

Death and Beyond

A checklist for observances to be followed

No.	Observance	Reference		Done ?
		Page	Point	✓ or ✗
I Pre-Death Observances				
1	Medical equipment removed	2	1	
2	Body sponged with clean water by a relative	2	1	
3	Fresh set of clothes put on	2	1	
4	Head covered properly, ears left open	2	1	
5	Relative does Padyab and own Kusti	2	1	
6	Relative performs the Kusti for the dying person	2	1	
7	Panthaky of the family Agiary is alerted	2	2	
8	A few drops of Hom water or Av or Nirang or Pomegranate juice is given to the dying person	3	3	
9	A fire is lit in a small Afarganyu and Loban put on it	3	4	
10	A Divo of cow's ghee or Palm Oil or Coconut oil is lit	3	4	
11	Divo does NOT contain any water	3	4	
12	Divo and fire are placed near the head of the dying person	3	4	
13	Atash Nyaesh or Diva no Namaskar is recited	3	5	
14	Patet Pashemani is recited	3	6	
15	Ashem Vohu is recited continuously till death occurs	3	6	
16	Calm and silence is maintained in the room	3	7	
II Death and upto Dokhmenashini				
1	Doctor certifies death has occurred	4	1	
2	Recite one Ashem Vohu in EACH ear of the deceased	4	1	
3	Call made to Doongerwadi asking for Hearse	4	2	
4	Call made to the Panthaky informing him of the death	4	2	
5	Bungli booked for all the four days	4	3	
6	Body is taken from the side door and NOT from the main door of the Bungli	4	4	
7	Body is washed using ONLY Taro	4	5	
8	Taro is applied three times on the whole body with a muslin cloth made moist with the Taro	5	5	
9	Person washing the body has worn gloves or thick cloth over the hands	5	5	
10	WATER is NOT used at all in the washing process	5	5	
11	Body is dressed in clean (not new) clothes	5	6	
12	Head is completely covered with a cap and cloth over the cap	5	6	
13	Ears are kept open completely	5	6	
14	Closest relative does his own Padyab and Kusti	5	7	
15	Closest relative ties the Kusti on the body with 2 Yatha & 1 Ashem	5	7	
16	Other relatives wishing to touch the body may do so now	5	7	
17	Non Parsi friends are brought in to pay respects for the last time	5	8	
18	Non-Parsi friends do NOT touch the body	5	8	
19	No floral offerings are made or accepted	5	8	
20	Jama is put on in case deceased was a priest	5	9	
21	The 7 bunds are tied by the Nasseh-salaars	5	9	
22	First Sagdid is done	5	10	
23	Dog used for Sagdid has two spots over his eyes	5	10	
24	Sachkar ceremony is performed	5	11	
25	The nail is held firmly to the ground while drawing Karshas	5	11	
26	Nail is not thrown from one Nasseh-salaar to the other	5	11	
27	Baj of Sarosh is taken and maintained by Nasseh-salaars	5	11	
28	No non-Parsi is allowed inside the bungli after the Sachkar is performed	6	12	
29	No Parsi enters the Bungli without performing the Kusti outside	6	12	
30	Parsis married to non-Parsis (of either sex) do NOT enter the main Bungli	6	13	

