

Did Aboo Taalib die as a believer or a disbeliever?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Question:** Did Aboo Taalib die as a believer or a disbeliever?

**Answer:** Aboo Taalib ibn ‘Abdul-Muttalib ibn Hashim died as a disbeliever, for Allaah (Exalted be He) says to His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم)<sup>1</sup> concerning Aboo Taalib (what means): [Verily you (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)) **guide not whom you like.**] Also, Allaah (Exalted be He) warned His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) against asking Him to forgive Aboo Taalib saying: [It is not (proper) for the Prophet and those who believe to ask Allaah’s Forgiveness for the Mushrikoon (polytheists, idolaters, pagans, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allaah), even though they be of kin, after it has become clear to them that they are the dwellers of the Fire (because they died in a state of disbelief).] It is authentically narrated in the two Saheeh Books (i.e. Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim) that the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) went to his uncle Aboo Taalib when he was dying, but he found with him ‘Abdullah ibn Aboo Umayyah and Aboo Jahl (‘Amr ibn Hisham). The Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said to him:

“O my uncle! Say, ‘La ilaha illa Allaah (There is no god Worthy of worship but Allaah alone, without any partners),’ a word with which I can defend you before Allaah”. On that Aboo Jahl and Abdullah ibn Aboo Umayyah said, “O Aboo Taalib! Will you desert the religion of ‘Abdul-Muttalib?” The Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) kept repeating his proposition and the two men kept on turning him back (to disbelief) with that statement until Aboo Taalib said as the last thing he said to them, “I am on the religion of ‘Abdul-Muttalib.” and refused to say, “La ilaha illa Allaah.” Upon this, the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, “By Allaah, I will keep on asking forgiveness for you, unless I am forbidden (by Allaah) from (asking forgiveness for) you.” Allaah then sent down the following revelation: [It is not (proper) for the Prophet and those who believe to ask Allaah’s Forgiveness for the Mushrikoon (polytheists, idolaters, pagans, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allaah), even though they be of kin.] Allaah (Exalted be He) also revealed: [Verily you (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)) **guide not whom you like, but Allaah guides whom He wills. And He knows best those who are the guided.**]

May Allaah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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<sup>1</sup> (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

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