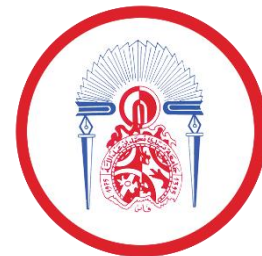




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Sais-Fes



End of term research project

Department of english

Hollywood & the Pre-figuring of 9/11

A research paper submitted in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the
B.A degree in English (Literature)

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Preamble

In the light of the three years of knowledge that I have been exposed to, which were full of excitement, insights and enlightenment, I have discovered in me a love for theoretical literature and especially theories that are related to the fields of sociology.

This research paper is a product of a passion for deconstructing and analysing important matters in our personal lives, our communities, and the world. It is an attempt to understand both the influence of the media on society, and the possibility of it being a tool by which societies are warn and foretold of upcoming events.

A research paper is a document that a student has to submit at the end term of his B.A studies, it is a collection of different pieces of information, and more than a review of literature it analyses a perspective and argues a point, consequently a research paper will be presented.

Dedication

To my mother, the sun of my sky, the one that has always been number one, to you mother, to your smiles and tears, to your laughters and fears

To my father, the one who made me the man I am today, to your hopes and expectations, to the man I look up to

To my Sisters Oumaima and Zanoubia the flowers of my garden, the light that shines everytime it gets dark, the rain that pours after every fire, the source of my power the one that rejuvenates me everytime I feel the sorrow

To my friends thank you for all the good souvenirs and experiences

To my professor and Supervisor Lahlou Naguib who guided me through, and who has been a model, a man to whom I look up to and admire.

Acknowledgement

First of all I want to thank my Supervisor professor LAHLOU Naguib who has done a great deal in guiding us through the whole process of the research paper, I want to thank him for his efforts and his contagious energy, which was the main engine and source of our determination as students.

I wish to extend my most gratitude to all professors in the English department, my professors in the English Literature branch, the ones who inspire us, and motivate us every day, in order to improve and be the best versions of ourselves. After three years of studies at the English department I can finally say that I am a changed man, and I am forever grateful for that.

Finally, I thank all those who assisted, encouraged and supported me during this research

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Abstract

When people experience something lucky in their lives they break down into two groups, one that sees it as more than a coincidence; they see it as a sign or evidence that someone or something is watching over them, and another group that considers it as pure luck. Are you the kind who sees signs and miracles ? or do you believe people just get lucky ? is it possible that there are no coincidences ? my topic is an attempt to examine the purpose and nature of subliminal messages made about the 9/11 attacks in movies long before these unfortunately happened, whether these hints were predictions or mere coincidences.

In my approach I will start by highlighting what 9/11 now stands about, present the corpus then analyse select movie scenes related to these fanatic attacks. firstly I will analyse the scenes that provided the time of the attacks, secondly I will go about studying scenes where the movies depicted images showing the Twin towers being under attacks, Next I will analyse movie scenes and animated cartoons where characters verbally talked about the attacks stating the predictions. Finally I will conclude by stating the outcome of my research paper by offering a substantiated answer to the questions dealt with in my monograph

INTRODUCTION

This research as it stands is an analysis of movies and animated cartoons that are rich in symbolism and foretelling of 9/11 attacks. Considering their literal and cinematographic devices, this research will go about analysing each scene that is suspected of the foretelling, the resulted information are in no way a direct answer to whether these movies foretold 9/11 or not, the ultimate goal of this research is to critically comprehend and separate facts from fiction.

Insight on the corpus selected

The Corpus is divided into two parts, the first part contains two movies under the names of “back to the future” and “traffic” both which are suspected of foretelling the events of 9/11, and the second part is made up of two animated cartoons named “often an orphan” and “Johnny Bravo” , both suspected of the same foretelling.

This subject of research is consequential because it explores important subjects that have direct relations to society as well as measure the power of the largest source of influence which is the main stream media, its main purpose is to uncover the truth and separate facts from fiction, and to shed light on whether 9/11 events were orchestrated and foretold in media.

I) Screen and Society

A. The power of movies and their influence on society

In today's modern world, cinema is the most prestigious cultural activity, it is for us what painting was in the days of Leonardo DaVinci or theatre in the age of Shakespeare. The art form with the biggest impact, the largest budgets and the most widespread audiences.

