93531 - Do Nose Drops Break the Fast?

the question

What is the ruling on using nose drops during the day in Ramadan?

Summary of answer

If the nose drops are small in amount such that they will not reach the throat, then there is nothing wrong with that, but if they do reach the throat and can be tasted, then the fast is invalidated and has to be made up.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Ruling on letting water reach his throat via the nose while fasting

It is proven that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Snuff water up into the nose deeply, unless you are fasting.” (Narrated by al-Tirmidhi (788) and classed as sahih by al-Albani in Irwa Al-Ghalil, 935)

This hadith indicates that it is not permissible for the fasting person to let water reach his throat via the nose.

Do nose drops break fast?

Based on that, if the nose drops are small in amount such that they will not reach the throat, then there is nothing wrong with that, but if they do reach the throat and can be tasted, then the fast is invalidated and has to be made up.

Shaykh Ibn Baz said:

“The same applies to eye drops and ear drops . They do not break the fast according to the more correct of the two scholarly opinions, but if he finds the taste of the drops in his throat, he should make up the fast in order to be on the safe side, but it is not obligatory, because these are not openings through which food and drink enter the body. But nose drops are not permissible, because the nose is an opening through which food and drink may enter the body. Hence the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Snuff water up into the nose deeply, unless you are fasting.” The one who does that has to make up the fast because of this hadith and similar reports, if he finds the taste of that in his throat.”

Shaykh Ibn ‘Uthaymin said in Fatawa Ramadan (p. 511):

“If nose drops reach the stomach or the throat, then they break the fast, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, according to the hadith of Laqit ibn Sabrah: “Snuff water up into the nose deeply, unless you are fasting.” So it is not permissible for the fasting person to put drops in his nose that can reach his stomach or his throat, but as for nose drops that will not reach them, they do not break the fast.

With regard to eye drops – and also using kohl – and ear drops, they do not break the fast of the fasting person.”

Based on this, the fasting person should not use nose drops unless it is too difficult for him to go without them, in which case he should use them but he should be careful not to let any of that reach his throat. If he swallows any of that he should make up that day.

If he knows that he cannot help swallowing some of them, then it is not permissible for him to use them unless his sickness is so bad that it is permissible for him not to fast, which is if fasting will cause him harm or unbearable hardship.

And Allah knows best.