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Employing Rosewater in the Making of Ablution - 27 /Jul/ 2019

Q. | From the perspective of Islamic canon, would it be better to use rosewater, instead of plain water, in making *wudu*?

A. | Rosewater is a *muzaf* liquid^[1] and therefore cannot be employed in the making of ablution.

[1] The term *muzaf* (for which we would be hard pressed to find a fitting English equivalent) is used to describe any water or liquid to which it would be incorrect to refer plainly as “water.” Rosewater and grape juice are *muzaf* liquids. The designation *muzaf* is the opposite of *mutlaq*, which signifies plain water. Tap water, for instance, is plain water. Natural water is generally described as “plain water” (*mutlaq*) so long as it is not mixed to such an extent with a foreign substance that it would no longer be correct to refer to it plainly as “water.”
