

Discernment

Part 3

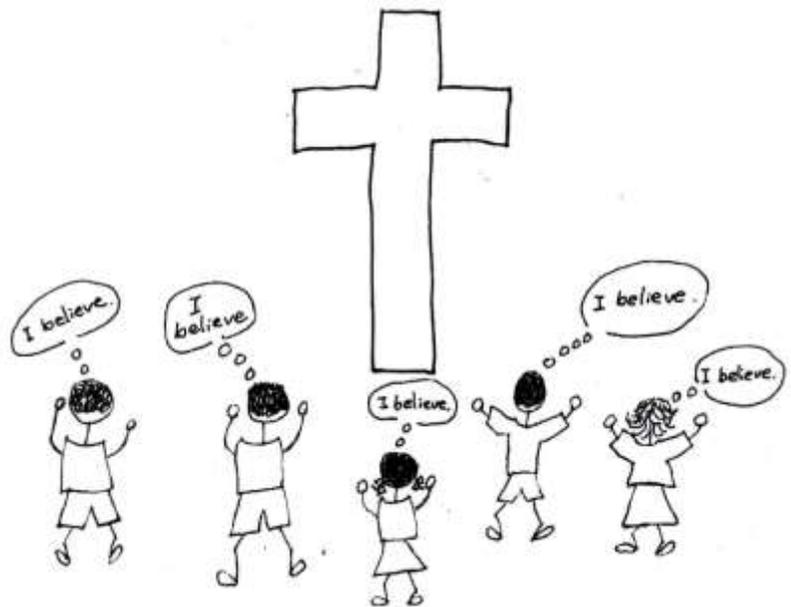
How Did We Get Evil?

(Revised: 4/3/2013)



GOOD NEWS FOR UNBELIEVERS! Jesus Christ died spiritually on the Cross for everyone's sins. Then He died physically, was buried and rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father! If you are an unbeliever, you have the opportunity right now to believe! Simply tell God the Father that you are believing in His Son Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you make the decision to believe in Him in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer! You will spend eternity in heaven with Jesus Christ, your Savior!

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.



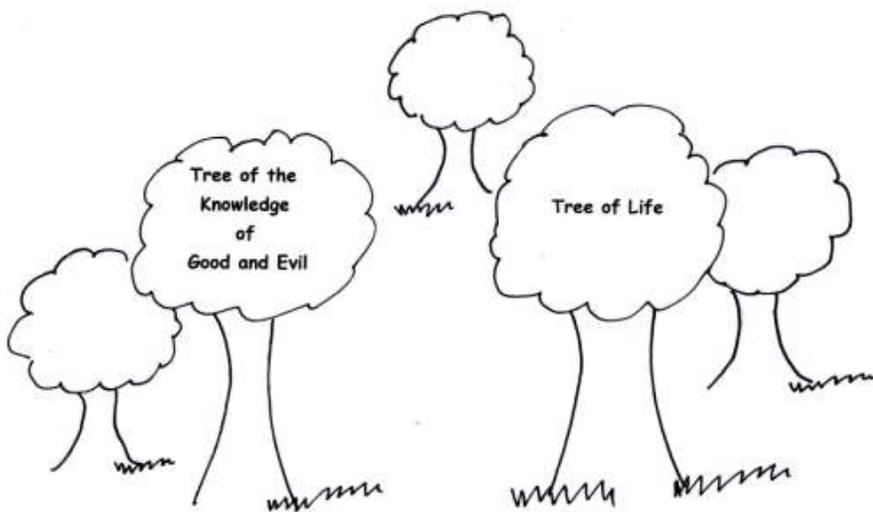
Genesis 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [lives]; and man became a living being.

When the LORD God created Adam and Eve, He created them trichotomous. This means they had three parts: soul, body and spirit.

