deceased people, in a collective manner on the 3rd, 10th, 20th and 40th days of their death and then annually.

According to the scholars (ULAMA) of the AHLUS SUNNAH, Fatiha is allowed (JAIZ) and commendable

Fatiha/ Niaz/Khatam/Qul
Concept of Fatiha in HADITH

The Prophet (PBUH) is reported to have said:

A deceased person, in his grave is like a sinking and crying person. He awaits DUA (for forgiveness) from his parents or brothers or friends. And when he receives such a DUA (Fatiha), he considers it better than the whole world. Indeed Allah grants enormous mercy and reward to the deceased in his grave as a result of DUA being made by the people of this world. And indeed a DUA of forgiveness (Fatiha) is a gift from living people to the deceased ones.

(MISHKAT- Abdullah Ibn-e-Abbas)

Fatiha/ Niaz
To make DUA for the forgiveness of Muslims

The Holy Quran states that this is a practice observed by the prophets (peace be upon Them) and true believers.

1. (And Abraham said) Forgive me, my Lord and forgive my parents and all the faithful on the day of judgement
(Surah No. 14, Ibrahim, verse 41)

2. Those (believers) who came after them, say; Forgive us Lord, and forgive our brothers who embraced the faith before us.
(Surah No. 59, Al- Hashr, verse 10)

3. (And Noah said) Forgive me Lord and forgive my parents and every true believer who seeks refuge in my house. Forgive all the faithful men and women.
(Surah No, 71, Jinn, verse 28)

Fatiha/Niaz/Khatam/Qul
Recitation of Holy Quran in Fatiha

The Prophet (PBUH) is reported to have said:

1. When someone visiting a graveyard recites surah AL-IKHLAS 11 times and dedicates its reward to the soul of the deceased (Muslims), he (also) gets the reward equal to the number of deceased (Muslims buried in the graveyard)

Reported by Hazrat Ali

Reference: DARQUTINI, DURR-E-MUKHTAR, and SHARAH AL-SUDOOR

2. When someone visits a graveyard and recites surah YASIN, Allah reduces the punishment to them and Allah (also) rewards him equally to the number of deceased (Muslims).

Reported by Hazrat Anas

Reference: SHRAH AL-SUDOOR. By Imam Jalaluddin Siuti – d. 911 A.H.

Fatiha/Niaz/Khatam/Qul
Reading Holy Words in Fatiha

Hazrat Jabir says:

We offered the funeral prayer for Saad Ibn Muaz, with the Messenger of Allah (PBUH), then he was laid to rest in grave. Afterwards, the messenger of Allah (PBUH) started to read Tasbeeh (SUBAN ALLAH) and Takbeer (ALLAH AKBER) whereupon someone said to him: O Messenger of ALLAH! Why are you reading Tasbeeh and Takbeer? He replied: The grave started to squeeze this pious person but now, due to our Tasbeeh and Takbeer, Allah has expanded it for him.
(MISHKAT)

Fatiha/Niaz/Khatam/Qul
Offering SADAQAH in Fatiha

1. Hazrat Saad Ibn Ubadah says:

After the death of my mother, I asked the Messenger of Allah (PBUH)

“What will be the best SADAQAH for my mother?”

He replied: "Water"

Accordingly I arranged digging of a well and, when it was ready I dedicated its reward to the soul of my mother by saying: “this well is for the mother of Saad”.

(ABU DAUD, NASAI)

2. Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Abbas says:

A man, upon the death of his mother, asked the Prophet (PBUH):

“O Prophet of Allah. If I offer a SADQAH, will it benefit my mother?”

He said, “yes it will”

Then the man said:

“I have an orchard and in your presence I dedicate it for the soul of my mother. Please be a witness to it”.

(TIRMIZI)

Fatiha/Niaz/Khatam/Qul

To place the food in front of the person who performs Fatiha

1. Hazrat Abu Hurairah brought some dates and placed them in front of The Prophet (PBUH) and requested him to make DUA for BARAKAH. The Prophet (PBUH) did Dua on these dates.

(MISHKAT)

2. Once the Prophet (PBUH) went to Hazrat Jabir's house and offered Dua for BARAKAH (blessings) on food and it was in front of him.

(MISHKAT)

Fatiha/Niaz/Khatam/Qul
How to offer Fatiha – A

Traditionally it is performed as below: -

1. Some food, preferably a sweet dish, is prepared at home or purchased from a shop. It may be fruit and/or a soft drink as well.
 2. Someone stands or sits in a clean place or on a prayer mat. The food/drink is placed in front of Him.
 3. He/She reads Darood Sharif and surahs from the Holy Quran.
 4. Usually Surah Fatiha and Surah IKHLAS are included in the recitation.
 5. Then the DUA is made in the following manner:-
 - Allah, The Merciful, accept kindly what I have just recited and which is being presented herewith.
 - Allah grant me with the best reward for these good deeds.
 - Allah I dedicate this reward (sawab) to the noble soul of our Prophet (PBUH).
 - Allah I also dedicate this reward to the noble souls of all the Prophets and Messengers (peace be upon them all) and their true followers.
- Continued on sheet B...

Fatiha/Niaz/Khatam/Qul
How to offer Fatiha – B

6. O Allah, I dedicate this reward, to the pious souls of all the SAHABA, and AHUL-BAYT of our prophet (PBUH). Particularly to the souls of KHULAFAT AL- RASHIDUN.
7. O Allah, I also dedicate this reward to the pious souls of all the AULIA (friends of Allah), SHOHADA (martyrs of Islam), ULAMA (scholars of Islam) and MASHA- IKH (Masters of the spiritual orders).
8. O Allah, finally, I dedicate this reward to the soul of(name of deceased) and to the souls of my parents, all the members of my family who have died and to the souls of all the Muslim brothers and sisters who have passed away.
9. O Allah, The Most Kind, The Most Merciful, grant forgiveness to them, shower your mercy on their graves and enter them into the heavens.
10. O Allah, grant patience and endurance to the grieved family of the deceased. Ameen.

Continued on sheet C

Fatiha/ Niaz/Khatam/Qul
How to offer Fatiha – C

If someone is offering FATIHA for a Wali, for example, for Ghous-ul-Azam Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani, then after No. 7(sheet B) he/she would say in his/her Dua as follows:-

O Allah, finally I dedicate this reward, to the pious soul of Hazrat Gous-ul-Azam Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani, all the members of his family and to the souls of all his disciples(Mureed) and to the souls of his followers and lovers.

O Allah, grant us Hidayah(guidance), strengthen our IMAN, shower your mercy and grant us prosperity, health and unity with the Wasilah of the pious soul of Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani and lead us on the true path in the light of his teachings. Ameen.