

**Annotations of Allegorical and
Historical Characters in
Mohammed EidAraini's Translation of
George Orwell's "Animal Farm"**

Asst .Prof. Dr. Hana Al- Bayyati

Researcher. Noran Saeed Yaqoob

College of Arts / University of Basrah

1. Introduction

In the field of literature, there is a difference between real characters and the fictional ones. A real character presents names of individuals whose identities are true in real life, the same way they are presented in the literary work. An allegory is mainly a fiction story that helps in communicating messages that conveys diverse meanings. The characters are more than what they seem in the story. Some of them are used in representing ideas or events (DiYanni, par.1).

Allegory involves a story where the characters serve more than one purpose in the story. Allegorical characters are usually fictional characters. It is clear that the use of animals in Orwell's Animal Farm have helped the reader to relate the conduct of such animals as opposed to real Russians and their behavior.

2. Fictional Characters and their Historical Counterparts

This paper is based on comparative annotations of the Allegorical characters in George Orwell's novel *Animal Farm* and their historical counterparts of the Russian Revolution. The list organized for these characters makes the study easier .The annotated fictional and real characters are followed by a section on comparative commentary to prove the precision of Orwell's comparative portrayal of these characters .The list starts with the major allegorical character Napoleon, followed by his historical counterpart Joseph Stalin

2. 1. Napoleon vs. Joseph Stalin

2. 1. 1. Napoleon

In George Orwell's novel, Napoleon appears as the leader pig of the animal revolution against Mr. Jones, the owner of the farm. Mr. Jones's tyranny and abuse can be attributed to his dull and stupid behavior, while Napoleon's is due to his flagrant desire of having power. Napoleon is described in the novel as a "fierce-looking" pig that has special ways of getting things. One of the ways that Napoleon follows is making fun of the animals' minds and their limited thinking, using terror in order to control them. His first deed after the success of their revolution is to steal the cow's milk and give it to the pigs (Shmoop, par.1).

When the revolution has succeeded, he starts to take control all over the farm with every little issue and become the tyrant that no one can challenge from other animals. It seems that Old Major's speech has really influenced

Napoleon, but not to fight and defend his friends against human abuse; instead he finds it a golden opportunity to start his dictator reign and crimes against his own companions (UK essays, par. 2). Napoleon appoints himself as the leader of the animals and uses the nine dogs to impose military control and force other animals to obey him (Grade, par.13).

As the events go on, Napoleon breaks an essential principle and normalizes relationships with humans and shapes any commandment from the seven ones according to his own advantage (Yemenici, par. 10). At first, Stalin i.e. Napoleon adopts ideology to convince people or animals that their benefits come first so they used military forces most of the times which led them to more wars to take a place.

The very first crime committed by Napoleon is when he decides to take nine puppies and raise them to be his killing gang. He also uses these vicious dogs to intimidate other weak animals to do what he orders them and then kills them with cold blood. Napoleon's most heinous crime is when he incarnates the character of Mr. Jones, a human being, and commits things that no one can imagine that an animal is able to do so, even Mr. Jones himself (Sparknotes, par.1).

At the last scenes, Napoleon behaves totally as the former owner of the farm; he sleeps in Mr. Jones's bedroom, and eats using Jones's plates and completely breaks the slogan they use ("Four legs good, two legs bad") when he walks on only two legs (Pardede, par.12).

At the end of the novel, Napoleon changes the seventh statement into "ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL / BUT SOME ARE

MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS". He shows a complete unrespect to old Major's speech when he puts again the name of Manor Farm instead on Animal Farm.

2. 1. 2. Joseph Stalin

Joseph Stalin belonged to the peasant class. His level of education was not high, so he was not able to have a debate over Marxist theory on an advanced level.

Stalin was one of the Central Committee of the General secretary Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He was a Russian dictator who came up with 'communism'; he ruled the Soviet Union for 31 years from 1922-1953. He was brutal and tyrant, killing anyone who disagrees with him (Biography.com Editors, par.2).

2. 1. 3. Comparison

Stalin was obsessed with power and had secret men, (KGB) police. He used these men to exercise his corruption and odd harsh behaviors. In the novel, Napoleon is an allegorical figure who represents Joseph Stalin. His nine dogs represents Stalin's secret men.