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31	Children of one Parsi and one non-Parsi parent (of either sex, whether Navjote done or not done) do NOT enter the main Bungli	6	13	
32	Sachkar is done in the same Gah as the death or as early as possible	6	14	
33	Sagdid is done after the Sachkar	6	15	
34	Sachkar is done at every change of Gah	6	15	
35	Sachkar is done before the Geh Sarna	6	15	
36	Sachkar is done in between the Geh Sarna	6	15	
37	Sachkar is done after the Geh Sarna	6	15	
38	Sachkar is done at the time of the last Sezdo on the stone platform outside the Dokhma	6	15	
39	Dog used for Sagdid is fed milk at least thrice a day for all the four days after death	6	16	
40	Electric lights above the body and near the place of prayers are shut off	7	17	
41	Exhaust fans above the body and near the place of prayers are shut off	7	17	
42	As many Divas as possible are lit and placed around the Bungli instead of electric lights	7	17	
43	Continuous prayers are recited by relatives or priests (if available) near the place where Sachkar was done for all the four days	7	18	
44	Patet prayer is not recited during these prayers	7	18	
45	Fire is maintained near the Sachkar place at all times during the four days	7	19	
46	Cow's milk ghee or Coconut oil or Palm oil Divo is maintained near the Sachkar place at all times	7	19	
47	Replacement Divo is kept ready next to the lit Divo at all times	7	19	
48	New Divo is lit from the flame of the old Divo	7	19	
49	Divas are placed around the Bungli instead of electric lights	7	19	
50	Nasseh-salaars arrive before Geh Sarna and take Baj of Sarosh	7	20	
51	Nasseh-salaars do NOT talk during the Geh Sarna ceremony	7	20	
52	Proper thoughts are focussed during recitation of the Geh Sarna	8	22	
53	Pregnant women do NOT attend the Geh Sarna	8	22	
54	Relatives maintain SILENCE during the Geh Sarna	8	23	
55	Body is not touched unnecessarily during the Geh Sarna	8	24	
56	Cologne water, talcum powder or other cosmetics are NOT applied during the Geh Sarna (or at any other time)	8	24	
57	Bangles of the widow are NOT surrendered to the Nasseh-salaars, or tied to the bier	8	26	
58	Money is NOT thrown near the body or in the bier at ANY time	9	27	
59	Ladies are welcome to join the last procession	9	28	
60	Kusti is performed after returning from the Paidust and before entering the Bungli	9	29	
61	Bath is had in the Bungli bathrooms after attending the Paidust	9	29	
62	Paidust clothes are handed over to helpers for wash and safe-keeping	9	29	
63	Loban is placed on the fire near the Sachkar place after the bath	9	29	
64	Karasyo with water and Kansyo with flowers are kept on a small tripod near the Sachkar place and the water and flowers are changed every day	9	30	
III Conduct of relatives during and after the Paidust				
1	Different set of clothes are maintained for the Paidust	10	1	
2	Clothes are white and of cotton	10	1	
3	Black clothes are not worn	10	1	
4	Head is COMPLETELY covered. (Pallu of Sari is NOT enough)	10	1	
5	Rubber footwear is NOT worn	10	1	
6	Padyab and Kusti is performed BEFORE entering the Bungli	10	2	
7	Homage is paid to the body by bowing from a distance	10	3	
8	At no point should anyone go closer than 10 feet from the body	10	3	
9	The Baj of Sarosh is 'taken'	10	4	
10	Silence is maintained (keeping the Baj)	11	4	
11	Yatha and Ashem prayers are recited continuously	11	4	
12	Correct thoughts are passed while the Geh Sarna is in process	11	5	
13	Perform Sezdo after Geh Sarna is over keeping 10 feet distance	11	6	
14	If Baj is broken then take fresh Baj of Sarosh	11	6	
15	Paiwand is taken with another person using a cotton handkerchief	11	7	

