66242 - He works as a diver – how can he fast when water may enter his throat?

the question

I work as a diver in the sea every day, and sometimes drops of seawater enter my mouth and reach my throat, but they do not enter the stomach. Does this invalidate my fast? If I am not able to fast because of my work, what should I do?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Firstly:

In the answer to question no. 39232, we have stated that there is nothing wrong with a fasting person diving into water, but he must take care to avoid letting water reach his stomach as much as he can.

Secondly:

The Ramadaan fast is one of the pillars of Islam and it is not permissible for a Muslim to neglect his fast or be heedless about it because of difficulty encountered as a result of his work. What he must do is strive to combine fasting and work if possible. If that is not possible and he needs to work, then he must give priority to fasting, and take a break from work if he can. If that is not possible and he needs to work, then he should form the intention to fast from the night before and start fasting in the morning, then when it becomes too difficult for him, it is permissible for him to break his fast because of necessity, but he has to make up that day. If it does not become too difficult and he is able to complete the fast, then he must do so.

See the answer to question no. 43772.

See also Fataawa al-Lajnah al-Daa'imah, 10/234.

Thirdly:

If a fasting person swims in water and water reaches his throat without him intending it to, then this does not break the fast, because he did not do it deliberately. This is the view of Imam Ahmad (may Allaah have mercy on him).

See: al-Mughni, 3/358; al-Insaaf, 7/434; al-Sharh al-Mumti', 6/393

Fourthly:

The questioner says that water reaches his throat but it does not enter his stomach.

The scholars differed concerning the things that invalidate the fast – is what counts whether the food or drink reaches the throat or the stomach?

Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymeen (may Allaah have mercy on him) said in al-Sharh al-Mumti' (6/393): The author (may Allaah have mercy on him) mentioned six issues in which the ruling depends on whether water reaches the throat of the fasting person. So the ruling is based on whether water reaches the throat, not the stomach. The apparent meaning of the words of Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah is that the ruling is based on whether the thing that breaks the fast reaches the stomach. There is no doubt that this is what is meant, as there is no report in the Qur'aan or Sunnah which suggests that the ruling is based on whether it reaches the throat, but the fuqaha' (may Allaah have mercy on them) said that if it reaches the throat it may be assumed that it has reached the stomach, or that the ruling is based on whether the thing that breaks the fast reaches any inner part of the body and the throat is an inner part. End quote.

Conclusion:

There is nothing wrong with swimming or diving deep into water when fasting. If any water reaches the throat or the stomach without you intending it to, then this does not break the fast.

And Allaah knows best.