

On Instructions for the Dying

Muhammad b. Ja'far al-Bursi narrated from Muhammad b. Yahya al-Armani from Muhammad b. Sinan al-Zahiri al-Sinani from al-Mufaddal b. 'Umar and Fadl Allah from Muhammad b. Abu Zaynab, who said: Abu 'Abd Allah, peace be upon him, said: "When you are present before a dying person, instruct him on this matter, that is [recitation of] the declaration of unity (*kalima al-tawhid*) of Allah. It strikes terror into their hearts. If he has adhered to the truth, he will be saved."

Muhammad b. Ja'far al-Massisi narrated from al-Qaddah from Ja'far b. Muhammad from his father, peace be upon him, who said: When 'Ali b. Abu Talib was with any member of his family at their death, he would say to him: 'Say: "There is no god but Allah, the Most High, the Mighty. There is no god but Allah the Clement, the Noble. Glory be to Allah, the Lord of the seven heavens and the Lord of the seven earths, and what is between the two, and what is in them, and what is between them, and what is under them, and the Lord of the Mighty Throne. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds."' When the patient had said that, he ['Ali] would say: "Go, there is no fear for you."

Ahmad b. Yusuf narrated from al-Nadr b. Suwayd from Abu al-Ash'ath al-Khuza'i from Jabir from Abu Ja'far from his grandfather, peace be upon him, that the Messenger of Allah, blessings be on him, was with a man who was in the agony of death and said: 'Say: "O Allah, forgive me the greatness of my disobedience to You, and accept from me the insignificance of my obedience to You."' "