



He Taught Love

The Intersection of Faith and Society

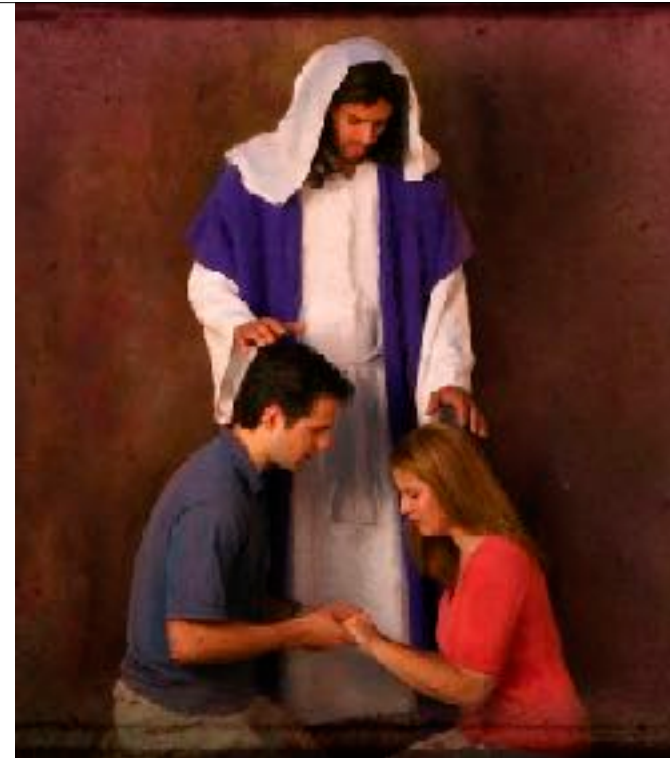
The loneliest place in the world is the human heart when love is absent. —E. C. McKenzie

Story of Tom who told me that his abusive father had forever tarnished Tom's experience with God because the presentation of a Heavenly Father did not meet his needs of love.

““Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.“These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.” (John 15:9–11 NAS95)

## Influences on our Idea of Love

- Family - Nuclear/Non-Nuclear; Separation - Recovery
- Media - “Prince Charming/Damsel in Distress”, Happily Ever After
- Social Norms - “Love blooms when matched righteously”; Marriage - Traditional/Non-Traditional
- Emotional Responses - “Falling in Love”; Looking for ‘the one’; “Not feeling it...”
- “Here's a helpful definition: I just can't wait to get. Love can't wait to give.” - LORALYN LORCH



The secular world has constructed an idea of love that is moving further and further away from true love that is found only in God. As with many things, godless people attempt to construct a false imitation of the reality. - ROBERT DRISKELL

Read more: <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/how-does-gods-love-differ-from-the-worlds-definition-of-love/#ixzz6XfEPUb5b>



As He was being crucified, Jesus petitioned His Father regarding the very men who were nailing Him to the cross... “Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

And they divided His garments and cast lots.”

(Luke 23:34 NKJV)

He Taught Truth

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He Taught Love



#### Series Overview

He Taught Truth - Revelation of the character of God

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”” (John 8:32 NKJV)

He Taught Love - Revelation of God’s love to man

John 15

## He Taught Love

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- Jesus revealed God's infinite love to a finite world.
- The enemy of God attempts to counterfeit love.
- The world will be in conflict with the gospel despite a revelation of God's love.
- Love is the efficacy of the Gospel.



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Key Verses in the OT reveal a loving God: ““You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Exodus 20:4–6 NKJV)

## Old Testament Verses about God's Infinite Love

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- “The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.” (Jeremiah 31:3)
- “Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.” (Psalms 106:1)
- ““I have loved you,” says the LORD. “Yet you say, ‘In what way have You loved us?’ Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” Says the LORD. “Yet Jacob I have loved;” (Malachi 1:2)

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Somehow, by the time Jesus arrived, the law became the emphasis of worship rather than God's love. And mankind needed a fresh understanding of His character.