Movies have become the shaping tool of society, influencing the masses and shaping their paradigms. A recent study was conducted by Michelle C. Pautz, an associate professor of political science at the University of Dayton, it suggests that movies can act as an influence (120-28)¹. Dr. Pautz asked undergraduates at a private college to fill out a questionnaire regarding their views on government before and after viewing two selected movies. She found that after watching the films, 20 to 25 percent of the participants changed their opinion — and generally more favorably — on a variety of questions about the government. Dr. Pautz believes that young viewers in particular may be more open to the influence of movies. She says, “Younger people, particularly teens, are much more likely to be impacted than older adults because they are still developing and shaping their worldviews,” she said in an email interview. “Since they are still being socialized politically, they are more likely to absorb all sorts of influences, including influences from film.” But it is difficult to say, she added, “whether that influence lasts years, decades, or a lifetime” (Pautz) yet “the influence of movies along with other factors may be quite substantial.” (Pautz) Movies contribute to the “political socialization of people (young adults in particular),” Dr.

¹ Pautz, Michelle C. “Argo and Zero Dark Thirty: Film, Government, and Audiences.” *PS: Political Science & Politics*, vol. 48, no. 1, 2015, pp. 120–128.,

Pautz said, “and so what audiences watch and how certain institutions are portrayed over time can be very significant.” She also notes that movies can be a great mechanism for conversation and reflection. She says “It’s one of the most accessible forms of art out there,” which brings about the topic of this research .

B. Framing 9/11

Several movies have been accused of foretelling future events, The events of 9/11 were no exception, the attack happened on September 11, 2001, “Nineteen men hijacked four fuel-loaded US commercial airplanes and executed the terror attack, two of the planes were flown into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon just outside Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.”² Often referred to as 9/11, the attacks resulted in extensive death and destruction, triggering major U.S. initiatives to combat terrorism and defining the presidency of George W. Bush. Over 3,000 people were killed during the attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., including more than 400 police officers and fire fighters. In the aftermath of this tragedy, most members of the architecture and engineering community, as well as the general public, assumed that the building’ destruction had occurred as a result of the airplane impacts and fires, this conclusion was reinforced by federal investigations along with reports by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). However since the attacks independent researchers around the world have assembled a large body of evidence that refutes the notion that airplanes impacts caused the destruction of the Twin Towers and World Trade Center .

² "September 11, 2001: Background and Timeline of the Attacks." CNN. Cable News Network, 08 Sept. 2016. Web. 02 June 2017.

This body of evidence instead supports the troubling conclusion that the three skyscrapers were destroyed in a process called “controlled demolition” which advocates for the theory that hidden powers or societies had everything planned ahead of times and also reinforces the idea behind this research.

With the prevalence and accessibility of film today, putting together and analysing movies in order to deconstruct their true content and message is a must. Just like any forms of art, novels, paintings and movies likewise hold meaning, and in some cases subliminal messages that the author, painter or the producer wants their audiences to understand. In this research a handful of movie scenes and cartoon movies were carefully chosen in order to be analysed in hope of uncovering the truth on whether they predicted the 9/11 attacks or if these scenes were mere coincidences, these movies and cartoons were created years before the attacks took place which rose inevitable questions and theories that are yet to be proven.

II) 9/11 & the Prefiguring Filmic Imaginary

1. « *Back To The Future* » 1985

i. Storyline

« Back To The Future is a trilogy sequel and an American science-fiction movie that started its first appearance in 1985, an adventure and comedy film directed by Robert Zemeckis, written by both Zemeckis and Bob Gale.

