2313 - Funeral prayer for one who is lost at sea

the question

Can janaazah prayer be offered for someone who is missing, lost at sea, if the qaadi (judge) rules that he is dead?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

We put this question to Shaykh Muhammad ibn ‘Uthaymeen, may Allaah preserve him, who answered as follows:

, Lord of the Worlds, and peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and all his family and companions. Janaazah prayer can be offered for him, so long as he is presumed dead, because we go by what is apparent and most likely to be the case. So his wealth may be inherited if the qaadi rules that he is dead, and his wife should wait out the ‘iddah period, then she is free to remarry – so the janaazah prayer can also be offered for him. And Allaah knows best.