



Should Removed Human Body Parts or Hair be Burnt

Fatwa no. (8099):

Praise be to Allah alone, and may peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta' has read the question submitted to His Honor the President from Major General `Abdul-Muhsin ibn `Abdullah Al Al-Sheikh, Head of the Religious Affairs Department in the Armed Forces, which is registered in the Research Department under no. 280, in 27/1/1405 A.H. and which states the following: Please find the question which was submitted to us from the Head of the Religious Department in the western region, which carries the number 8 in 11/1/1405 A.H. Please, Your Honor, we would like you to give us the legal ruling on this, as there are many hospitals affiliated to the Ministry of Defense and Aviation where there are similar cases. They have asked us to provide them the ruling on the proper manner of disposing of human body parts after some surgeries, which are usually burnt. These parts are:

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1- Parts amputated due to accidents. 2- Parts which are not likely to be infected, such as the part which is removed in male circumcision. 3- The placenta or the miscarried fetus in any stage of pregnancy. 4- Extracted teeth and molars.

Please advise concerning the legal ruling so that we can spread it among the hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Defense and Aviation, may Allah bless you.

The Answer:

It is impermissible to burn these parts, rather they should be buried in a pure place. If a miscarried fetus is more than four months old and one of the parents is a Muslim, it should be washed, enshrouded, the Funeral Prayer offered for it and buried in the graves of the Muslims. If both parents are Kafirs (disbelievers), it should neither be washed nor the Funeral Prayer offered, but it should be enshrouded and buried in any piece of land.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

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