2. 2. Farmer Jones vs. Czar Nicholas II

2. 2. 1. Farmer Jones

Farmer Jones is a careless farmer who neglects his animals and being irresponsible for the most of time. He owns the farm and treats his animals badly by striking and lashing them. For animals, he is a tyrant who shows no sympathy; his tyranny represents Czar Nicholas II in the real world (Cliffnotes, par.2).

Later, at the novel, Mr. Jones is being depicted as a powerless person who is even unable to take back his own farm spending his time doing nothing but intending pubs. His life ends in an inebriates' home. After he was fired from the farm, the pigs used to mention his name to terrify other animals in order to surrender to and obey Napoleon (*Gray*, par.6).

Mr. Jones in reality represents Czar Nicholas II of Russia. The tyranny against which the whole animals rebel and express their anger against his unfair policy. In the novel, Mr. Jones is a clumsy drunkard farmer (*Gray*,par.3). At the first scene of the novel, Jones appears as a drunkard who forgets to lock the popholes for the hen-houses and heads towards the drinking bottles to pour himself a glass of beer. The spark of the animal revolution may have been started when he forgets to feed the animals; it was like the straw that broke the camel's back (*Gray*,par.4).

2. 2. 2. Czar NicholasII

Czar Nicholas was a blinkered person, unqualified, narrow-minded and incompetent. He was a despotic who assigned himself as a ruler taking control of all the political issues. He was a feeble and weak emperor ruling Russia at the early 1900s. He was characterized as being brutal and ruthless leader to his people, rarely being compassioned and considerable (*Keep*, par.6).

Russia witnessed a food riots in March 1917 and the army decided to revolt and mutiny in Petrograd. Czar Nicholas faced only one option which was to step down and give up the throne.

2. 2. 3. Comparison

After the death of Old Major, the animals now have a serious case that should fight for and new concepts and ideas so they started the rebellion and fired Mr. Jones out of the farm and seized the power of the farm. The expulsion of Mr. Jones resembles what happened to Nicholas II, the Russian czar during the Russian revolution. He does not know about the needs of his people; he is not in good contact with them. So what happened is that the people are fed up with him; that is why they have rebelled against him. Lenin holds the reign just as the animals do in the novel.

2. 3. Snowball vs. Leon Trotsky

2. 3. 1. Snowball

Snowball is the pig who agrees almost totally with old Majors ideas and feelings. He devotes himself to promote the other animal's education, mental, moral and physical levels. Snowball tries to educate the animals so that they will be able to read the Seven Commandments he has written on the wall of the barn. He illustrates these seven Commandments in one statement that represents their attitude which is ("Four legs good, two legs bad") to make the situation easy for the least comprehensive animals;he helps them to capture the core of this philosophy(Pardede, par.7).

Snowball is considered to be the thinker of the insurgents as he expresses an outstanding understanding of strategy during the battle of Cowshed. His desire to organize and set the animals in order to show how concerned he is about getting better life for all animals. He comes up with a noble plan to construct a windmill as its building will grant the animals more relief times. One thing is proven that his sending away by Napoleon proves that power instead of good intentions rules the farm (Pardede, par.7).

2. 3. 2. Leon Trotsky

Leon Trotsky was a sincere communist head whose attitude was affected by the norms of Karl Marx (Lambert, par.1).As for Leon Trotsky, he was an ambitious leader aiming at rising up the standards of living of the Russian people. He could not accomplish his mission for he was chased and pushed away by Stalin's secret police. In 1927 Trotsky was driven out from the Communist Party and in 1929 he was expatriated by Stalin (Lambert, par.19).

2. 3. 3. Comparison

Leon Trotsky is the real figure that Snowball in the novel stands for. They share a lot of qualities. Trotsky carries the same communist beliefs but he refuses the military intervention ordered by Stalin; as well as, Trotsky was deported and later assassinated by Stalin's men.

2. 4. Old Major vs. Karl Marx

2. 4. 1. Old Major

Old Major is a prudent wise animal; a pig that has the ability to persuade others. He delivers his famous speech to push and give a strong motivation to the rest of the animals to share his outrage and rebel against human in general and Mr. Jones in particular (Gray, par. 2). Old Major has an old dream that the animals are set free from the human brutal rules and shows the intention to share it with the others; so the others obey him and show their respect to this old pig; as well as they express their strong support against human being (Gray, par. 3).

