

## Medicine that is prepared with alcohol

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

**Question:** For preparing a medicine, we use 3 litres of olive oil and add spirit vinegar and if we do not find (spirit vinegar), we add a bottleful of wine.

Is it permissible to receive a medical treatment from this preparation whether by drinking it or by putting it on the wound.

May Allaah bless you, make us benefit from your knowledge on a long term, and peace and blessings of Allaah be upon you.

**Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee** (May Allaah the Most High preserve him):

All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Know –May Allaah protect you- that olive oil is from a blessed tree, as Allaah (*Mighty and Majestic is He*) said in Soorah an-Noor (The Light):

(يُوقَدُ مِنْ شَجَرَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ زَيْتُونَةٍ لَا شَرْقِيَّةٍ وَلَا غَرْبِيَّةٍ يَكَادُ زَيْتُهَا يُضِيءُ وَلَوْ لَمْ تَمْسَسْهُ نَارٌ)

[...lit from a blessed tree, an olive, neither of the east (i.e. neither it gets sun-rays only in the morning) nor of the west (i.e. nor it gets sun-rays only in the afternoon, but it is exposed to the sun all day long), whose oil would almost glow forth (of itself), though no fire touched it.]<sup>1</sup>

And the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) saying:

**“Eat olive oil and anoint yourselves with it, for it comes from a blessed tree”<sup>2</sup>.**

Moreover, something described as being blessed in Allaah’s Revelation cannot be but useful. As for vinegar, it is praised by the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) by saying:

<sup>1</sup> Soorah an-Noor (The Light) [24:35]

<sup>2</sup> Reported by At-Tirmidhee, chapter of “Food” concerning what is reported about eating olive oil (hadeeth 1971), by Ahmad (4/555) ( hadeeth 15625) and by Al-Haakim, chapter of “Interpretation” concerning the interpretation of Soorah an-Noor (The Light) according to Aboo Ussayd (*May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him*). This hadeeth is judged authentic by Al-Albaanee in “As-Saheehah” (hadeeth 379).

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**“What a good condiment is vinegar!”<sup>3</sup>.**

If the first (i.e. olive oil) is mixed with the second (i.e. vinegar) which means mixing a permissible matter with another matter which is also permissible, in a manner that specialists of medicine accept, on the basis of rational reasons related to worldly matters, and that this mixture is a success, that is to say, it has positive results which consist of removing the harm and pain; in this case, it will be permissible to use it for treatment as well as the majority of nutriments which are designed for medication, whether by consuming it or anointing the body with it.

Moreover, it is not permissible to add, for treatment, wine which is forbidden by the Sharee’ah, to olive oil, as it is not permissible, also, to take it or add it to other substances in accordance with the Prophet’s (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) saying:

**“Allaah has sent down the disease and the cure, and has made for every disease the cure. So treat sickness, but do not use anything illicit”<sup>4</sup>.**

In another narration:

**“Allaah does not make your healing in that which He has forbidden to you”<sup>5</sup>,**

and when the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) was asked about using wine for preparing vinegar he said: **“No”<sup>6</sup>**

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah. Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*), his Family, his Companions and Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers, 15 Dhu Al-Qa`da 1416H.

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<sup>3</sup> Reported by Muslim, chapter of “Drinks” (hadeeth 5473), by Aboo Daawood, chapter of “Food” (hadeeth 3822), by At-Tirmidhee, chapter of “Food” (hadeeth 1955), An-Nasaa’ee, chapter of “Oaths and vows”, concerning the swearing of a person to not eat a condiment, then he has eaten bread with vinegar (hadeeth 3812), by Ibn Maajah, chapter of “Food” concerning flavouring food with vinegar (hadeeth 3442) and by Ahmad (4/239) number (13849) from the hadeeth of Jaabir Ibn `Abdullaah (*May Allaah the Most High be pleased with them both*).

<sup>4</sup> Reported by Aboo Daawood, chapter of “Medicine” concerning the drugs judged hated [by the Sharee’ah] (hadeeth 3876) and by Al-Baihaqee in his “Sunan” (hadeeth 20173), from the hadeeth of Aboo Ad-Dardaa’ (*May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him*). See: « As-Silsilah As-Saheehah » of Al-Albaanee (4/174).

<sup>5</sup> Reported by Ibn Hibbaan, chapter of “The purification” concerning the impurity, from the hadeeth of Um Salamah (*May Allaah the Most High be pleased with her*). See: « Ghaayat al-Maraam Fee Takhreej Ahadeeth al-Halaal Wal-Haraam » number (30).

<sup>6</sup> Reported by Muslim, chapter of “Drinks” (hadeeth 5255), by Aboo Daawood, chapter of “Drinks” (hadeeth 3677) from the hadeeth of Anas (*May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him*).