769 - Does Touching Wife Break Wudu?

the question

What is the ruling on touching the wife and the status of wudu? Does touching the wife cause breaking of wudu?

Summary of answer

The strongest of the statements of the scholars is that touching the wife does not break the wudu unless there is a discharge of sperm.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

In this issue, the strongest of the statements of the scholars is that touching the wife does not break the wudu, unless there is a discharge of sperm. This is the statement of Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) and it is also from ‘Ali bin Abi Talib (may Allah be pleased with him) as well as Hasan, Mujahid, and Qatadah.

It is also of the madhhab of Abu Hanifah. Ibn Jarir supports this statement, as well as At-Tabari and Sheikh Al-Islam ibn Taimiyyah.

The people who support this statement, use as proof the hadith of `Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her), the wife of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who said, "I was sleeping in front of the Messenger of Allah and my legs were in his qiblah. When he prostrated he touched me and I withdrew my legs, and when he stood I stretched them out". (Homes in those days did not have lamps.) (Al-Bukhari,328)

They also use the hadith where `Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) says, "I noticed the Messenger of Allah was gone one evening from the bed, so I looked for him and my hand landed

on the sole of his feet and he was in the mosque. They were close together and he was saying, "O Allah I seek refuge with You, pleasure from Your anger, and with Your pardon, and from Your punishment. I seek refuge with You from what is falsely attributed to You as praise. You are how You have praised Yourself". (Muslim, 486)

An-Nawawi states in explaining this hadith that `Aisha's statement, "and my hand landed on the soles of his feet when he was in the mosque and they were close together," is proof for the one who says that touching the wife does not break wudu.

Sheikh Al-Islam Ibn Taimiyyah says the statement of Allah, "Or ye have been in contact with women" refers to sex as Ibn Abbas and others from the Arabs have said. It is reported by 'Ali and others, and it is the correct meaning of the verse.

There is nothing showing that touching one's wife breaks wudu in the Quran or Sunnah. The Muslims used to touch their wives all the time and not one of the Muslims reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) ordered anyone to make wudu because of touching women . (Majmu` al-Fatawa 21/401)

For more, please see these answers: 21242 , 134956 , 93234 , and 8531 .

And Allah knows best.