The strength of his speech lies in its systemic counting of human's mistakes against animals. The sense of rebellion arises after Major has listed man's crimes. As an

encouragement, the old pig starts singing "Beasts of England" all together with the animals which is one of the expressive ways of anger, dissatisfaction and revolt. So, it is one of his skills that he teaches the animals; this song which is about a world that is clear and pure from human`s tyranny to raise enthusiasm as they sing it five times in sequence. Establishing a Utopian society is the aim that Old Major dreams to reach by a revolution (PinkMonkey, par.1).

Obviously, the old pig has this strong idea that man is only a source of harm and pain, and animals are the true source of goodness. This kind of thinking blocks the desire of owning power which is deeply rooted in everything that is alive. What is irony in the animals` behavior is that the old pig calls for keeping the animal identity and does not resemble human being; this is obvious in this speech when he states "Remember also that in fighting against Man, we must not come to resemble him" (Injeeli15). This caution is not followed by Napoleon as we read at the end of the novel how he betrays his folks and totally resembles humans.

2. 4. 2. Karl Marx

Karl Marx was a revolutionary socialist and a German philosopher who adopted the Communist Manifesto (Biography.com 2014). Karl Marx established the movement of communism. His wish was to unite the working class in order to overturn the Russian reign. He passed away before the Russian revolution started. He had a solid idea about workers that they form the real substance of Russia's wealth and resources. The formula was not fair. The Capitalists (Bourgeoisie) ruled the facilities and instruments; they put their hands on lands and factories and by this they got enormous benefits while the poor workers had only their daily sustenance. Marx invited the working class to stand as a one group against the Capitalists. He had this image that

someday the workers would reach the highest degree of subject poverty and their numbers will be increasing without getting any respect from the bourgeoisies. As a result they have no choice but to rebel against this brutal system (The British Library Board, par.3).

2. 4. .3. Comparison

The real character of Marx and the fictional character Old Major both place the basis of a revolution to breakout any time. Marx set out the principles of communism which caused later the Russian revolution and the Second World War. Old Major represents Karl Marx in reality. He creates a movement called Animalism which signifies his philosophy regarding the tyranny of human against animals. This movement represents 'communism' in the real world. He adopts one of the rites which is singing the song "Beasts of England" by all the animals. He passed away before the revolution even starts.

2. 5. Boxer vs. Proletariat Workers and Laborers (Working Class)

2 .5 . 1. Boxer

Horses are noble creatures and Boxer is one of them. His devotion and workload are the fundamental aspects of the farm. He spends such great efforts on the project of Animalism. Boxer is a valuable member of the animal farm as he, at the battle of Cowshed, knocks one of the attacking boys with his strong hoof. Boxer does not mean to knock that boy down, but his instinct to defend his new kingdom leads him to do so(Gray, par.3).

Boxer is a very optimistic horse that wakes up early and encourages himself with his own principle "I will work

harder". Boxer keeps working on the project of the windmill-building despites his age and tiredness (Gray, par.3).

Although Boxer is a mighty horse, his comprehension is very limited; he is quiet innocent and naive that leads him to believe every word that Squealer says. At the time of rebuilding the windmill he breaks down but still has the will and determination to accomplish this project as it is for the benefit of the animals. He is so innocent that his dream is only to get retired at the same period with Benjamin (Gray, par.5).

Wicked Napoleon refuses to feed and take care of such an old, incapable animal showing no gratitude for his efforts and workload. When he is led to his last faith, his friends are forced to tell him his painful end that he is going to be dead and not to the veterinary hospital. So, he is now aware of the bad deeds and tyranny of Napoleon.

2 .5 .2. Proletariat Workers and Laborers (Working Class)

Proletariat workers were powerful but limited-thinking class as described by Orwell; this might be a humiliated description to this large segment of society. The implied fact that Orwell tried to convey was that the Proletariat were partly responsible for helping Stalin to reach the throne (Shmoop, par. 8).

This might have a true side. Before the Russian revolution, Czar was considered to be always right and ultimate leader by the working class people. They did not think about themselves, all what matters was to work hard for the sake of Russia (wikispaces, par. 3).