The Story starts with the appearance of the protagonist Marty McFly who is an American boy with small-town dreams of being a rock star, a friend to the town nutso, Dr. Emmett Brown. Dr. Brown ropes Marty into helping him test out his greatest invention, a working time machine made out of a type of cars named DeLorean, which runs on plutonium that he stole from a group of Libyan nationalists. The Libyans show up. They shoot Doc (apparently to death) and then go after Marty, who escapes in the DeLorean to 1955. Suddenly, his town is different, the people are different. As it turns out, Marty's got a few problems. There are no weapons-grade plutonium, so getting back to 1985 may be an issue, and a bully named Biff (his father's tormentor in 1955 and supervisor in 1985), keeps getting all up in his business. Moreover he accidentally interferes with his mother and father's would-be romance, and now has to make sure they still get together so he doesn't become erased from existence. Doc and Marty come up with the inspired idea to use the energy from a bolt of lightning that they know is coming to power the DeLorean (car) back to Marty's present. In the week leading up to the event, Marty does his best to convince his father, George, to take his mother, Lorraine, to the Enchantment Under the Sea dance... but ends up taking her himself. The idea is to have Marty tick Lorraine off, then have George step in and be the hero.

Biff and his crew throw a wrench into things by having Marty thrown into the trunk of a car. Which means that George has to beat a guy twice his size in order to win Lorraine's heart George clocks Biff, and then gets lucky that Lorraine is incredibly attracted to shows of violence, then they get back to each other. Time to return to 1985. After some moments the lightning trick works and Marty is home at last. Plus, he was able to warn Doc about the hail of gunfire from the Libyans, and Doc prepared himself by donning a bulletproof vest.

Things are different now... but in a good way. George is a together, successful guy instead of the loser he was in the old 1985. Lorraine is no longer an alcoholic, Biff is now completely under George's thumb, and even Marty's house is way less depressing. Unfortunately, Doc shows up at the last minute and tells Marty and Jennifer there's something wrong with their kids in the future. »³

ii. Analysis of the corpus : pictures and videos

Of all the films to contain symbolism related to 9 /11 none have been scrutinized more closely than the back to the future trilogy, particularly part one of the film series, numerous scenes of dialogue appeared to allude to the events of that day often in combination with curious symbolism and on-screen appearances of the numbers nine and eleven. The key number 911 allusions appear predominantly but not exclusively in several pivotal story sections. The first section takes place in the Twin Pines mall in the early hours of october 26, 1985 the name of the mall is analogous with the Twin Towers, the protagonist Marty Mcfly arrives at the mall and the time on the clock is 1.16 which when inverted, a 911, the sign carries the moniker Twin Pines Mall, and two pine tree shapes

³ "Back to The Future." IMDb. IMDb.com, n.d. Web. 02 June 2017.



When the sign is inverted as with the aforementioned time of 1.16 the tree shapes on the sign are loosely analogous with the iconic shapes of the World Trade Center Twin Towers, Marty arrives and becomes witness to a time travel experiment being carried out by his friend doctor Brown using a car that he named DeLorean, the first thing that doctor Brown does is to synchronize the experiment stopwatch with his control watch, suprisingly the time on both of these watches is 1.19, which is another inverted 911.



Marty and doctor Brown come under attack by Muslim terrorists, this inclusion of Middle Eastern terrorists is notable in the context of 9/11. Shortly after, doctor Brown is shot dead by the terrorists and Marty jumps in the DeLorean to make escape, his speeding triggers the time machine and sends Marty back in time to November 1955, he appears on the Twin Pines farm of a character named old man peabody, this land is the future site of the Twin Pines Mall, Marty accidentally drives over one of peabody's prized twin baby pine trees which changes the future name of the mall to Lone Pine Mall, combining this, with 9/11 analogies in the previous scenes of the mall one could argue that the loss of the first pine tree is the metaphorical destruction of the first Twin Tower in 9/11, furthermore the remaining Lone pine is also an analogous with the so called freedom tower One World Trade Center, that generically replaced the World Trade Center towers.

The protagonist Marty subsequently arrives in 1955 Hill Valley town square by the Texaco garage that sales gasoline for 19 and a half cents, but in the 1985 texaco garage is previously seen selling gasoline for 1.19\$ which is another hint for the number 911, the station is complete with a sign saying « gas war » which might be a reference to the reason behind 9/11. This symbol system is confirmed in back to the future part two, where the Twin Pines appear in a projection movie screen in Marty's future house, his family gathers around the movie screen and the Twin Pines actually morph into the Twin Towers.



this is because the Twin Pines are suggested to be the Twin Towers, which is why all the clocks around the mall says 911 and why there was a Muslim terrorist attack resulting in the destruction of the Twin Pines, but the appearance of the towers in the

projection movie screen is not a random backdrop, in the background of the scene the statue of liberty lurks just as secretly as the towers, making this scene a recreation of New York City where Marty's family has gathered to stare at Ground Zero, of these three characters staring at Ground Zero one of them is completely upside down, but in the entire Back to the Future saga this is the only time when an upside down character will ever appear, the hint being given here is to observe the scene from his perspective by turning it upside down but when doing so the Twin Towers are clearly shown to be falling down.