## The Gospel Record - Jesus Revealed God's Infinite Love

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- Jesus relates to God as His “Father” - “I and the Father are one...”  
John 10:30
- “And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:16–17)
- “And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”” (Luke 3:22)

New Testament Love

Gospel Record

“The Love of a Father“- New Concept to the Hebrews? The Children of Israel?



The Messiah's Mandate - Isaiah 61

Jesus touched the untouchable - Lepers, blind, lame, demon-possessed

Messiah's mandate of Liberation

““The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,” (Isaiah 61:1–2 NKJV)



Illustration: The Kingdom Parables teach us that the character of God appeals to everyone regardless of their status. Matthew 13



The enemy of God attempts to counterfeit love.

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10 NKJV)





“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!” (Isaiah 14:12 NKJV)

The devil has convinced the nations that love of self is the priority of humanity!

## Satan's Counterfeit Gospel

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“Thieves and robbers are they who offer men any other means of salvation than that which has been provided through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). The world has had, and will continue to have, its false messiahs. They do not enter by the door, Christ Jesus (John 10:9). Their claims, are false, and their carefully laid schemes will end in disaster.”

—SDA Bible Commentary on John 10:1

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In all ages, philosophers and teachers have been presenting to the world theories by which to satisfy the soul's need. Every heathen nation has had its great teachers and religious systems offering some other means of redemption than Christ, turning the eyes of men away from the Father's face, and filling their hearts with fear of Him who has given them only blessing. The trend of their work is to rob God of that which is His own, both by creation and by redemption. And these false teachers rob man as well. Millions of human beings are bound down under false religions, in the bondage of slavish fear, of stolid indifference, toiling like beasts of burden, bereft of hope or joy or aspiration here, and with only a dull fear of the hereafter. It is the gospel of the grace of God alone that can uplift the soul. **The contemplation of the love of God manifested in His Son will stir the heart and arouse the powers of the soul as nothing else can.** Christ came that He might re-create the image of God in man; and whoever turns men away from Christ is turning them away from the source of true development; he is defrauding them of the hope and purpose and glory of life. He is a thief and a robber. {Desire of Ages pg. 478.2}





Love as the efficacy of the Gospel.

John 13:35

John 15 — Love as the fulfillment of the commandments

### The Effect of Love

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“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.””

(John 13:35)



By taking the basin and the towel, Jesus exemplified Love even for a denier and a betrayer.

## John 15 Outline

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- Relating to the Divine; 1-11
- Relating to other Christians; 12-17
- Relating to the world; 18-25
- Reliance on God's Spirit; 26-27

Perhaps a future sermon series can be devoted to this powerful chapter. But today will highlight some key verses related to the topic of Jesus' teaching.



“Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”” (Matthew 22:37–40 NKJV)



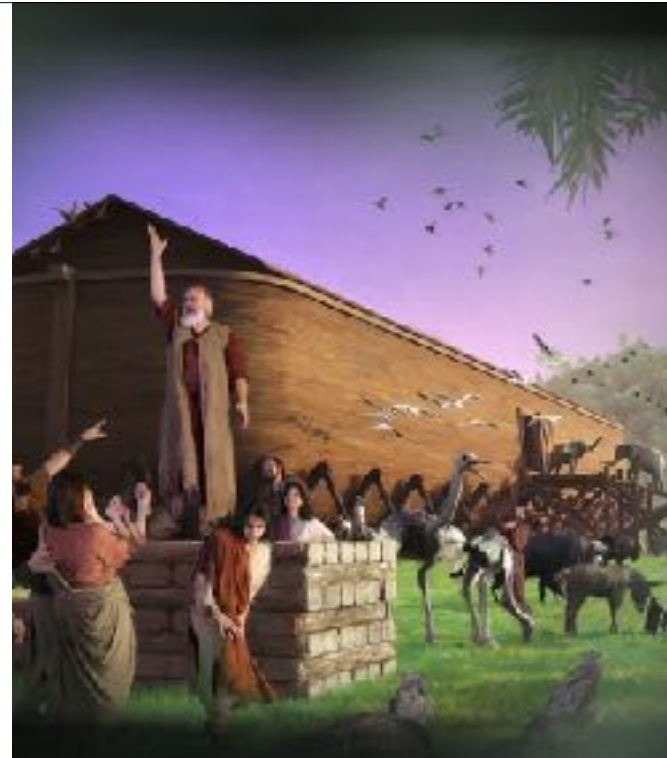
The world will be in conflict with the gospel despite a revelation of God's love.

John 15:18-25 describes the hatred of the "*cosmos*".

Greek word for “the world” is  
“*Cosmos*”

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- “The ungodly multitude;  
the whole mass of men  
alienated from God, and  
therefore hostile to the  
cause of Christ.”



an apt and harmonious arrangement or constitution, order, government

ornament, decoration, adornment, i.e. the arrangement of the stars, 'the heavenly hosts', as the ornament of the heavens. 1 Pet. 3:3

the world, the universe

the circle of the earth, the earth

the inhabitants of the earth, men, the human family

**the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ**

world affairs, the aggregate of things earthly

the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments riches, advantages, pleasures, etc, which although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire, seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ

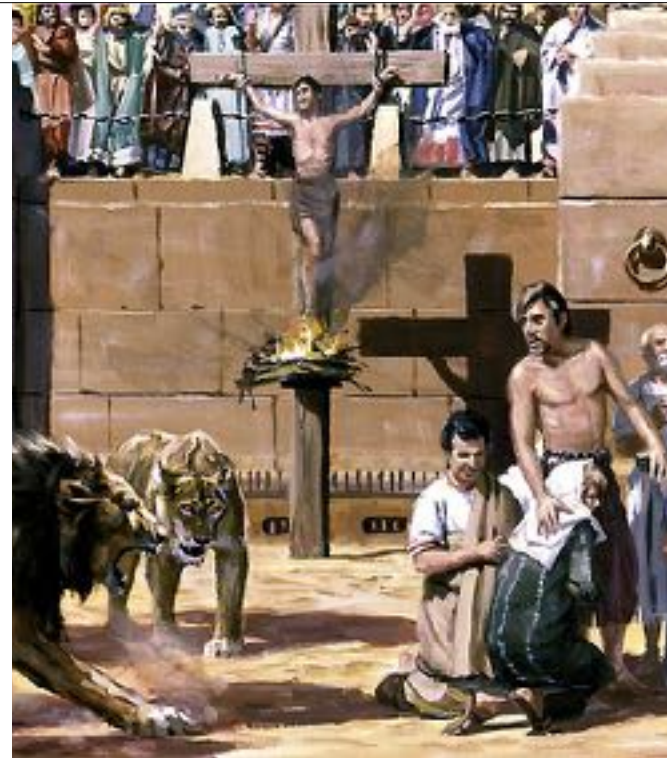
any aggregate or general collection of particulars of any sort

the Gentiles as contrasted to the Jews (Rom. 11:12 etc)

The Greek word for “Hate” is *Miseo*

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“(hatred); to detest (especially to persecute); by extension, to love less: — hate(-ful).”



TDNT - e. Love and Hate in John. In John divine love conflicts with cosmic hate. The world’s hatred for God, Christ, and God’s people is sin. The world is blinded and impelled by darkness and therefore hates the light (Jn. 3:20). Since Jesus is the light, the world hates Jesus (7:7). In so doing it hates God (15:23-24). It also hates the disciples (15:18). To live in the light is to be a target of hate. To hate the brethren is to live in darkness (1 Jn. 2:9, 11). Yet there is a proper hatred, as in Jn. 12:25, which states that one must hate one’s life in this world in order to keep it for eternal life.





““If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.Remember the word that I said to you, “A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.He who hates Me hates My Father also.If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, “They hated Me without a cause.\*” (John 15:18–25 NKJV)

\*Ps 35:19; Ps 69:4

### “They Hated You”

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“The reason for the hatred is indicated in the preceding verses: Abiding in Christ (v. 4), bringing forth the fruits of righteousness (v. 5), and demonstrating them (v. 16). The deeds of the world are reprov'd by the righteous life and the open testimony of the Christian (John 7:7; 1 John 3:13). Robertson asks the significant question: “Does the world hate us? If not, why not? Has the world become more Christian or Christians more worldly?”

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## God's Purpose for His Church

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 1



The commandment is to love regardless of the response. — “Everyone in whose heart Christ abides, everyone who will show forth His love to the world, is a worker together with God for the blessing of humanity. As he receives from the Saviour grace to impart to others, from his whole being flows forth the tide of spiritual life.” – {AA 13.2}

“The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency...” {Acts of the Apostles pg. 9}

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“...The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places," the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10.” {Acts of the Apostles pg. 9}

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The practical application of this purpose is urged by Ellen White as referenced in Isaiah 58. She urges people to read that chapter with urgency and practice.

Is. 58:12     Those from among you  
              Shall build the old waste places;  
              You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
              And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach,  
              The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

## Agency of Salvation

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““Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?”

(Isaiah 58:6–7)



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weekend

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Compassion Weekend is Every Second Weekend of the Month in North America!

We would like to join you and have you join us in making North America and the world a place of hope and wholeness. Here, hunger, illness, poverty, human trafficking, refugees and homelessness, violence, degradation, and disease are our common enemy and everyday Compassion, expressed in all kinds of ways, is our common daily servant.

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[www.compassionmovement.org](http://www.compassionmovement.org)

Transformational Evangelism

Compassion Weekend (second weekend of every month): To create momentum, establish unity, and produce a greater effect, we are encouraging each church to set aside the second weekend of every month, making it a special time for intentional community outreach, attending to the needs of people in our neighborhoods. These weekends will serve as reminders of our mission and as an opportunity for all the Ministries of the Church to collaborate together under the umbrella of Transformational Evangelism. Just imagine 6,277 churches, taking time every second Sabbath, after the church service, and every second Sunday to go out into the community to show the love of God and the compassion of Jesus in practical ways.

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One day, I took the Metro from Silver Spring to Washington DC., together with two colleagues. Our purpose was to visit with a homeless man. Just as we walked out of the Gallery Place – Chinatown Metro Station, we could see the homeless. What a contrast! Just a few blocks away from the residences and halls of power, right by the steps of historical monuments, the very same streets which are regularly transited by the most influential and powerful in the world, are also the home to thousands who have nothing. According to a report by the Washington Post, there are over 11,000 homeless men, women, and children on the streets of the Washington Metropolitan area. We walked the streets, as we looked for the homeless man, actually we were looking for a Homeless Pastor. Yes, Tim Madding, the Lead Pastor of the almost 1,000 member Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist Church, was homeless on the streets of DC, he had actually been homeless for six days, and we wanted to see him, pray with him, encourage him, and perhaps feed him.

I am sure that by now, you are asking: Why was the Senior Pastor of such a large Adventist church homeless? Doesn't the Potomac Conference pay its Pastors enough that they have to go live in the streets?

**Pastor Tim Madding was homeless on the streets of Washington DC because he made the decision that together with his church they needed to take Jesus' lifestyle and message of compassion, hope, and wholeness to the next level. Although the Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist Church is already well known in the area for its Community Services programs and initiatives, this Pastor and his church have decided they can do more.**

For seven weeks, Pastor Tim will highlight some of the greatest needs in his church's neighborhood and across the world through a sermon series entitled "Seven Days Without". After each sermon he has pledged to spend seven days living out the very need highlighted in his sermon. Not only will he preach about it, but he will also live it for the next seven days. The purpose of the "Seven Days Without" series goes beyond creating awareness in his congregation and in the community. The main objective is to find ways for every member in the church to become the Eyes, Heart, Hands, and Feet of Jesus. As we've said before, you may not be able to preach or teach, but you can love, you can reach. Jesus did!

During my afternoon conversations with Pastor Tim last Thursday, there were a few things I learned:

1. Mingle with people you would like to reach. The incarnation ministry of Jesus on this earth is perhaps the greatest example; the Gospels are clear that He came and dwelt among us. There is much that can be done from a Pastoral Office and from within the four walls of the church building, but nothing will ever replace the value of

hanging out, talking, walking, and eating with the people you want to bless and reach. Jesus did.

2. Look at people's eyes and address them, even if you have nothing else to offer. As we walked the streets in DC, we noticed that as homeless men and women extended their hands asking for money, most people will pass by and totally ignore them, as if they were not even there. Being invisible can be more hurtful than being penniless. Pastor Tim taught me something, he said: "Jose, even if you have nothing to give, make eye contact and say hello... they appreciate that." I tried it and I saw a spark in their eyes, smiles on some faces, and heard grateful words of someone who stopped being invisible for a brief moment. Can you imagine what it would be like, if we made people everywhere feel visible and appreciated all the time? Jesus did.

3. Support and Partner with Others who are willing to help. As our time together with Pastor Tim came to an end, we asked him, if we could get him something to eat. He accepted, realizing that he did not know what they would serve in the shelter later that night, and added, "If we eat, we have to go to a place of my choice." He was the homeless, we were not, "by all means Tim, anything you say..." Pastor Tim took us to PRET A MANGER, a sandwich and soup place that donates all their unsold food to local charities at the end of each day. In 2014 they donated over 500,000 meals to people in need.

There are other people who you could support and partner with as you bless others, Jesus did. Remember the boy with the bread and fish? He had something Jesus could use, while Jesus had something the boy did not have. Together, they fed a lot of hungry people. Think about it, which individuals and businesses in your community, and around your church, can you support and partner with, as you reach your community with compassion?

Perhaps it is time to take that Metro journey and visit a homeless man...

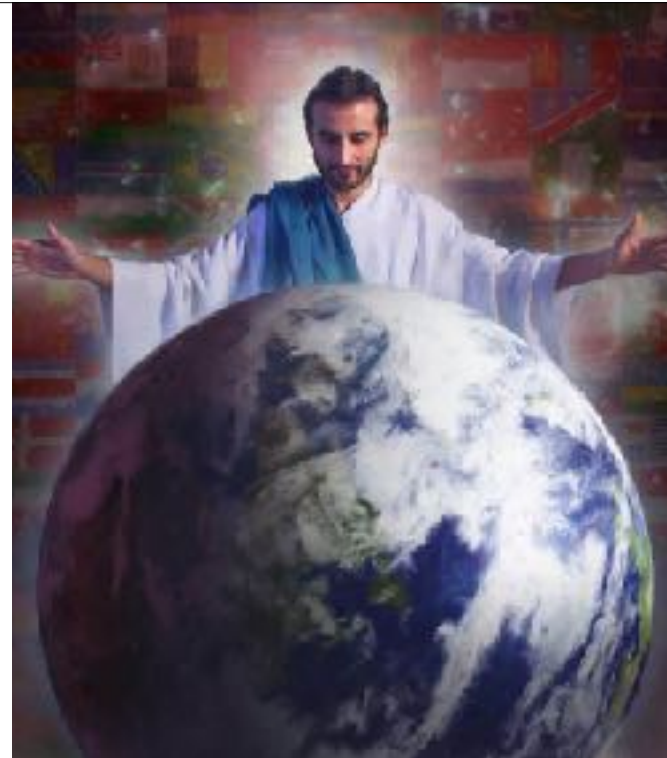
Pastor Jose Cortes Jr., is an Associate Ministerial Director and Leads Evangelism for the Adventist Church in North America.

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“This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.”

(2 John 1:6)



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