
Prompting a dying person to say the Shahahdah

Translated by Abbas Abu Yahya

Article taken and slightly adapted from: followingthesunnah.wordpress.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The ahadeeth of Tawheed from ‘Silsilah Ahadeeth As-Saheehah’

Chapters of Tawheed and the Shahadtayn¹

“Say the testification, *‘la illah ilaallah’* (there is none worthy of worship except Allaah) a lot, before there comes a separation between that and yourselves, and prompt the one who has reached death to say it.”²

From the Fiqh of the hadeeth:

The hadeeth shows the legislation of prompting the dying person to say the testification of Tawheed, hoping that he will say it and become successful.

The meaning of ‘.....the one who has reached death....’ is the one whose death has now approached him, and he is still in this world where he has obligations, and it is possible that he benefits from the one who prompts him with the Shahahdah, thereby he says it, and becomes from the people of Paradise.

As for prompting him after his death, then along with that being a bida’ which has not been mentioned in the Sunnah, and also there is no benefit from this, since he has left the world where he has obligations to the world of recompense, and he does not have the ability to say the Shahahdah³, [to warn the one who is alive].

The way to prompt the dying person is to order him to say the Shahahdah. It is mentioned in some books, that you yourself should say it and not order the dying person with it, which is in opposition to the Sunnah of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)⁴.

¹The word Shahahdah means to testify. There are two parts to the Shahahdah which when taken together is called the Shahadtayn. The first part means that there is no deity truly worthy of being worshiped except Allaah, while the second part is to affirm that the Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is a slave of Allaah and His Messenger.

² Silsilah Saheehah: 467

³ Say the testification, *‘la illah ilaallah’* (there is no deity truly worthy of being worshiped except Allaah)

⁴ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him