Back to the future was written and directed by Robert Zemeckis first released in 1985, but to depict the future Zemeckis chose October 2015, the Twin Tower scene takes place in October 2015 and the towers appear on a movie screen, meaning the McFly family is watching a secretly placed Twin Towers movie released on October 2015 Directed by Robert Zemeckis, in October 2015 in the real world a major Hollywood production movie under the name of the Walk hit theaters worldwide and its story evolves exclusively around the Twin Towers, the movie happens to be directed by Robert Zemeckis, the release date happens to be the exact same one of the Twin Towers movie planted in Back to the Future, which exposes the symbolism of the pines and depicts the Twin Tower's collapse, why would Zemeckis expose his warning after thirty years ? Back to the Future was released in 1985, thirty years later the Walk is released in 2015, in the movie back to the future the protagonist Marty writes a letter for his friend doctor Brown warning him about his death in the terrorist attack, he seals it shut intending for it to remain hidden for a specific amount of time, in one of the scenes the doctor asks about the meaning of the letter when he says « what's the meaning of this »

the protagonist Marty replies « find out in thirty years »⁴. The Walk movie is the reveal of 9/11 warning given to doctor Brown while rigging a giant wire to clock tower, The Walk movie is about a plot to rig a giant wire to the twin towers, Marty records the warning while doctor Brown is rigging the wire to the tower, Marty tells him that he will understand the warning in thirty years, thirty years later the director makes a movie about rigging a giant wire to a tower the Twin Towers, which can be read as a proof that the warning in Marty's letter is all about Twin Towers.

⁴ "Back To The Future (1985)." Back To The Future (1985) Transcript - Screenplays for You. Back to the Future Script, n.d. Web. 02 June 2017.

2. Action Movie « *Traffic* » 2000

i. Analysis of the scenes : Pictures

The movie traffic was first released in 2000. In the opening scene of this movie a drug truck is apprehended, and on close inspection, drug boxes that are stamped with the number 911 can be seen. Next to each number is the symbol of a scorpion.



A guard at Abu Ghraib prison.

Apart from the clear reference to the 9/11 terrible events that the number 911 alludes to, this particular symbol of a scorpion has a strong curious significance, author « David Hagberg » published a novel entitled "Allah's Scorpion" which is the code name of a massive terrorist plot by al-Quaida in

the book, the scorpion is also known as a symbol of an israeli gang .

This information of the scorpion symbol being related to the israeli gang is critical in order to understand the true meaning behind the scene in the movie, and the overall reason behind the fortelling of 9/11 in movies.



On wednesday, september 12, 2001 "The Record journal reported that a group of five israeli men had set up video cameras aimed at the Twin Towers prior to the attack on Tuesday, and were seen congratulating one another afterwards."⁵ . The setting up of the cameras “prior to the attacks” is an inference from the phrase “they photographed the

attacks” in this report. It’s a reasonable literal interpretation, but that doesn’t necessarily make it true. Officials were saying the cameras were set up before the attack, these may be reports of the allegations they are investigating.

The report does talk of the men “apparently” setting up cameras near the Hudson River, and that they said to have congratulated each other afterwards. The report itself is very early, perhaps written less than 24 hours after they were arrested, so it would be surprising if these officials had reached definitive conclusions. Several of the detainees discussed their experience in America on an Israeli talk show after their return home. Said one of the men, denying that they were laughing or happy on the morning of Sept.

⁵ 9-11 Attacks: The Five Dancing Israelis Arrested on 9-11. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 June 2017.

