27227 - Accidentally Drank Water after Fajr: Is M y Fast Valid?

the question

I was sleeping and I did not hear the Adhan of Fajr, and the alarm clock was running slow. After I had drunk a cup of water the Iqamah for prayer was given. What should I do? Please advise me, may Allah reward you.

Summary of answer

If someone eats or drinks after Fajr, mistakenly believing Fajr has not arrived, their fast remains valid. Scholars affirm that unintentional consumption does not break the fast, based on Quranic evidence and Hadith.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The correct scholarly view is that whoever eats thinking that Fajr (dawn) has not yet come , then finds out that it had in fact come, does not have to do anything, because he was unaware of the time, so he is excused.

Shaykh Ibn `Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

If a fasting person eats or drinks anything that breaks the fast out of ignorance , then his fast is still valid, whether he was unaware of the time, or unaware of the ruling, such as a man who gets up at the end of the night, and thinks that dawn has not yet come, so he eats and drinks, then he finds out that dawn had in fact come – his fast is still valid because he was unaware of the time.

An example of one who is not aware of the ruling is a fasting person who has cupping done and does not know that cupping invalidates the fast , so we say to him: your fast is still valid. The evidence for that is the words of Allah (interpretation of the meaning):

{Our Lord! Punish us not if we forget or fall into error, our Lord! Lay not on us a burden like that which You did lay on those before us (Jews and Christians); our Lord! Put not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear. Pardon us and grant us forgiveness. Have mercy on us. You are our Mawla (Patron, Supporter and Protector) and give us victory over the disbelieving people.} [Al-Baqarah 2:286]

That is the evidence from the Quran.

The evidence from the Sunnah is the Hadith of Asma' bint Abi Bakr (may Allah be pleased with her) which was narrated by Al-Bukhari in his Sahih. She said: "We broke our fast on a cloudy day at the time of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), then the sun came out."

That meant that they had broken their fast during the day, but they did not realize, because they thought that the sun had set.

But the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not tell them to make up that day; if it had been obligatory to make it up he would have told them to do so. And if he had told them to do that it would have been transmitted to us. (Majmu` Al-Fatawa, 19)

And Allah knows best.