Genesis 2:8-9 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight [true soul stimulation or excitement to activity] and good for food [true nourishment for the body]; the tree of life [true food for the human spirit] also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God provided perfectly for man's soul, body and spirit. There were trees which were very pleasant to see and which gave Adam and Ishah great enjoyment in their souls. There were trees from which they could eat and which gave true

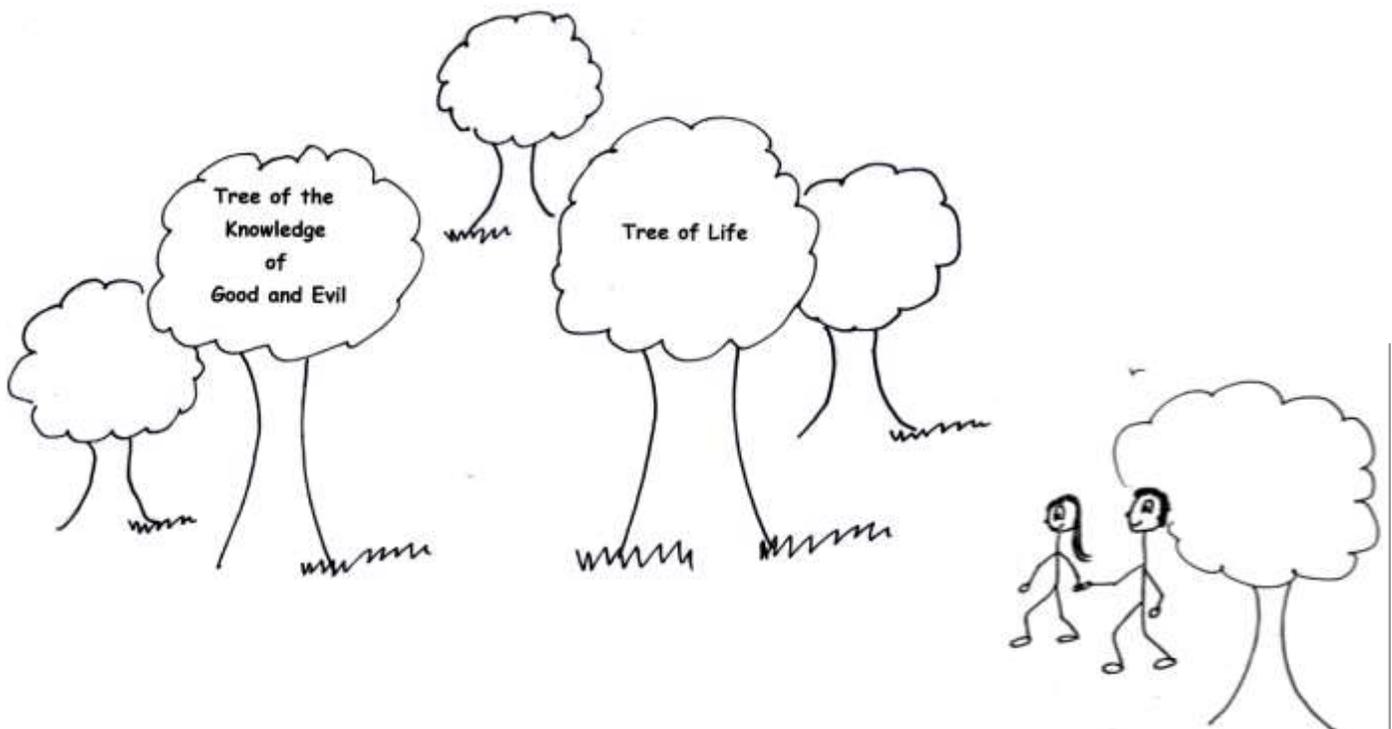
nourishment to their bodies. There was the tree of life, God's life, which gave true food for their human spirits. They had perfection in the tree of life; they had access to the very life of God. Adam and Ishah



had all they needed to be perfectly happy!