11, "The fact of the matter is we are coming from a country that experiences terror daily. Our purpose was to document the event." But how did they know there would be an event to document on 9/11? Here it can be suggested that saying "our purpose was to document the event" is in itself somehow suspicious, that it indicates foreknowledge, but at the same time this can not be proved. The Jewish weekly « The Forward » reported that the FBI finally concluded that at least two of the detained Israelis were agents working for the Mossad which is the principal secret intelligence service of the state of Israel, and that it was a front operation. This was confirmed by two former CIA officers, and they noted that movers' vans are a common intelligence cover. The Israelis were held in custody for 71 days before being quietly released.

The Jerusalem Post later reported that a white van with a bomb was stopped as it approached the George Washington Bridge, but the ethnicity of the suspects was not revealed. Here's what the Jerusalem Post reported on September 12, 2001: « American security services overnight stopped a car bomb on the George Washington Bridge. The van, packed with explosives, was stopped on an approach ramp to the bridge. Authorities suspect the terrorists intended to blow up the main crossing between New Jersey and New York, Army Radio reported. » ⁶ (Jerusalem Post)

The scene of the boxes in the movie has two important signs, the first one being the number 911 which is a clear reference to the 9/11 attacks, and the second one being the scorpion sign which is a direct reference and a code name to the israelis gang, which was a major event during the days of 9/11 whence a group of five israelis were arrested and suspected to have played part in the attacks.

⁶ 9-11 Attacks: The Five Dancing Israelis Arrested on 9-11. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 June 2017.

B. 9/11 Events' Anticipation In Cartoons

1. « *Often An Orphan* » 1949

The second corpus of this research paper is the animated cartoon « Often an Orphan », which is a 1949 cartoon in the Looney Tunes series. It stars Charlie Dog and Porky Pig and is the last Charlie Dog short to have Porky present in it. The cartoon deals with Charlie trying to get Porky to adopt him after his old owner dumps him at Porky's farm on a trip disguised as a picnic. Charlie instead irritates Porky and the short deals with him trying to get rid of the dog in various ways, but fails each time. Shortly after, the following conversation takes place :

« Charlie Dog: All my life I've dreamed of the day I could go and live in the country. I'm not strong. I need lots of fresh air, and milk, and cream... [Coughs] a-a-and fresh leafy veggie-tables! [Sobs]

Porky: B-b-b-but I -

Charlie Dog: Good, clean, wholesome farm living! [Sobs]

Porky: B-b-b-but I -

Charlie Dog: And now... [Sniffs] Now... Now that I got a chance to regain my health, you wanna send me back to the city. The city! I can see it all now. It's high towers! Cold, cruel, ominous! Closing down on ya! From every side till ya can't breathe! Closer! Closer! [Begins to choke] Ya can't breathe...! The traffic! Ya can't think! BEEP BEEP! BEEP BEEP! LOOK OUT FOR THAT TRUCK! HONK HONK!

LOOK OUT FOR THAT TAXI! BOINNNG! BREEP-BREEP! AROOOOGAH!

HONK HONK! BEEP BEEP! Ah...! Hark. What's that? Look! It's the towers!

THEY'RE FALLING! [Screams, then collapses onto ground] » ("Often An Orphan")⁷.

i. Analysis of the scene : Audio

In this conversation between Charlie Dog and Porky, Charlie talks about the city, he laments that he doesn't want to go back to the city, and imagines a hypothetical scenario where he articulates "the towers, they're falling!", in this scene Charlie Dog refers to New York City as « The city » he goes on describing it as having big traffics and high towers which is a clear reference to the Twin Towers, he continues to point out various dangers, such as a truck coming their way, and acting all freaked out, then he points over the fence and towards the sky as he is holding on to the front of Porky's shirt by the neck and screams, "Look! It's the towers! They're falling!" and then passes out.



⁷ "Often an Orphan." Looney Tunes Wiki. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 June 2017.

