8795 - Ruling on using alcohol to dissolve kidney stones

the question

I suffered from pain in my kidneys on a number of occasions, and I could hardly urinate. I went to the doctor, who told me: your treatment is to drink alcohol, because alcohol has the effect of dissolving kidney stones. Then I drank alcohol and benefitted from it a lot. Will Allah hold me to account for drinking alcohol? Please give me the correct answer; may Allah reward you with good.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

It is not permissible for you to drink alcohol. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has answered this question. In Saheeh Muslim it is narrated that Taariq ibn Suwayd said: I asked the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), “What about the alcohol that we make for medicinal purposes?” He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “No, in fact it is a disease.” He stated that it is a disease and that there is no cure in it. This hadith indicates that it is a disease, and in modern medicine, there is general consensus that alcohol is harmful in all cases. Many (researchers) have written books and articles on this topic, stating that the tissues of a forty-year old drinker’s body are like those of a sixty-year-old. Even though you may have benefitted as far as your kidneys are concerned, and you have noted that it had an effect, some other part of your body will inevitably have been harmed; alcohol causes harm in all cases. It is not permissible for you to drink it. There are permissible medicines which you can use to treat your kidneys, without using this thing. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “O slaves of Allah, seek medical treatment but do not seek it is anything haraam. For Allah does not make the cure for this ummah in things that He has forbidden for it.” Even though you may have noticed a benefit in one way, it will inevitably cause a lot of harm in many other ways, as stated in the hadith of Taariq ibn Suwayd referred to above, which was

narrated by Muslim.

And Allah knows best.