
Drinking standing up

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Taken from ‘Silsilah Ahadeeth As-Saheehah’¹

No. 175 – From Aboo Hurairah (rad iyallaahu `anhu)² who said: the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)³ said:

‘One of you should not dare drink standing up.’

In another wording:

From Aboo Hurairah (rad iyallaahu `anhu) said: from the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم): that he saw a man drinking standing up, so the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said to him:

‘Vomit it out.’

The man asked: ‘Why?’

He (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

‘Would it please you that a cat drank along with you?’

The man answered: ‘No.’

The Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

‘For indeed, someone more evil than a cat drank along with you! Shaytaan!!’⁴

No. 176/2175 – From Aboo Hurairah (rad iyallaahu `anhu) who said that Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

‘If the person who drank whilst standing knew what was in his stomach, he would vomit it out.’⁵

No. 177 – From Anas (rad iyallaahu `anhu) from the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم): that **‘he prohibited’** – and in another wording: **‘rebuked us’** – from drinking while standing.⁶

¹ Taken from Silsilah Ahadeeth as-Saheehah by Shaykh al-Albaanee (No. 175 - 177)

² (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him

³ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

⁴ Collected by Ahmad, Daarimee and Tahaawee, and al-Albaanee said this chain is Saheeh.

⁵ Collected by Ahmad and Albaanee said it was Saheeh

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Shaykh Albaanee commented:

'The evident prohibition in these ahadeeth acknowledge the prohibition of drinking whilst standing if you do not have an excuse. There are many ahadeeth which mention that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) drank standing up, so the scholars have differed in bringing harmony between the two different types of ahadeeth. The majority of the scholars hold the opinion that the prohibition is not a total prohibition, and that the command of vomiting after having drunk is only a recommended action.

Ibn Hazm opposed them in this, and went with the ruling of the prohibition to drink standing up, and perhaps this opinion is closer to being correct.

As for the opinion that it is not a total prohibition then the wording 'rebuked' does not support that opinion, nor does the command 'to vomit', and what I mean by this is, that vomiting is a severe hardship upon humans, and I am not aware of such a hardship in the Sharee'ah' as a consequence for being lax about a recommended action! Likewise the saying of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم): **'Indeed Shaytaan drank with you.'** Then this is a strict deterrent from drinking whilst standing up, and it cannot be inferred from this, that it is possible to say that, not sitting whilst drinking is merely leaving a recommended action.

As for the ahadeeth which mention drinking whilst standing up, then we can assume that this is when there is an excuse for it, like if there is no space to sit, or that it is a hanging water skin and you need to reach it and this point has been indicated in some ahadeeth, and Allaah knows Best.'

⁶ Collected by Muslim, Aboo Daawood, Tirmidhee, Daarimee, Ibn Maajah & Tahaawee