

Comparative Analysis of Biblical Statements and Contemporary Science Views

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Abstract

This comparative analysis delves into the intricate relationship between Biblical science views and contemporary scientific perspectives. Examining biblical narratives through the lens of modern scientific understanding, the study navigates the complexities inherent in reconciling ancient wisdom with empirical methodologies. The analysis encompasses key themes such as the creation narrative, cosmology, and natural phenomena, emphasizing the symbolic richness and cultural contexts embedded in biblical texts. Acknowledging the Bible's role as a sacred and moral guide, the study contrasts it with the evidence-based approaches of contemporary science. While the Bible offers timeless wisdom and moral teachings, its scientific views often reflect the understanding of the ancient world. Contemporary science, grounded in observation, experimentation, and empirical data, explores the natural world's intricacies with a methodological rigor distinct from religious texts. The dialogue between these perspectives underscores the importance of recognizing the distinct purposes and realms of religious and scientific knowledge. Recommendations include fostering interdisciplinary collaborations, promoting educational initiatives that integrate both perspectives, and facilitating public dialogues to enhance mutual understanding. Ethical reflections derived from shared principles offer common ground, while continued research into the historical and cultural contexts of biblical texts contributes to nuanced interpretations. Ultimately, the study advocates for an inclusive and enlightened approach that nurtures a harmonious coexistence between faith and reason. By implementing these recommendations, it aims to create an environment fostering dialogue and collaboration between theologians, scientists, and the wider public. Through such efforts, a richer understanding of the universe and the diversity of human knowledge emerges, embracing the complexities of existence and celebrating the shared pursuit of wisdom.

Keywords: biblical science views, contemporary science, comparative analysis, interdisciplinary collaboration, ethical reflection, harmonious coexistence

1. Introduction

The intersection between biblical perspectives and contemporary scientific understanding has long captivated scholars and thinkers, sparking profound discussions on the relationship between faith and reason. This study embarks on a nuanced exploration, undertaking a comparative analysis of biblical views and contemporary scientific perspectives. The inquiry delves into the diverse realms of cosmology, natural phenomena, and historical narratives, recognizing the unique lenses through which ancient religious wisdom and modern empirical methodologies perceive the world. While the Bible information is divine, modern science rely on research. Biblical narratives, foundational to religious traditions, offer profound insights into the origin of the cosmos, the nature of humanity, and the unfolding of historical events. These narratives, steeped in cultural and symbolic richness, have shaped moral frameworks and provided a compass for believers across centuries.

However, their interpretation and compatibility with contemporary scientific knowledge present complex challenges that demand thoughtful consideration.

On the other hand, contemporary science, marked by rigorous observation, experimentation, and evidence-based inquiry, unravels the mysteries of the universe with a precision that distinguishes it from ancient cosmologies. Scientific advancements in fields such as cosmology, geology, and anthropology have reshaped our understanding of the natural world and human origins, often leading to tensions with traditional religious interpretations. Science knowledge has been transient; therefore, a present finding may not always be reliable until latest technology proves so.

The interplay between these two spheres involves navigating questions of literalism, metaphor, and the inherent limitations of language and cultural context. As we embark on this comparative analysis, we engage not only with the biblical texts themselves but also with a wealth of scholarly works that scrutinize the historical and cultural contexts of these texts (Walton JH., 2006). Additionally, we draw from the vast expanse of contemporary scientific literature to comprehend the intricacies of cosmological theories, geological evidence, and evolutionary biology (Greene B., 2004). This study does not seek to undermine the spiritual significance of biblical narratives or dismiss the empirical rigor of contemporary science. Instead, it aims to foster a dialogue that appreciates the distinct purposes and methodologies of these two knowledge systems. The comparative analysis unfolds against a backdrop of interdisciplinary collaboration, recognizing that scholars from theological and scientific backgrounds bring unique insights to the table (Barbour IG., 1997; Lindberg, D.C., 1992). The inputs of the different field of study need to be recognized and respected.

As we embark on this journey of comparative exploration, our intent is to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the coexistence of ancient wisdom and modern understanding, respecting the diverse ways in which humanity has sought to make sense of its place in the cosmos.

There is much intrigue and controversy surrounding the link between biblical statements and modern scientific beliefs. Bible perspectives have historically shaped early scientific ideas and human understanding of the natural world (Harrison P., 2021). On the other hand, traditional scriptural interpretations have often been called into question by developments in modern science (Collins F., 2022). This comparative study aims to investigate the similarities and differences between the scientific discoveries of the modern era and the biblical accounts of natural phenomena. This study attempts to provide a nuanced understanding of how religious texts and scientific knowledge can coexist, conflict, or complement each other in the pursuit of truth by analyzing these interactions.

The study explores the dynamic interplay between Biblical science views and contemporary scientific perspectives, a topic of significance in the ongoing dialogue between faith and reason. Ancient religious texts, such as the Bible, have historically played a central role in shaping cultural, moral, and cosmological beliefs. The symbolic richness of these texts, particularly in relation to the understanding of the natural world, reflects the cultural contexts of the times in which they were written (Walton JH., 2006). The source of information of Bible is supernatural.

On the other hand, contemporary science, marked by empirical inquiry and methodological rigor, has brought forth transformative insights into the intricacies of the universe. The stark contrast between ancient religious narratives and modern scientific discoveries prompts a critical examination of their intersections, divergences, and potential complementarities (Lindberg, D.C., 1992).

The exploration of this intersection requires a nuanced approach that considers both the religious and scientific perspectives. Barbour's work on the historical and contemporary relationship between religion and science provides valuable insights into the ongoing dialogue and the challenges of reconciling these diverse worldviews (Barbour IG., 1997).

This exploration is particularly relevant in the context of ongoing discussions about the nature of truth and knowledge in a postmodern world (Wilson EO., 2020). As science continues to unravel the mysteries of the universe, from the origins of life to the complexities of the cosmos, it frequently encounters concepts and narratives that have deep roots in religious traditions. For instance, discussions around the creation of the universe often bring into conversation the biblical account of Genesis with scientific theories such as the Big Bang and evolutionary biology (Peterson B., 2023). These dialogues not only highlight differences but also reveal areas of potential synergy and mutual enrichment (Krauss L., 2021).

As the study aims to contribute to the broader understanding of faith and reason, it recognizes the need for interdisciplinary collaboration and ethical reflections. By delving into the historical, cultural, and scientific contexts of biblical texts, the study seeks to bridge the gap between ancient wisdom and contemporary scientific views (Davies P., 1995).

This background underscores the study's commitment to fostering mutual respect, understanding, and the coexistence of faith and reason in the pursuit of knowledge. The complexity of this topic requires an

international journal standard that integrates diverse scholarly perspectives and promotes rigorous exploration of the intricate relationship between ancient religious wisdom and contemporary scientific understanding.

The exploration of the relationship between Biblical science views and contemporary scientific perspectives is grounded in a rich body of literature that spans theology, biblical studies, and scientific inquiry. The literature review synthesizes key insights from relevant works, shedding light on the historical, cultural, and philosophical dimensions of this complex interplay.

1.1 Ancient Cosmology in the Bible

Understanding the cosmological perspectives embedded in the Bible is foundational to this study. Walton's "The Lost World of Genesis One" provides a comprehensive analysis of ancient Near Eastern cosmology, unraveling the cultural and literary context of the Genesis creation narrative (Walton JH., 2006).

Intersections of Religion and Science: Lindberg's *The Beginnings of Western Science* offers historical insights into the dynamic relationship between religion and science. The work explores the philosophical, religious, and institutional contexts that have shaped the Western scientific tradition (Lindberg, D.C., 1992).

Theological Reflections on Faith and Science: Barbour's seminal work, *Religion and Science: Historical and Contemporary Issues*, engages in a theological reflection on the dialogue between faith and science. Barbour advocates for a constructive integration of religious and scientific insights (Barbour IG., 1997).

Scientific Narratives on the Cosmos: To comprehend contemporary scientific perspectives, Greene's *The Fabric of the Cosmos* delves into the complexities of space, time, and the nature of reality. Greene's exploration provides a lens through which to understand the intricacies of modern cosmological thought (Greene B., 2004).

Textual Interpretation in Biblical Studies: Fretheim's "The Pentateuch" and Alter's *The Art of Biblical Narrative* contribute to the understanding of textual interpretation in biblical studies. These works emphasize linguistic and literary considerations essential for analyzing biblical passages (Fretheim TE., 1996; Alter R., 1997).

Ethical Reflections in Faith and Science: Niebuhr's classic *Moral Man and Immoral Society* lays the groundwork for ethical reflections, exploring the moral dimensions inherent in both religious and scientific pursuits (Niebuhr, R., 1997). The National Academy of Sciences' publication on "Responsible Science" provides contemporary guidelines for ethical scientific conduct (National Academy of Sciences, 2017).

Qualitative Data Analysis in Research: Miles and Huberman's *Qualitative Data Analysis* and Saldaña's *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers* offer methodological insights into qualitative data analysis and thematic coding, crucial for synthesizing findings from biblical and scientific sources (Miles MB. & Huberman AM., 1994; Saldaña, J., 2015).

This literature review forms the foundation for the study, integrating insights from theology, biblical studies, and scientific inquiry to navigate the intricate relationship between ancient religious wisdom and contemporary scientific understanding.

2. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to conduct a comprehensive comparative analysis of Biblical science views and contemporary scientific perspectives. By exploring the intersection of ancient religious wisdom and modern empirical methodologies, the study aims to unravel the complexities inherent in reconciling these two distinct realms of knowledge. The overarching purpose is to foster a nuanced understanding of the relationship between faith and reason, emphasizing mutual respect, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the potential for harmonious coexistence. Through this exploration, the study seeks to contribute to educational initiatives, public dialogues, and ongoing research, promoting a more inclusive and enlightened approach to the diverse tapestry of human knowledge.

3. Significance of the Study

The significance of this study lies in its potential to bridge gaps between two often polarized fields: theology and science. By conducting a comparative analysis, this research endeavors to foster a deeper understanding and respect for diverse perspectives.

This is particularly important in educational contexts where fostering a well-rounded world view is essential. For example, understanding how historical interpretations of the Bible have adapted in light of scientific discoveries can enhance critical thinking and encourage a more integrative approach to knowledge (Smith J., 2021; Towner W., 2022).

This research has ramifications for interfaith cooperation and discourse as well. It encourages an inclusive and courteous culture by highlighting areas of agreement and respectful conversation between the scientific and religious groups. In the opinion of Thompson L. (2023) & Hassan R., (2021), such discussions are necessary in a

world where joint efforts from all societal sectors are needed to address global concerns.

In a nutshell this study attempts to improve interdisciplinary understanding, support educational development, and foster constructive dialogue with regard to global challenges in conjunction with elucidating the points of convergence and divergence between biblical statements and contemporary scientific views.

Bible Statement and View	Contemporary Science View
<p>1. Ecclesiastes 1:7 All the streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. To the place from which the streams flow, there they return so as to flow again.</p> <p>2. Job 36:27-28 He draws up the drops of water; They condense into rain from his mist, Which the clouds pour down; They drip down upon mankind abundantly.</p> <p>These verses, in the Bible, convey similar ideas about the continuous cycle of water.</p> <p>The Bible view existed long ago before the modern science, but the truth in the view is as true as it was. This implies that the authorship of the bible was and is superior to both ancient science and even the modern science.</p>	<p>In contemporary science, the water cycle is a well-established concept. It involves processes such as evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and runoff, sustaining a dynamic equilibrium of Earth's water. This understanding is based on extensive observational and experimental data, supported by models that depict the intricate interactions between the atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces.</p> <p>The water cycle is the continuous movement of water on Earth through processes of evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and runoff (NASA Earth Observatory, 2010).</p>
Earth Shape	
<p>The Bible offers limited direct commentary on the shape of the Earth. While some verses, like Isaiah 40:22, mention the "circle of the earth," interpretations vary. The use of "circle" points to the circular horizon of the earth. It also shows that the earth is not a flat body. The Bible view vary with the teachings of many religious leaders, which made scholars thought that the view of the Bible is a flat earth which is not supported anywhere in the Bible. The fact that the Bible was able to identify the shape of the earth or likely shape of the earth when there was no scientific instrument and tools show something superior behind the writers.</p> <p>Revelation 7.1 talked about the four corners of the earth. This coincides the four cardinal points as used today in Geography.</p>	<p>Modern science affirms that the Earth is an oblate spheroid, slightly flattened at the poles and bulging at the equator due to its rotation. This conclusion is derived from satellite observations, measurements, and mathematical modeling. The shape of the Earth is a fundamental aspect of geodesy, a field dedicated to studying Earth's size and shape, and is crucial for applications like navigation and satellite positioning systems.</p> <p>The current scientific consensus, supported by authorities like NASA and the European Space Agency, affirms the Earth as an oblate spheroid. Satellite imagery, space missions, and measurements from various disciplines consistently validate this understanding, dispelling the notion of a flat Earth (NASA Earth Observatory, 2010).</p>