When Charlie Dog says « Look it's the towers » he is referring to the Twin towers, he continues, pointing to the sky and stating that they are falling, which is analogous to the events of 9/11 at the time of the towers falling. Even though the actual building of the Twin Towers was in 1966 and that the release date of the animated cartoon was in 1949 the idea of building the Twin Tower started way earlier in 1939.

ii. The cartoon In relation to real world events

New York Worlds Fair included an exhibit called the World Trade Center that was dedicated to the concept of “world peace through trade.” Seven years later, one of the exhibit’s organizers, Winthrop W. Aldrich, headed a new state agency whose proposed goal was a permanent trade exposition based in New York, however the plan was soon scrapped. Aldrich’s nephew, David Rockefeller, didn’t forget the idea. The grandson of Standard Oil founder John D. Rockefeller, David decided to revive the World Trade Center concept as the core of a revitalized lower Manhattan. In 1959 the Downtown Lower Manhattan Association was created by real estate developer David Rockefeller to revitalize Lower Manhattan and to begin to promote the idea of a world trade and finance center in New York City, in 1960 Rockefeller presented the plan for a world trade center along the East River of Manhattan.

2. Johnny Bravo- « Chain Gang johnny » 2001

The second Animated cartoon that holds a possible reference and fortelling of 9/11 events is an episode from the cartoon « Johnny Bravo » under the name of « Chain Gang Johnny » which was released in 2001, four months before the actual events of the terrorist attack. The cartoon movie has a specific scene whereby the frame in a transition from one character to another passes by a wall that has a picture on it, in the picture stands a skyscraper on fire with a striking message that says coming soon .



Coming across this shot, having in mind that nothing is in a frame by coincidence and that everything is authored and narrated by the creators of this animated cartoon, one has to question the purpose of it .

Why would a picture of a tower in flame with a message that says coming soon be in the frame ? Especially that this happens four months before 9/11, while analyzing this picture one can argue that the picture only has one tower, which means that it is not a reference to the twin towers, but still the fact that there is that notion of a tower in fire, is in itself an interesting and intriguing thing to think about. The words coming soon can

be interpreted as a direct warning and foretelling of the events of 9/11 that came after only four months. Some theorists argued that the picture of the tower is nothing more than an advertisement for an upcoming movie, since the scene is taking place in front of a cinema theatre, but does that reject the fact that it could be a 9/11 warning ? Or does it confirm that 9/11 was nothing but an orchestrated movie that was played on millions of people around the world.

CONCLUSION

All the conclusions that have been made about the foretelling of the events of 9/11 in movies and animated cartoons are interpretations and literary analysis based upon facts. A major key of understanding in this research paper is that the Ideological state Apparatus introduced by the famous marxist philosopher Louis Althusser in his essay “Ideology and Ideological state apparatuses”⁸ plays a major role in the foretelling phenomena, it is introduced to us in another form under the name of predictive programming. The Ideological state apparatus, is identified as the method by which organizations propagate ideology, where as the predictive programming is identified as propagating certain events in movies, in an attempt to rationalize ideologies. In other words the predictive programming is a type of manipulation , a technique used to reduce resistance to upcoming tyranny, to change opinions of large groups of people and let them think it was their own idea, and to subtly program the brains of the masses while they think they are just enjoying some entertainment. It is proposed that by mimicking a change that is desired by those in power, resistance to that change can be minimized because people have seen it happen already. It is easier for them to accept the change because it has been normalized through the media. An example of the predictive programming is given in an article by the Coincidence theorist “ In the 1998 blockbuster, ‘The Siege’, New York is attacked by terrorists and is subsequently locked into a state of martial law. Could this have prepared viewers for The World Trade Center attacks and the controversial legislation that followed, such as the USA Patriot Act, the “ President’s Surveillance Program”, and the creation of the US Department of

⁸ Althusser, Louis. "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses(Notes towards an Investigation)." Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses by Louis Althusser 1969-70. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 June 2017.

Homeland Security? ”⁹ predictive programming can sow the seeds that make acceptance of abnormal and dangerous situations easier. It can teach people not to question and to be good little sheep. 9/11 was repetitively performed in movies long before it happened but the question wheather it was a warning, a prediction or part of the predictive programming is still a mistery open for interpretation .

⁹ Tct. "TCT." The Coincidence Theorist. TCT [Http://thecoincidence theorist.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/logo-testing2-300x137.png](http://thecoincidence theorist.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/logo-testing2-300x137.png), 29 Mar. 2016. Web. 02 June 2017.

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