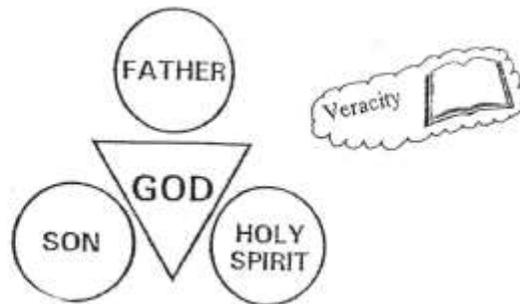
Genesis 2:15-17 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

How did God originally set things up for the human race? No evil! The Garden of Eden was awesome! Adam and Ishah could eat from any tree except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



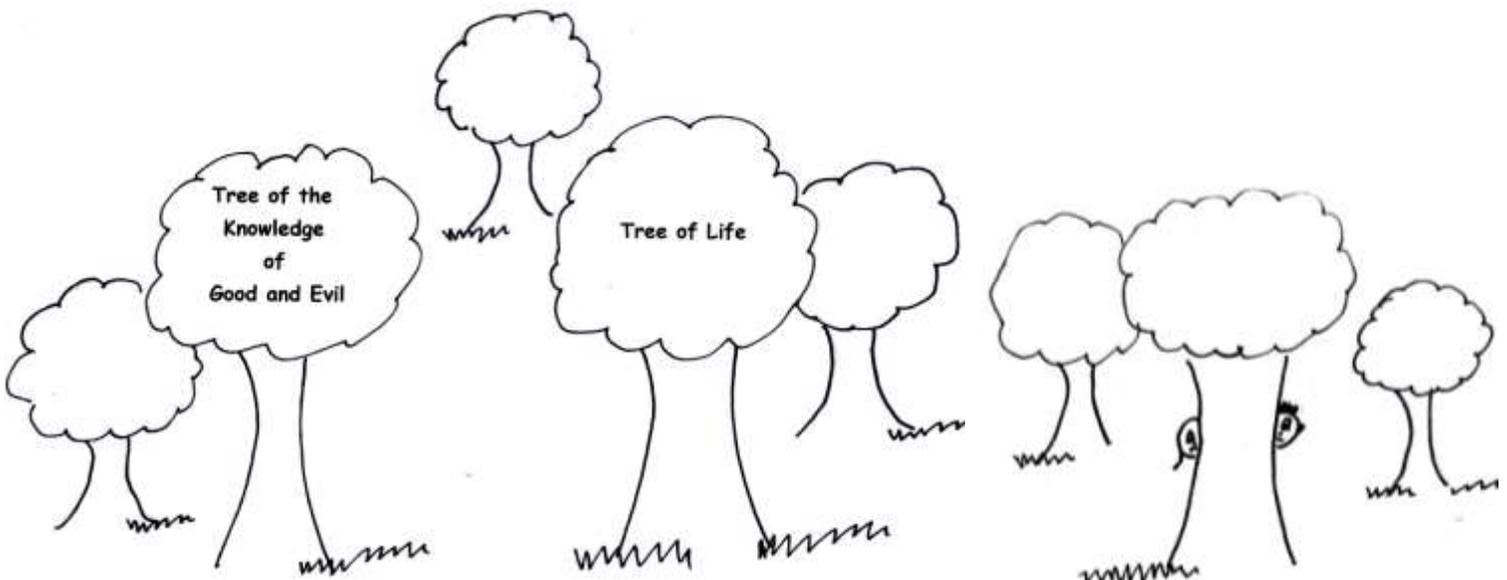
Genesis 3:4 -5 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

In talking to the woman, Satan suggested that God was lying! He wanted Ishah to question God's word. He wanted to remove her respect for the authority of the Lord God. When we lose respect for the authority of the Lord, we open ourselves to all kinds of deception. We can't be **discerning**! He told her that she would not die if she ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan was contradicting God's word! Then he told her she would be wise like God and that God didn't want her to have that wisdom. He was attacking God's character. Those were evil suggestions! Satan is the liar! He can't be trusted nor believed. God is **truth** and His word is **truth**! God can be trusted and believed!