The working class actually had faith that the crises of the lack and shortage of food Russia was getting through would reach an end. Thus, the concept of "communism/

animalism" gave them the hope that if they worked hard they would get Russia out of this miserable situation (wikispaces, par. 3).

The common, non-selfish working men worked hard and continually stayed side by side with the government thinking that the government would appreciate their hard work but that never happened. They were mistreated and used by Stalin and his rule. The working class carried out every order by the government and forced to be the oppressed entity in the society (Shmoop, par. 4).

2.5.3. Comparison

Boxer and the working class are both naïve and easy trusty to Napoleon/Stalin. Both spend extra energy; they work hard to reach their goal which is passing the crises of the shortage in food and helping the Animal Farm/Russia to get on its feet again. Loyalty and devotion in work are the most notable factors that Boxer and the working class have. They are both described to be unintelligent and obey any order come out from Napoleon/ Stalin without questioning. They are easily persuaded by media/Squealer.

2. 6. Squealer vs. Pravda and News Agency of the Soviet Union

2. 6. 1. Squealer

The pig Squealer represents the spokesman in the reign of Napoleon as he uses clever and smart words to persuade and convince the other animals to accept what Napoleon does from stealing the milk and giving apples to the pigs. He represents the propaganda of the tyrant rule. Squealer explains in a cunning way and smart words that all what his master pig does for the sake of them and that his master gives many sacrifices to get on the throne of the animal farm.

One of the malicious excuses he uses when they take the milk and apple is that they "contain substances absolutely necessary to the well-being of a pig." And the limited thinking innocent animals actually believe in that (Pardede, par.7).

Squealer's physical skill in jumping from side to side exceeds his skills in making words and manipulating with vocabularies which enable him to confuse the other animals and get thier approval to everything his master wants (Pardede, par.7). Squealer serves as Napoleon desires and one of his tasks is to stain the good reputation of Snowball. The most outrageous and furious acts he has committed when he informs and convinces the animals that the old horse Boxer is taken to the veterinary hospital but the real situation is that Boxer is being led to the knacker`s(cliffnotes, par. 3).

2. 6. 2. Pravda

It was created in 1912 as a Russian newspaper. The Pravda was the Russian newspaper, established in 1912. At first, it was a normal and daily newspaper but later, it turned into tools for propaganda. Pravda was supervised and strictly controlled by Stalin when he was ruling Russia (Hyde, par. 1).He allowed only for news that glorifies him or of misleading nature to be published as well devastating information for his enemies. Facts were being deformed as he desired. By using Pravda, Stalin had changed the facts and events of the Russian revolution (Hyde, par. 2).

2. 6. 3. News Agency of the Soviet Union

The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (TASS) established in 1925 and was the major and leading agency in

the Soviet Union. It was responsible for collecting and distributing local and global news for all the soviet television stations, radios and newspapers. This agency was always used as an interface organization for the Soviet intelligence agencies (wikipedia, par.1).

2. 6. 4. Comparison

Stalin takes control on the newspaper and observes every detail to be matched with what he desires and wants. False statistics is presented by Stalin to draw a fake image of the promising future of Russia. In Orwell`s novel, Napoleon represents the same idea and follows the same way to deceive the animals, but this time the tool is the pig, Squealer and not a newspaper.

In Animal Farm, Squealer represents media particularly "Pravda" which is the official news agency of the communist government. He works for the benefits of Napoleon's thoughts and propaganda who spreads false news among animals. Squealer distorts facts and numbers as well as using big words that are difficult to be comprehended by the simple animals as a way of convincing them to obey Napoleon's orders whether they are good or bad to them. He is accused of replacing the words of the Seven Commandments to please the purposes of his leader.

Squealer also represents Molotov in real life as he is the man whom Stalin can strongly depend on (Shmoop, par.8). Molotov is an expert person regarding diplomatic and political issues. He used to be a witty negotiator, a man who can really employ words. The main role of Squealer is hidden from sights as he participates in creating and writing the Seven Commandments while Stalin's role was to lead his people

2. 7. Moses vs. Orthodox Church

2. 7. 1. Moses

Moses is a raven which represents the religious aspect in the novel (Shmoop, par.3). He tells stories about a "promised land" to which all animals will be sent after life. He calls that place the "Sugarcandy mountain" where his friends can live far from hunger and workload. Pigs find Moses as boring as he describes a place much better than the Animal Farm. However, due to the bad situations that the Animal Farm passes through, the pigs allow him to stay because he keeps promising and drugging the animals with better land and these promises keep the animal's hopes alive and a way to forget their misery (Shmoop, par.1).

Moses is a clever talking bird as he always promises the limited thinking animals, which are tired and suffering from the bad treat of Mr. Jones, with a land, a freedom land full of sweets and pleasures lies behind that mountain and call it "Sugarcandy Mountain"

2. 7. 2.Orthodox Church

The Russian Orthodox Church is regarded as the largest national church, with 125 million of followers. In the 1920s and 1930s the Russian Orthodox Church was attacked by Stalin. Its clergy and believers were killed or sent to labor camps.Stalin closed the theological schools and prevented the publications of the church.

2. 7. 3.Comparison

The Russian Orthodox Church ask people to believe in the afterlife heaven, as Moses preaches the animals to believe in the Sugarcandy Mountain. Moses represents the Church in real life. The Sugar candy Mountain is a symbol for the promised paradise or heaven. The Orthodox Church in Russia seldom had an opinion or an act towards the Russian rebellion. The animals follow him without a question.

2. 8. Benjamin vs. Intelligent class

2. 8. 1. Benjamin

A wise stubborn donkey who refuses to show any expression about the rebellion. All of his fellows have this hope that one day they will live in a world governed by animals, Benjamin keeps saying "Donkeys live a long time. None of you has ever seen a dead donkey" (Gradesaver, par.1).

This talk confuses the animals but the reader can see that Benjamin's sarcasm is on target and hits the nail on the head because at the first moments and days of the revolution, Animal Farm may look as a heaven, but when days pass, it seems to appear as another version of the same tyranny at which they fight. Benjamin is the figure of human orientation towards carelessness; he always states that life is merely a hard journey and all efforts to change it go in vain. He proves his own vision at the end of the novel.

2. 8. 2. Intelligent class

The character of Benjamin is suggested to be the allegory of one of these three options: **A-** Benjamin might represent the old population of Russia for he is old and sarcastic. **B-** He might be the reflection of Menshevik intelligentsia for his cleverness, perspicacity and insight. **C-** another opinion says that Benjamin represents Orwell himself (Wikipedia, par.1).

2. 8. 3. Comparison

Both Benjamin and the intelligent class share the sense of logic and awareness of what the situation after the revolution really is. Both do not exaggerate their hopes. Expectations of the world were Stalin /Napoleon rule as a tyrant, another version of Czar Nicolas II/ Mr. Jones.

2. 9. Mollie vs. Russian Middle Class (bourgeois)

2. 9. 1. Mollie

Mollie is a self-indulgent, selfish mare and a materialist person who shows no interest of the struggles and misery that her other friends suffer from, cares only about herself. The only thing she cares about after all other animals have decided to make a revolution is whether she still can have her sugar and ribbons. Mollie betrays the principles that Old Major calls for and reveals to everyone how an arrogant mare she is. She is not really faithful to the farm because she leaves it seeking for more material stuff which proves that politics and sacrificing present nothing to her (Gray, par.3). The first scene of her shows how a shallow animal she is, for she enters the meeting when it is about to finish, as well as chewing sugar and trying to find a place from which everyone can notice her and her red ribbons.

2. 9. 2. Russian Middle Class (Bourgeois)

Bourgeois was a social order in which middle class belonged to. The concept of bourgeoisie was visualized by Marx (Ryan, par.1).

The bourgeoisie had a major role in making radical changes in industry and retrofitting society. The Bourgeoisie demanded and tried to keep the benefits of retrofitting by taking advantage the people, especially the proletariat who did not own a property and by this the Bourgeoisie would spark revolutionary stresses (Merritt, par. 2).

2. 9. 3. Comparison

The Bourgeois is represented in the novel as Mollie. The middle class faithfulness towards the revolutionaries is not totally pure and honest. It was not prepared and ready to give up or lose its luxuries. The luxury life of the Bourgeois

resembles the sugar and ribbons that Mollie will not abandon in the novel. When time came to prove their loyalty to the revolution by giving away their prosperity they refused and escaped to the west (Shmoop, par.5).

