

# Bahá'í Burial

## Preparing the Body

The preparation of the body according to the Bahá'í beliefs to be performed by the family or the funeral director involves:

- Wash the body: There are no specific instructions on how this is to be done
- Dry the body
- Scent the body with rosewater (or any perfumed water)
- Place the ring on the finger: If the deceased is fifteen years of age or more, the Bahá'í burial ring must worn, customarily placed on the forefinger

In the Bayán, the Báb specified that the body of the deceased should be wrapped in five sheets of silk or cotton. Bahá'u'lláh confirmed this provision and added the stipulation that for *“those whose are limited a single sheet of either fabric will suffice”*.

Concerning the way in which the body should be wrapped, there is nothing in the Bahá'í Writings to define how the wrapping of the body is to be done, either when *“five cloths”* are used or only *“a single sheet”*. At present, the Bahá'ís are free to use their judgement in the matter.

*The Kitáb-i-Aqdas, Notes, no. 151*

## Wrapping the Body

One suggestion for wrapping the body in a shroud, is to use five pieces of cloth and ribbons to tie the pieces.

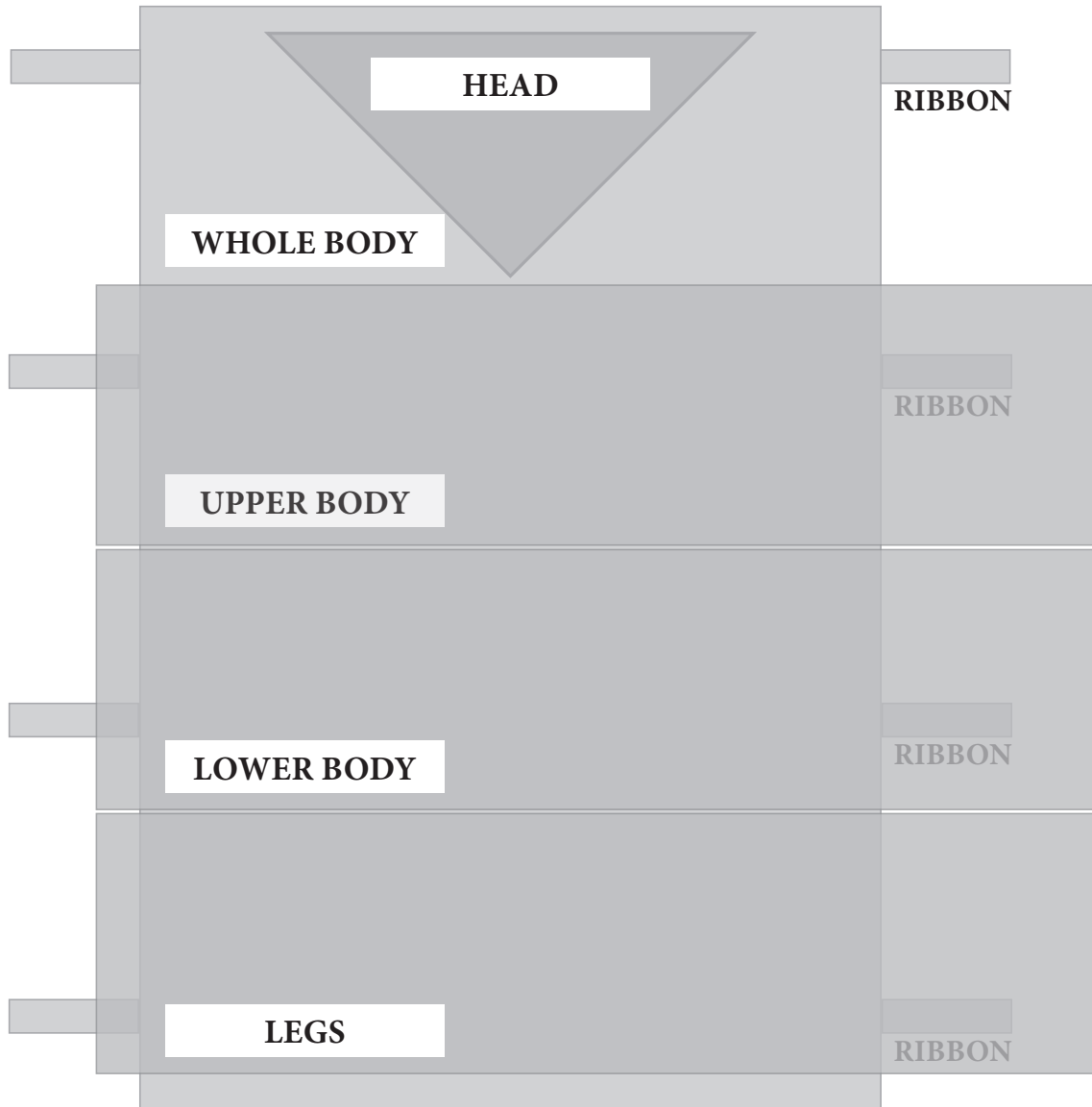
- Four ribbons, each the width of the cloth (210 cm) — 10 x 210 cm
- One large rectangular piece marked as “Whole Body” — 250 x 210 cm
- One triangular piece marked as “Head” — 105 x 105 cm, cut diagonally
- One rectangular piece marked as “Upper Body” — 100 x 210 cm
- One rectangular piece marked as “Lower Body” — 110 x 210 cm
- One rectangular piece marked as “Legs” — 150 x 210 cm

### Layout of cloth

- Place the four ribbons on the table first
- Place the “Whole Body” sheet atop the ribbons
- Place the “Head”, “Upper Body”, “Lower Body” and “Legs” atop the “Whole Body” piece

### Wrapping

- Wrap the hood piece around the head
- Wrap the three smaller sheets around the “Upper Body”, “Lower Body” and “Legs”
- Wrap the larger sheet around the whole body
- Tie four ribbons tightly around the body



### Notes

The total length of cloth required: ~7m (~2.1m width).

Approximately 6m is usually required for a body of average size and weight. The dimensions supplied should be sufficient for a large body, but can also be used for smaller bodies.