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16	Handkerchief is held in the shape of a U	11	7	
17	Walk behind the body after a distance of at least 20 feet	11	7	
18	Proper thoughts are focussed while walking to the Dokhma	11	7	
19	Yatu Zi Zarathushtra.. Prayer is recited on the way (if known)	11	7	
20	Ashem Vohu is recited if Yatu Zi is not known	11	7	
21	Last Sezdo is done at the stone platform	11	8	
22	Distance of at least 10 feet is maintained while doing the last Sezdo	12	8	
23	Baj of Sarosh is finished at the signal given by the Doongerwadi helper	12	9	
24	Namaskar of Dokhma is recited after finishing Baj of Sarosh	12	9	
25	Namaskar of Mountain is recited after finishing Namaskar of Dokhma	12	9	
26	Taro is applied on all open parts of the body	12	10	
27	Kusti is untied and retied reciting Hormazd Khodae and 2 Yatha 1 Ashem only	12	10	
28	Exposed parts of the body are washed with water	12	10	
29	Full Kusti is performed	12	10	
30	Sagdi is NOT visited without having a a full bath	12	11	
31	Ritual of cleansing the Earth is performed on the way back to the Bungli	12	12	
32	A full bath is had and clothes changed before other normal duties are commenced	13	13	
IV Fist four days' observances				
1	Khorshed and Meher Nyaeshes are recited in first three Gahs	13	1	
2	Sarosh nu Patru commences 36 minutes after Sunset	14	2	
3	Priests have done their own Farajyat before the Patru prayers	14	2	
4	Sarosh Yasht Hadokht and Haptan Yasht is recited in Ushahin Gah	14	3	
5	Baj of Sarosh is done in every Gah (in the Agiary)	14	1	
6	Yasna of Sarosh is done in Havan Gah on first three days	14	2	
7	Vendidad of Sarosh is done in Ushahin Gah on first three days	14	3	
8	Second day observances are followed as per first day			
9	Afternoon Uthamna may be avoided	15		
10	Last Sarosh nu Patru is done on the third day evening	16		
11	5 Bajs are consecrated in the Ushahin Gah on the third night (in the Agiary)	16	1	
12	Complete set of Siav is consecrated in the Baj of Ardafravash	16	2	
13	Complete set of vessels is consecrated in the Baj of Ardafravash	16	2	
14	Item of Gram flour is included in Baj of Ardafravash	17	2	
15	Proper time is calculated for starting the Pad Ruz and Daham Yazad ceremonies as per calculator provided	17	1	
16	Proper items as required for the Pad Ruz are kept during the ceremony	18	3	
17	As many Divas as possible are kept during the Pad Ruz ceremony	18	4	
18	Correct flowers and other ingredients are laid out in the Pad Ruz	18	5	
19	Dhup Nirang recital is done by Priest who has done the Baj or Yasna or Vendidad ceremonies on the earlier days	19	6	
20	Chief Priest has worn the new clothes consecrated during the Baj of Ardafravash	19	6	
21	Proper observance of the Pai Mozd ceremony is done by the relatives	19	7	
22	Sosh or Gaahe is recited by the spiritual heir of the deceased	19	7	
23	Clothes and other implements are handed over to spiritual heir	19	7	
24	Sudreh pieces are handed over to the other priests	19	7	
25	Tandarosti prayer is recited for the spiritual heir	20	8	
26	Hoshbam prayer is recited	20	8	
27	Daham Yazad Afringan ceremony begins at the right time as determined by the calculator given	21	10	
28	Karasyo, Kansyo are emptied out after the Daham Yazad ceremony	21	11	
29	Gap of 3 hours is given before Ardafravash ceremonies are recited	21	12	
30	Ardafravash ceremonies are re-done in the Agiary (in case gap of three hours in not maintained)	21	12	
31	Doongerwadi bills are settled and helpers tipped	21	12	
32	Machi is offered in Havan Gah of the fourth day	21	1	
33	Baj of Sarosh and Ardafravash are consecrated	21	2	
34	Ardafravash Baj is consecrated with full Siav	22	2	
35	Yasna of Ardafravash is done in Havan Gah of fourth day	22	3	

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36	Stoom is recited in first three Gahs over VEGETARIAN food	22	4	
37	Sarosh Patet prayers are recited in Aiwisruthrem Gah	22	5	
38	Contract is given to a priest to recite Sarosh Patet on every day for the first year	22	5	
39	Baj Dharna ni Farrokshi is recited in Ushahin Gah	22	6	
40	Vendidad of Ardafravash is done in Ushahin Gah	22	7	
V Conduct of relatives at the Uthamna				
1	Proper thoughts are focussed during the Pad Ruz ceremony	23	1	
2	Proper promise is taken during the Pai Mozd ceremony	23	2	
3	Flower is taken from the tray and maintained in personal prayer book	23	2	
4	Rosewater is applied on the hands	23	2	
VI Post Chaharum observances				
1	Daily prayers of Afringan Baj Farrokshi and Stoom are done for the first ten days	23	1	
2	Dasma day is observed with Siav of mul-mul cloth	23	1	
3	30th Day (Siroz) is observed with Siroza prayers and sweet Darun	24	2	
4	Masiso is observed with full Siav	24	3	
5	All Fravardin Roj in the first year of death are observed	24	4	
6	All Parabs in the first year of death are observed	24	4	
7	All Gahambars in the first year of death are observed	24	4	
8	180th day (Chamsi Siroz) is observed with Siroza prayers and sweet Darun	24	5	
9	6 month (Chamsi) is observed with full Siav	24	5	
10	365th day (Varsi Siroz) is observed with Siroza prayers and sweet Darun	24	6	
11	Ist year anniversary (Varsi) is observed	24	6	
12	Yasna of Ardafravash is done on Varsi in Havan Gah	24	6	
13	Vendidad of Ardafravash is done on Varsi in Ushahin Gah	24	6	
14	Karasyo for Muktaf is consecrated on Dasma, Masiso, Chamsi or Varsi days	24	7	
15	Karasyo is sturdy and heavy	24	7	
16	Muktaf ceremonies are observed in the first year	25	8	
17	Muktaf ceremonies are observed for at least 57 years	25	8	