2. 10. Frederick vs. Hitler

2. 10. 1. Frederick

Frederick is the witty crafty owner of Pinchfield Farm. He is always involved in bad cases, first he is worried that the revolution will cover all other farms but then he starts to spread rumors that the animals in the newly liberated farm are cannibalism.

2. 10. 2. Hitler

In Animal Farm, Orwell describes Mr. Fredrick as a cruel and ruthless farmer against his animals. This resembles the relationship between Hitler and his people, especially the Holocaust that occur under Hitler's regime (Blogspot, par. 10).

Hitler was a fascist. Fascists trusted and believed in unconditioned loyalty to a powerful military state led by a tyrannical leader (Shmoop, par.5).

2. 10. 3. Comparison

In the real life, Frederick resembles Hitler and Nazi Germany. He tries to take advantage of the events by buying timber from Napoleon using fraud papers. He also attempts to rob and loot the Animal Farm.

2. 11. Pilkington vs. Winston Churchill, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

2. 11. 1. Pilkington

Pilkington is the owner of Foxwood Farm who in a non-decent way starts a relationship with Napoleon and form an alliance. The formation of this alliance has a rocky start for many reasons, one of them when Napoleon changes the message that the pigeons hold from "Death to Jones; Fredrick" into "Death to Pilkington" for this, Pilkington did not provide any help during the period when the Animal Farm is under attack by Frederick.

After these events, Napoleon and Pilkington overcome their differences and reconcile because both of them hold the same low levels of morals, norms and ethics; thus, they support each other to rise up the situations of the Animal farm. This cooperation starts when Napoleon buys plot of lands from Pilkington. The last scene of the novel shows that Napoleon is being praised by Pilkington for his brutal deeds against the animals when he forces them to workload and feed less which creates "lower animal"; this is just similar to humans "lower class or laboring class".

Both of them, Napoleon and Pilkington, at the last moments of the novel try to cheat others at cards; this attitude reveals that their relationship is nothing but a facade used to deceit the others.

In 1939 Just before World War II, Josef Stalin, the totalitarian leader of the U.S.S.R., seemed to be an ally of the U.S. and Great Britain, however, the friendship dissolved when Stalin signed a non-aggression pact with Germany (State, par.1).

This is parallel to Frederick cheating Napoleon by using forged bank-notes to pay for the timber (Blogspot, par.10).

2. 11. 2. Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill represents the Western allies of Britain that Stalin asked for assistance and rescue after the later were invaded by Hitler. At first Churchill had some worries towards the alliance of Russia in Germany and for that he stated "communism ought to be strangled in its cradle"

2. 11. 3. Comparison

Pilkington "symbolizes both Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Britain, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, the President of the U.S.

2. 12. Fall of Mr. Jones vs. The Fall of Czar Nicholas

2. 12. 1. Fall of Mr. Jones

After the death of Old Major, the animals now have a serious case that should fight for new concepts and ideas. The animals start the rebellion; they have fired Mr. Jones out of the farm and seized the power of the farm. The expulsion of Mr. Jones resembles what happened to Nicholas II, The Russian Czar during the Russian revolution. He did not care for the needs of his people; and he was not in good contact with them. The people were just fed up with him; therefore they rebelled. Lenin held the reign just as the animals do in the novel (Shmoop, par.2).

2. 12. 2. The Fall of Czar Nicholas

Czar Nicholas was a blinkered person, unqualified, narrow-minded and incompetent. He was a despotic who assigned himself as a ruler taking control of all the political issues.

Russia witnessed food riots in March 1917 and the army decided to revolt and mutiny in Petrograd. Czar Nicholas faced only one option which was to step down and gave the throne away.

2. 12. 3. Comparison

Both were thrown out overnight in sudden circumstances. Both do not care for the shortage in food whether in Russia or in the farm. Both are killed by the revolutionaries.

3. Conclusion

At conclusion, the comparative annotations of the characters and events in George Orwell's novel *Animal Farm* with the Russian politicians and events in this study aim at examining Orwell's precise allusions to the Russian revolution historical characters.

Having compared Orwell's fictional characters with the historical ones, the study has concluded that the allegorical characters are carefully depicted, comparing these to those characters and events during Stalin's era.

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