

Inspire your dying to say the Shahada but do **not** command them

The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

لَقِّنُوا مَوْتَاكُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

Inspire your dying to say 'nothing has the right to be worshipped except Allah'  
(Sunan an-Nasa'i 1826)

Shaykh Uthaymeen: The scholars say you should prompt them with gentleness but you **do not** command them. Do **not** say to them: "Say nothing has the right to be worshipped except Allah!" Because perhaps if you command him to say 'nothing has the right to be worshipped except Allah' while he is in this condition he might say 'no'. And you cannot imagine the extreme sadness at the time of death unless you have experienced it.

Therefore you remind him of Allah. You say in his presence 'nothing has the right to be worshipped except Allah' and raise your voice so he can hear you and perhaps Allah will favor him to recognize you are prompting him to repeat it.

If he says 'nothing has the right to be worshipped except Allah', then **be quiet** and do not prompt him again and **don't say anything else**. If he begins to speak again himself, for example he ask for some water, then prompt him again by raising your voice with the testimony of faith so these can be his final words in this world. "He whose last words are 'nothing has the right to be worshipped except Allah' will enter Paradise". (Abu Dawud)

If the dying person is a disbeliever or an apostate then **command** him to say 'nothing has the right to be worshipped except Allah. If Allah favors him to say it then this is what was desired and if he refuses to say it then he was a disbeliever anyway.

Explanation of Riyad as-Salihin by Shaykh Uthaymeen volume 4 page 507

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee