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**The second question of Fatwa no. 15410**

**Q 2: Some people said that it is not necessary to perform Wudu' (ablution) in order, so it is permissible to wash the feet before the hands or face. They also claimed that Istinja' (cleansing one's private parts with water after urination or defecation) is not necessary as long as one has not urinated. Likewise, it is not required to be done on waking up from sleep. We hope that your Eminence will enlighten us concerning this issue, so that we will be sure of matters of importance in our religion. May Allah grant you success!**

**A:** It is obligatory to follow the prescribed order of Wudu' starting with washing the face, two hands and elbows, wiping the head and two ears and then washing the feet and heels as related in the honorable Ayah (Al-Ma'idah: 6) and in accordance with what the Prophet (peace be upon him) did. Moreover, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: *«I will begin with that with which Allah began (i.e., mentioned first in the Qur'an).»* As for Istinja', it is not part of Wudu', but it is a kind of removing impurity that is done after urination or defecation and before performing Wudu'. However, if a long period intervenes between Istinja' and Wudu', a Muslim is not required to repeat Istinja' when performing Wudu'. Likewise, Istinja' is not prescribed in cases such as sleeping, passing wind and the like.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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**Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee**