

BBC UPDATE

BBTS Fall Lecture Series

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor

You don't want to miss the *BBTS* Fall Lecture Series with Dr. Charles Logan Parker. Dr. Parker's unique approach to Scripture, using the layers of context, enables him to touch the lives of the saints in a special way focussing them upon the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Dr. Parker has been serving the Lord for over 34 years, including 25 in the pastorate and a great deal of time and energy in Christian education at all levels. He has earned both the Master and Doctor of Religious Education degrees from *Tabernacle Baptist Theological Seminary* in Virginia Beach, VA. He has traveled extensively, preaching and teaching in local churches in America and in several other countries as well. His greatest burden has been



Dr. Charles Parker and wife, Bonnie.

assisting pastors and seminary students to enter more fully into becoming true messengers of God. Dr. Parker emphasizes fearless exposition of Scripture, urging his hearers to desire to please Christ and not men, to reject man-made movements and traditions, and to deeply love the Lord at all costs. He has been privileged to enter into the sufferings of Christ, standing for the full integrity of God's biblical message when it brought upon him the resistance and rebuke of organized fundamentalism. The Lord has given brother Parker insight regarding how the Old Testament prophets lay the biblical groundwork for genuine messengers of in the present day. He will be examining the first chapter of Isaiah, deriving clear principles for the messenger of God.

The lecture Series will be held at BBC starting at **8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Thursday November 18, 2010**. Since there will be limited seating please *RSVP by November 7, 2010*. There will be free coffee and donuts at 8:30 AM, lunch will be available based on a free-will offering.

BBTS-Philippines Commencement Service



On October 29, 2010, the Lord blessed the First Commencement Service of BBTS in Iloilo, Philippines, with eight Filipino pastors receiving the Master of Biblical Studies (MBS). Many family, friends, and church members

Continued on page 2

attended as the following eight pastors were hooded and were awarded their respective diploma for finishing 10 modules courses: Pastors Aniceto Balinas, Ireneo Bogtong, Alejandro Cadusale, Bonifacio Dieta, Roberto Gargoles, Carlito Halipa, Reymando Manolo, and Charlie Villafuerte. The host pastor, Emmanuel Tanier-



The 2010 BBTS-ASIA graduation class.

BBTS GRADUATION

Continued from page 1

la, and area pastor, Nathaniel Villafuerte, had already received their MBS in the May graduation service at Bible Baptist Church in Cromwell, CT. Pastor Tanierla was honored with the prestigious "Dean's Award" for being the faithful registrar of the Filipino extension of BBTS. The service was a joyous time, giving praise to the Lord Jesus Christ for enabling His servants to realize the Apostle Paul's admonition to Timothy, saying, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Tim. 2:2). Pray for these men as they commence a new era in their ministerial lives, having their swords sharpened, ready to engage in spiritual battle with the world, the flesh and the devil.



Above: Pastor Tanierla receiving the prestigious "Dean's Award" for being Filipino Registrar.

Left: Pastor Dieta receiving the Master's hood as his wife looks on.



The 8 candidates for graduation sang a moving account of a gospel song.



The eight candidates for graduation singing a beautiful gospel song.



Pastor Nate Villefuerte's family.

Fighting Temptation

by Pastor Cas Reeves

Ye should earnestly contend for the faith

Jude 3

Part of the great fight for the faith is our personal fight with temptation. Three avenues of temptation are well defined for us by God through the Apostle John. "For all that is in the world, (1) the lust of the flesh, (2) and the lust of the eyes, (3) and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John



Pastor Cas Reeves

2:16). These are the avenues Satan uses to tempt us today. And they are the same used to deceive Eve in the garden. "And when the woman saw that the tree (lust of the eyes) was good for food, and that it (lust of the flesh) was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and a tree to be desired to make

one wise (pride of life), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Genesis 3:6).

Jude warns the Christian of "ungodly men" (Jude 4). "Mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts (Jude 18). And who are "walking after their own lusts" (Jude 16).

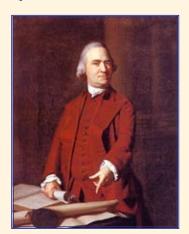
It is understandable that the ungodly will bow to his depraved lust. "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit" (Jude 19).

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

But those who are saved are ordered to "be ...followers of God, as dear children" (Ephesians 5:1). Regarding lustful behavior, we are again ordered as Christians, "let it not be once named among you" (Ephesians 5:3). And because God's wrath cometh upon these things, we are commanded, "Be not ye therefore partakers with them" (Ephesians 5:7).

The design or pattern for fighting off temptation is found in the account of Jesus Christ's own personal encounter with Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). He was tempted through the lust of the flesh, the eyes, and pride. Tempted in every way like we are and yet he did not sin. The key to victory is found in his replies to Satan's temptations. "It is written" (vs.4), "It is written" (vs.7), "It is written" (vs.10). Like Jesus, we should know the Word of God, what it says, and how to apply it to each situation, and then be obedient to it. We note Christ's victory: "Then the devil leaveth him" (Matthew 4:11). This victory can be ours also when we follow Christ's example. And remember what James said, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

Quotes From the Past:



Samuel Adams 1722 to 1803

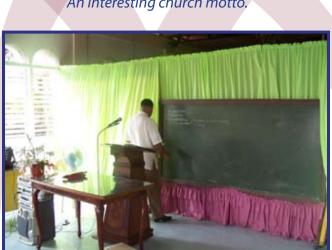
Founding Father and Father of the American Revolution

"The right to freedom being the gift of the Almighty...
The rights of the colonists as Christians...may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institutions of The Great Law Giver and Head of the Christian Church, which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament."

BBTS - PHILIPPINES

Bearing our Church's Burden
Through Thick and Thin
in Twenty Ten'

An interesting church motto.



Pastor Cadusale teaching SS. Behind the curtain is their living quarters; 3 rooms divided by curtains for pastor and wife and 3 adult sons! They are a very thankful family rejoicing in the Lord's daily provisions.



The congregation listening during SS.



Rice drying along side the main street for consumption.



Now you know why the church is Garden Baptist Bible Church.



Lunch time with plenty of rice and fish and chicken.

Pastor Tanierla preaching at his Bible study to about 40 young men in the Maritime University. Many have been saved through this ministry.



Pastors' wives singing before the preaching.



The pastors and guests praying before the Bible Conference on the Second Coming.

BBTS - PHILIPPINES



Pastor Cadusale's church.



The BBTS students in the Book of Revelation module in Iloilo, Philippines.



Pastor A. Balinas, pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Antique, husband and father of 3 daughters, is holding the finished copies of his translation of Philemon and Titus from the TR into the local dialect of Kinaray-A. This is a first. He wants to finish the NT before he dies. He started his church 28 years ago and has 10 mission churches. He is an example of a pastor of a church practicing the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20).

JAMES AND ASTRONOMY

Part 1 of a 3 Part Series

James and Astronomy
(James 1:13-18):
All the Christian Needs to Know
about Solar Parallax

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

INTRODUCTION

The Bible is the self-revelation of God. It reveals the absolute truth about the Lord and His creation. The Scriptures give special revelation about the Lord Jesus Christ as Creator and Savior. The Bible writers build their teaching of the great redemptive truths upon the physical realities of the created heavens and earth (e.g., Ps. 19:1-14; Mal.4:2).1 James² is no exception as he based several truths about God and sin's temptation upon the physical objects and movements within the created heavens. This simple believer and member of the holy family of Joseph and Mary had a thorough understanding of the workings of the heavens and illustrated the Lord's perfections in contrast to sin. Using several technical terms historically associated with astronomy, James revealed a biblical cosmogony³ upon which he taught redemptive analogies. He used at least four terms that relate to astronomy, including "do [not] err" (planasthe πλανᾶσθε), "lights" (ton photon τῶν φώτων), "variableness" (parallage παραλλαγή), and "shadow of turning" (tropes aposkiasma τροπῆς άποσκἰασμα). The terms, when used biblically, give the absolute heavenly foundation upon which redemptive

¹For instance, the Lord Jesus Christ taught many truths from parables, building a spiritual truth upon a physical truth. In Mt. 13 he assumed the physical reality of seeds, tares, leaven, treasure, pearls, and nets, and taught spiritual realities built upon these items from the natural realm.

²Of the four men named James in the New Testament (NT), only the half-brother of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mt. 13:55) is the plausible explanation. James believed in Jesus as Savior only after His resurrection (Jn. 7:5; I Cor. 15:7), was counted among the apostles (Gal. 1:19), and became a leader in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13).

³l.e., origin and movements of the heavens.

truths are understood. Since the Apostle John assured his audience of local church members that "ye know (oida [oî $\delta\alpha$] = absolutely) all things" (I Jn. 2:20), it follows that Christians, with the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit (I Jn. 2:27), may have absolute knowledge not only about redemptive truths but also about His creation. This essay will show exegetically that James used several analogies from creation to teach that the Lord does not tempt men to sin. The primary import of this passage teaches that God is unchanging in His goodness toward man. The secondary emphases relate to biblical revelation about planets, stellar lights, solar parallax and tropic movements. James revealed under

...Christians, with the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit, may have absolute knowledge not only about redemptive truths but also about His creation.

inspiration all the absolute knowledge the Christian needs to know, and for that matter can possibly know, about these astronomical phenomena.

CONTEXT

James wrote his epistle to Christian Jews who were scattered about, although meeting in synagogues and organized as local churches (cf. Jam. 1:1; 2:2; 5:14). These early churches were undergoing severe persecution (cf. Acts 8:1-4; 11:19; 12:1 ff.) and needed the divine perspective concerning trials and temptations. In the aforementioned pericope (1:13-18), James lists five reasons why God is not the source for the temptation to sin. Having declared that trials (peirasmois) are to be endured (1:2-12), James now asserted that temptations are to be resisted. He needed to instruct his audience as to the source for the enticement to evil.

The writer's first argument dealt with the nature of God (v. 13). God's holy nature perfectly resists sin (cf. Lev. 11:44-45). He has no fallen nature to submit to the appeal of evil (literally "evils"). He "cannot be tempted with evil, neither

⁴The Lord's *ekklesia*, the visible assembly of immersed believers with pastors and deacons is "the pillar and ground of the truth" (Mt. 28:19-20; I Tim. 3:15), needs only the authoritative and sufficient Scriptures to understand all truth (II Tim. 3:16-17).

tempteth (peirazomenos) he any man," James declared. The nature of the Godhead is separated absolutely from all moral wickedness. Why would a Christian Jew think that the holy God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would tempt a believer to ungodliness?

The second argument James established was that temptation comes from within man.⁵ Using the present passive verb "is tempted" and the two present passive participles "is drawn away" and "enticed," the writer focused on the culprit--"his own lust." Man's Adamic nature (cf. Pss. 51:5; 58:3; Rom. 3:23) lures and snares its victim, the man himself. Following the genealogical motif, James expressed the origin and destination of sin. When temptation comes to man's lust, his old nature conceives and gives birth to sin. When the sin is mature, it bears offspring in terms of death. Man is the culpable one, and not God, with regard to the enticement to sin.

Next, James warned his audience about being deceived (I Cor. 6:9; 15:33; Gal. 6:7). The present passive imperative "err" (planasthe) with the negation ($me \mu \dot{\eta}$) suggests that his audience was actively engaged in thinking of God as the author of temptation. The verb planao is translated twenty-four times in the AV as "deceive," six times as "err,"

...God, as "the Father of lights" created the astral lights known as the morning light, sun, moon, and stars for man's continued blessing.

five times as "go astray," twice as "seduce," once as "wander," and once as "be out of the way." It is the root from which the noun "planet" comes, and a planet is an astral object which "wanders" around the sun. James' audience was allowing itself to go astray in deception about God's role in temptation. James used an apt illustration for Christians whose theological perspective strays from the Scriptures (cf. also Jam. 5:19). They were like "wandering stars" that go astray (cf. Jude 1:13).

In contrast to the deceived perspective some held, James asserted that the fourth reason God was not the author of temptation is His nature of goodness (v. 17). Only good comes from the Lord (Ps. 34:8) as His act of giving

JAMES AND ASTRONOMY

(dosis)6is good and His gift (dorema) is perfect. His benefits are from above, rather than "earthly, sensual, devilish"(cf. Jam. 3:15), descending from the loving Heavenly Father. To illustrate the magnitude of the Lord's beneficence, James affirmed that God, as "the Father of lights" (patros ton photon πατρός τῶν φὦτων), created the astral lights known as the morning light, sun, moon, and stars for man's continued blessing (cf. Gen. 1:2-5; 14-18). But the Lord God, unlike the sun, has no variableness (parallage)8 or shadow of turning (tropes aposkiasma).9 The sun's apparent movement from the perspective of observers on earth at two different points simultaneously or its "parallax," and its movement above and below the equator (cf. Rom. 8:39) or its "tropic," are observationally indiscernible. Nevertheless, the Lord never changes (cf. Mal. 3:6) in contrast to the indiscernible parallactical angle and tropical movement of the sun.

James concluded with his fifth argument that God does not entice to temptation. The Lord is the God of creation not destruction. His will includes begetting (cf. v. 15) man through the instrumentality of the word of truth (cf. II Cor. 6:7; Eph. 1:13) for regeneration (cf. Jn. 3:3, 5). James assured his audience that God's purpose was to give them eternal life through the new birth so that these Christian Jews would become firstfruits (cf. Ex. 34:22; Lev. 23:10) of the anticipated greater harvest of man-

⁶Cf. Phil. 4:15.

⁷Cf. Ps. 84:11; Mal. 4:2; Eccl. 12:2. God is likened to the sun and He created the lights.

⁸This biblical *hapax legomena* (word used only once, although compare II Kings 9:20 [LXX]) refers to change or variation. Lexicographers such as Arndt and Gingrich cite ancient usage of *parallage* in Aeschylus and Plato. William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1957), p. 625.

These two nouns are hapax legomena and form the genitive construction. In this case the genitive is one of cause, "a shadow because of change."

¹⁰Cf. Lk. 9:56: "For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

⁵This statement does not ignore that Satan is the great tempter and who knows how to appeal to the lusts of Adam's sons (Mt. 4:1, 3).

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kind (cf. Rom. 11:25). James effectively repudiated any notion from his audience that God tempts man to sin. He based his arguments on the biblical nature of God, man, and the heavens. As his audience was deeply inculcated in biblical knowledge based on the OT Scriptures, they would have understood James explicit and implicit teaching, including his cosmological analogies. The remainder of this essay will address the implications of James' biblical model for his cosmological analogies and will repudiate evolutionary theories that contradict this model.

BIBLICAL ASTRONOMY

James' Astronomy

Because of James' early childhood education from his godly parents Joseph and Mary, he would have learned and understood the biblical teaching concerning the Old Testament (OT) cosmogony. His epistle is replete with references to twenty-two OT books and numerous analogies from the natural realm, including vegetation, procreation,

James knew that the OT Scriptures taught absolutely and consistently that the sun, moon, and heavens moved relative to the stationary earth ...

astronomy, animal husbandry, anatomy, hydrology, etc. He built his spiritual truths on the reality of the natural realm, in which he had a solid biblical education. James assumed his audience would have a basic understanding of the heavenly terms and expressions he employed in his analogies. Concerning the origin and structure of the created heavens and earth, James understood the following Scriptural truths.

1. James knew that God created the heavens and earth from no existing material (creatio ex nihilo), but through the Logos (creatio ex Deo) during the creation week (cf. Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:1-3; Heb. 11:3).

- 2. On the first day He created a darkened sphere (cf. Isa. 40:22; Prov. 8:27) of water called earth, and the Spirit Himself moved over the surface of the earth, illuminating the sphere as He moved over it as the light source (cf. Gen. 1:2; Ps. 104:2).
- 3. On the second day God created the firmament (= Heavens [dual ending on Heavens means this refers to only the atmosphere and stellar "outer space"]) and placed it between the waters under (i.e., the earth) and the waters above the firmament, the outer limit of His physical creation (cf. Gen. 1:6-8; Ps. 148:4).
- 4. By the end of the third day the cosmos was clearly geocentric, with the light source in the heavens moving around the stationary earth (cf. Gen. 1:2-13).
- 5. On the fourth day, God created and put the greater light, the lesser light and stars in the firmament for the benefit of the earth. The earth was distinct from the revolving heavens with its various component parts, such as sun, moon, and stars. These moving lights became the basis for the daily, seasonal and yearly light sources for the stationary earth (cf. Gen. 1:14-18).
- 6. The remainder of the OT Scripture builds upon the revelatory truth of the creation week, consistently teaching that the earth is stationary, and that the heavens, including the sun and stars which were placed in the heavens, move around it.
- 7. James knew that from Joshua's perspective the sun and moon moved phenomenologically around the earth (cf. Josh. 10:12), but he also knew that from God's perspective, Who is outside of His creation and Who declared absolutely that the sun and moon moved, and He caused them to stop (cf. Josh. 10:13; Hab. 3:11).
- 8. James knew that the author of Judges taught absolutely that the stars moved through their respective courses in the heavens (cf. Judg. 5:20).
- 9. James knew that King David taught absolutely that the sun moved through its circuit as a racer around the track (cf. Ps. 19:4-6).
- James knew that wise Solomon taught absolutely several natural phenomena moved relative to the stationary earth, including the sun, wind, and rivers (cf. Eccl. 1:5-7).

- 11. James knew that the prophet Isaiah recorded absolutely that the shadow of the sun (and therefore the sun) moved ten degrees backward as a cosmological sign (cf. Isa. 38:8b).
- 12. James knew that the psalmist Asaph revealed absolutely that the sun rose and went down relative to the stationary earth (cf. Ps. 50:1).
- 13. James knew that Eliphaz declared absolutely that God walked in "the circuit of heaven" which carries the sun, moon, and stars (cf. Job 22:14).
- 14. James knew that the OT Scriptures taught absolutely and consistently that the sun, moon, and heavens moved relative to the stationary earth, with the

JAMES AND ASTRONOMY

exception of the Lord's shaking the earth in judgment, along with the heavens, during the Tribulation (cf. Job 38:14; Isa. 13:13; and 24:19-20).

15. James knew that God affirmed absolutely that the heavens could not be measured accurately and absolutely (cf. Jer. 31:37).¹¹

¹¹Thomas M. Strouse, "Biblical Geocentricity," *The Biblical Astronomer* 109 (2004): 69-89.

Continued next issue...

Quotes From the Past:

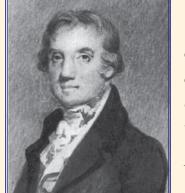
Abraham Baldwin, 1754-1807

Signer of the US Constitution,

Chaplain of the Continental Army, during the Revolutionary War; Founder and first President of the University of Georgia

"The happiness of free governments, ...their public prosperity and even existence very much depend upon suitably forming the minds and morals

of their citizens.



When the minds of the people in general are viciously disposed and unprincipled, and their conduct disorderly, a free government will be attended with greater confusion and evils and horrid than the wild, uncultivated state of nature.

It can only be happy when public principles and opinions are properly directed, and their manners regulated.

This is an influence beyond the reach of laws and punishments, and can be claimed only by religion and education.

It should therefore be among the first objects of those who wish well to national prosperity to encourage and support the principles of religion and morality, and early to place the youth under the forming hand of society, that by instruction they may be molded to love of virtue and good order."

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Strouse are pleased to announce the engagement of their son Ryan to Miss Christy Olsen.