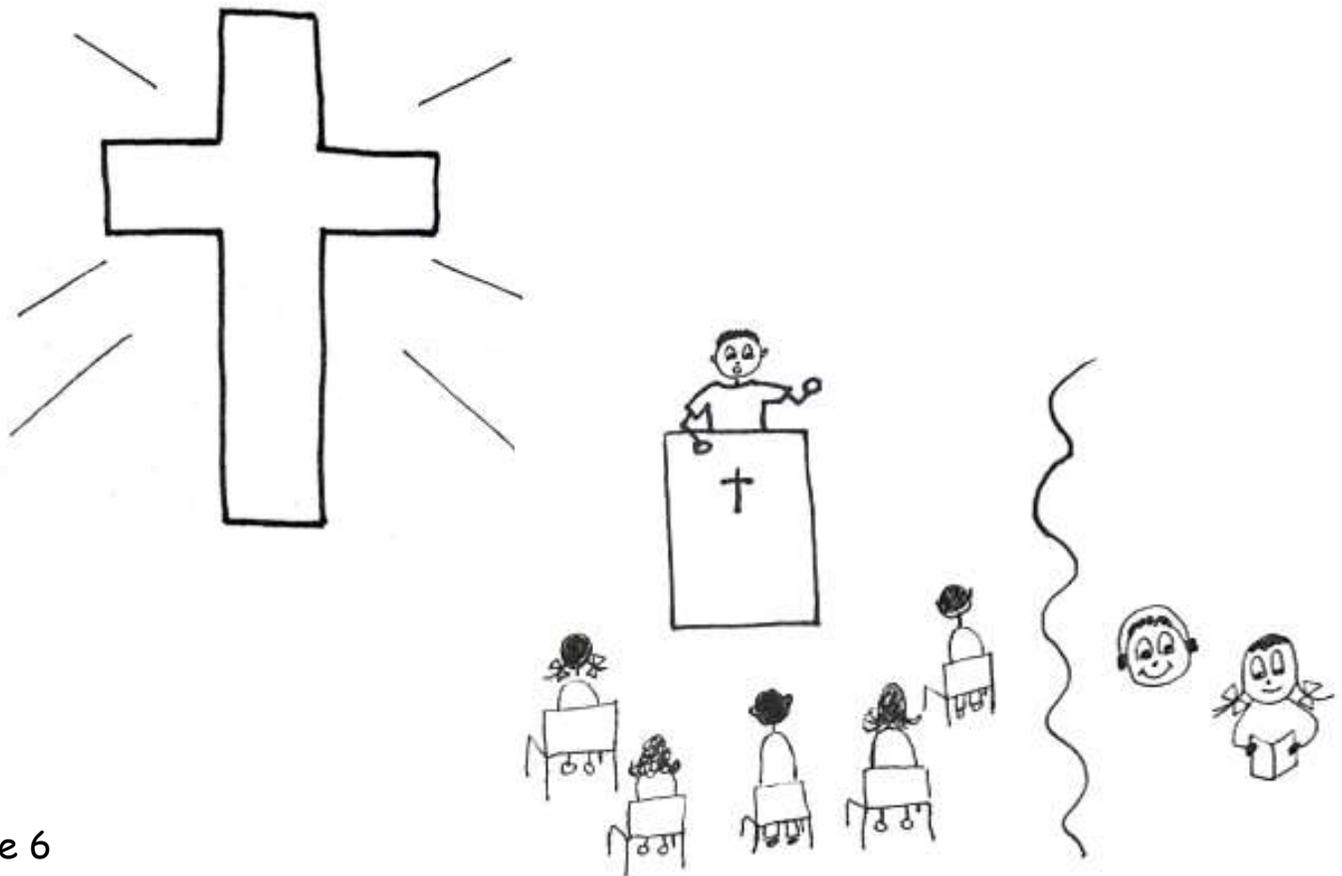


Genesis 3:6-7 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and mad themselves loin coverings.

Until they sinned, Adam and the woman operated in faith in the word of the Lord God. They knew the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was off limits, and that was that. There was nothing more to consider. The moment Adam and the woman ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they died spiritually. They each lost their human spirit; they lost fellowship with God. They became dichotomous, having only body and soul. Dying spiritually, they would die physically.



God originally designed man to live in the Garden of Eden. Adam and the woman disobeyed God and mankind became something we weren't designed to be. Evil came into our lives. God wants to bring us back to where we were in the garden and beyond it! Human life began with Adam in the garden with no evil, and ends with Jesus Christ in heaven with no evil. Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life." God wants **all** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of our Lord and Savior. Once we've been saved, the power of the Spirit and God's word are critical in the soul so we can exercise correct **discernment**. We have to learn what is truly good and what is truly evil!



The Greek word "kalou" means good. The Greek work "kakou" means evil. KALOU. KAKOU. They look the same but mean the opposite. Kalou comes from kalos meaning: excellent, useful, commendable; excellent in its nature and characteristics; genuine, approved; good! God's word, God's plan, anything from God is good! When we take in the word of God and live in His plan for our lives, we will grow spiritually. Kakou comes from kakos meaning: of a bad nature; not such as it out to be; wrong, wicked, troublesome, destructive; evil! There are things in the world that are of a bad nature. When we let them into our souls we will suffer. We need to know the difference between "kalou" and "kakou", good and evil. We need **discernment!**

Can you tell the difference? Circle kakou - evil.

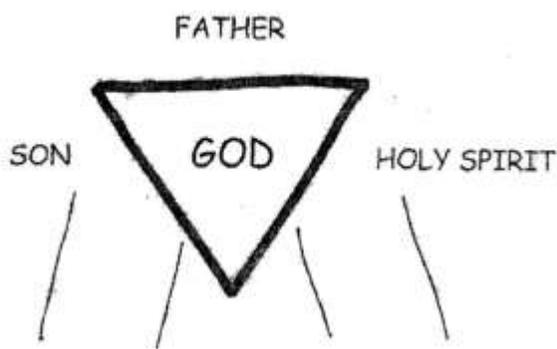
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The Holy Spirit will guide us in applying or using the word of God at the right place and at the right time! He will take the wisdom in our soul and pick out what is most useful for our situation. The more of the word of God we know, the more the Holy Spirit has to use, and the better decisions He can help us make. He will guide us all the way and give us the power to become what God designed us to be!!! It will take a lifetime, so relax and use all that God provides! God wants us to live a life where He is protecting our souls! He wants us to have **discernment!**



Psalm 119:125 I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.

We were created to worship God. If we don't worship God we will worship something or somebody else. Sometimes all it takes for us to trip up is a suggestion - a thought. When truth is rejected, the world operates on the power of deception. As soon as we reject the word of God as the criterion (standard or rule) for what we do, we're in trouble! Don't reject God and choose something or somebody else! God's word is the real thing. Through the power of the Holy Spirit it gives us **discernment**; we are able to see and tell the difference between divine viewpoint and human viewpoint. We are able to worship God!



2 Kings 17:39 Rather, worship the LORD your God; it is He who will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.

There are things in God's word that show what is off limits! We are to follow those rules. As soon as we don't, we open up in our lives the power of suggestion. Suggestions have power - we give them power!!! When we get off the high ground of God's word, these suggestions will influence us. Satan took a perfect man and woman and got them off track by a suggestion.

