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What should be done with amputated human body parts

Fatwa no. 11266

Q: If someone's arm or leg was amputated due to an accident, but the person did not die, what should be done with the amputated limb, should it be washed, the Funeral Prayer performed for it, and it be buried, or what else should we do? This may be the case when someone is alive, but what if we find a human body part after the person has been eaten by a wild animal and we do not know whether they were a Muslim or not; what should we do in this case? Also, if we know that the person was a Muslim, what should we do in both cases? I hope that Your Eminence will clarify this matter well.

A: Body parts that are amputated from a living human being - whether this happened due to an accident, a Had (ordained punishment for violating Allah's Law), or other reason - are not to be washed or have the Funeral Prayer performed for them, instead they should be wrapped in a cloth and buried in the cemetery, or in ritually pure ground away from humiliation, if the person who finds it does not have a cemetery nearby.

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

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