Mark your calendars now for the Fall BBTS Lecture Series! The Lecture Series will be held Thursday, November 18, 2010 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The speaker will be Dr. Charles L. Parker and he will be teaching on "The Messenger of the Lord". The Lecture will be held at Bible Baptist Church in Cromwell, CT. Registration, coffee and donuts begin at 8:30 AM.



2010 BBTS FALL CALENDAR

November 18

Fall Lecture Series

November 24-26

Thanksgiving Break

December 13-15

Final Exams

December 17

Semester End



Young peoples' singing group.



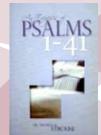
BBTS Commencement Bulletin for Graduation services held on October 29, 2010

BOOK CORNER

The Book Corner

These Books may be purchased through *Bible Baptist Church*:

40 Country Squire Rd. Cromwell, CT 06416 860-229-5387



Psalms 1 - 41 \$20.00



Psalm 119 20.00



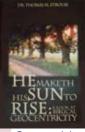
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



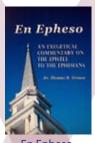
Daniel \$20.00



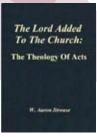
Jonah \$10.00



Geocentricity \$10.00



En Epheso \$20.00



The Theology of Acts \$20.00



I Will Build My Church \$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History \$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken \$15.00



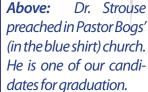
The auditorium was filled with area pastors and their families.



A prayer of dedication for the graduates and their wives at the BBTS Graduation Banquet.



Marsha of the right won Queenie (L) and Pauline to the Lord in the University Bible study.



SERMON OUTLINE

The Most Tragic of All Unanswered Prayers

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor

"Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house"

Luke 16:27

Introduction

(Lk. 16:19-31)

- This was a response to v. 14—the Pharisees "derided" (literally "turned up their noses at") Him.
- This is not a Parable, but an actual account of two men presumably known by the Pharisees.
- This is a graphic picture of Heb. 9:27.

THREE TRUTHS EMERGE FROM THIS ACCOUNT

- I. The Context of the One Praying
 - A. The rich man had everything physical in life—wealth, food, clothing, health, etc.
 - B. Lazarus had nothing but scraps of food and dogs ministering to him!
 - C. They were united in death—both went to Sheol.
 - D. They were divided in destiny—the rich man went to the place of torments called Hell, but Lazarus went to the place called Abraham's bosom.
- II. The Condition of the One Praying
 - A. He had No Mercy (mercy comes in this life when one repents of sins and trusts the Savior for salvation).

- B. He had No Change of Attitude—he still had a superiority complex over Lazarus ("send Lazarus"). "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still" (Rev. 22:11).
- C. He had No Relief from Torment—thirst, heat, flame, torment (cf. Jude 1:13; II Pet. 2:17; Mk. 9:44, 46, 48)
- III. The Consequences of the One Praying
 - A. He was Without Hope—there was "a great gulf fixed" so that no one could cross (cf. Eph. 2:12).
 - B. He was Without Help
 - 1. No prayers for himself would be answered.
 - 2. No prayers for his brothers would be answered.
 - a. The Lord's plan of salvation is for sinners in this life to repent and belief the Scriptures ("Moses and the prophets").
 - b. His plan is not to send back sinners from Hell to warn mankind about the torments of Hell. He has already told that message in the Bible (cf. Lk. 18:13; Jn. 3:16; I Cor. 15:1-4).
 - c. The passage ends with God having the last word—"neither will they be persuaded"!

Conclusion

- Will you experience the most tragic of all unanswered prayers?
- Do you know others who will experience the most tragic of all unanswered prayers?

Manchester Bible Study

Continue to pray for the Manchester Bible Study as Mark Schabert teaches the *Gospel of John* to several families who live in the area. This is an effort to practice the Great Commission in Manchester, CT, evangelizing and edifying folks who come to the study. The Bible study is every Friday night at 7 PM. Please contact the pastor for directions.



BBC Youth enjoy a beautiful fall day between Sunday services!

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send to the Editor, Cas Reeves, at either

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