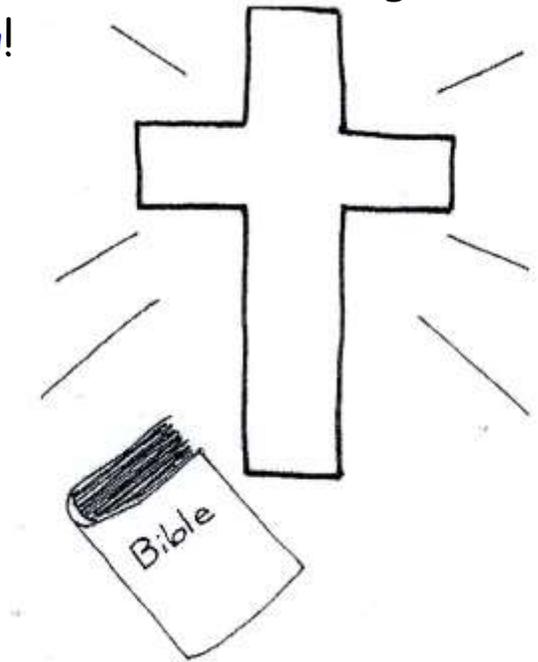
Satan's suggestions were and are:

1. To question God's word.
2. Remove respect for the authority of the Lord God.
When you lose respect for the authority of the Lord, you open yourself to all kinds of deception.
3. Contradict God's word.
4. Attack God's character. Satan wants to attack our souls!

Let's believe and use the word of God. Then the Holy Spirit can help us say "NO" to bad suggestions !



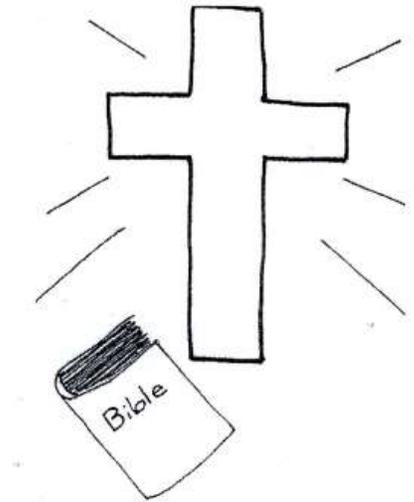
The Tree of Life, God's life, has been restored for man by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. God sent Jesus Christ to restore all that was lost and then some! The world and our old sin natures are not what God meant them to be. We didn't need the knowledge of good and evil in the garden. God gave us everything we needed. He is trying to bring us back to the simplicity of devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ. "God said it, I believe it, I'll do it!" This is simplicity of devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ! Through His thinking we are able to tell good from evil; we are able to be **discerning!**



Philippians 1:9-11 And this is my prayer; that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure [proper motivation] and blameless [walk in integrity] until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.

Points to Remember

1. When the LORD God created Adam and Eve, He created them trichotomous. This means they had three parts: soul, body and spirit.
2. The Garden of Eden was awesome! Adam and Ishah could eat from any tree except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
3. In talking to the woman, Satan suggested that God was lying!
4. Until they sinned, Adam and the woman operated in faith in the word of the Lord God.
5. God originally designed man to live in the Garden of Eden.
6. The Greek word "kalou" means good. The Greek work "kakou" means evil.
7. The Holy Spirit will guide us in applying or using the word of God at the right place and at the right time!
8. We were created to worship God. If we don't worship God we will worship something or somebody else.
9. There are things in God's word that show what is off limits! We are to follow those rules.
10. The Tree of Life, God's life, has been restored for man by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.



Questions for Discussion

1. What does "trichotomous" mean?
2. In the Garden of Eden, how did God provide for Adam and Ishah's body, soul and spirit?
3. What was the only thing forbidden to Adam and Ishah in the garden?
4. How did Satan convince Ishah to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
5. What happened when she ate from the tree?
6. Where was man originally designed to live?
7. How did evil come into the world?
8. What did the Lord Jesus Christ do for us?



DISCERNMENT

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Find These Words:

ADAM
CROSS
EVE
HOLY
KNOWLEDGE
SOUL
TREE

BODY
DISCERN
EVIL
ISHAH
LIFE
SPIRIT
WOMAN

CHRIST
DISCERNMENT
GOOD
JESUS
LORD
SPIRIT

Discernment, Part 3

References: Lighthouse Bible Church

Pastor John Farley

www.lbible.org

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