4. Atmospheric Study

4.1 Biblical View on Atmospheric Study

Biblical passages indirectly touch upon atmospheric phenomena. Job 28:25 describes the separation of air and water: "When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters," indicating an acknowledgment of the role of air in natural processes.

While the Bible provides glimpses into natural phenomena, interpretations often rely on the context of ancient cultures. Contemporary scientific understanding, as presented by scholars like John H. Walton, aids in contextualizing these biblical passages within their historical and scientific frameworks.

Job 26:7-8 He Stretches out the northern sky over empty space, suspending the earth upon nothing. He wraps up the waters in his clouds, so that the clouds do not burst under their weight.

This truth took scholars thousands of years to learn, but was reveled in Bible.

4.2 Contemporary Science

Atmospheric science encompasses a comprehensive understanding of Earth's atmosphere, including its composition, dynamics, and interactions. Through advanced technologies such as satellites, radar, and high-altitude balloons, scientists study atmospheric phenomena like weather patterns, climate change, and the behavior of various gases. This knowledge is crucial for predicting weather events, understanding climate

dynamics, and addressing environmental challenges (Ahrens CD., 2019). These are possible as a result of advancement in knowledge. There were no much difference in the Bible description of the atmosphere and the contemporary view. Even as Bible is not a science textbook.

5. Health, Sanitation and Medicine

5.1 The Bible Views on Medicine, Health and Sanitation

The Biblical account of Saul being calmed by music during times of distress is found in the Book of Samuel. Specifically, in 1 Samuel 16:14-23, David, a skilled harpist, is summoned to play for Saul when an evil spirit troubles him. Such method of calming down a mentally depressed has no scientific explanation till more recently, when knowledge on managing melancholy and other psychological ailment abound and technology has also increased.

5.2 Contemporary Science View

While the Bible attributes Saul's relief to the calming effects of music, contemporary science recognizes the potential therapeutic benefits of music in managing emotional states and mental well-being. Music therapy is a recognized field that utilizes music to address various psychological and emotional issues. The understanding of music as a source of cure is just recent. However, Bible has highlighted it thousands of years before modern science do. Research, such as the study by Gold C, et al. (2009) suggests that music therapy can have positive effects on individuals experiencing mental health challenges. Music has the capacity to influence mood, reduce stress, and enhance emotional well-being, aligning with the idea that music could have provided solace for Saul in a psychological sense.

Yes, music has the potential to influence and alleviate states of melancholy. Melancholy refers to a deep and prolonged feeling of sadness, sorrow, or a state of persistent gloom and despondency. It is often associated with a sense of introspection, reflection, and a subdued emotional state. Many people find solace, comfort, and emotional release through music. Here are ways in which music can impact the state of melancholy.

- 1) **Emotional Expression:** Music often expresses a wide range of emotions, and listening to or creating music can provide an outlet for individuals to express and process their own emotions, including feelings of melancholy. How did people of Bible time understand this? The best explanation is inspiration via a divine source. Biblical explanation agrees with present knowledge.
- 2) **Mood Regulation:** Music has the power to evoke emotions and influence mood. Upbeat and uplifting music can have a positive impact on one's emotional state, potentially counteracting feelings of sadness.
- 3) **Relaxation and Stress Reduction:** Calming and soothing music can promote relaxation, reduce stress, and create a sense of tranquility. This can be particularly beneficial for individuals experiencing melancholic states. Hearing music that resonates with personal experiences can foster a sense of connection and empathy, helping individuals feel understood and less isolated in their emotions.
- 4) **Therapeutic Use:** Music therapy, conducted by trained professionals, is an established therapeutic approach. It involves the use of music to address various emotional, cognitive, and social needs, making it a valuable tool for individuals dealing with melancholic feelings.

While music can be a powerful tool for managing melancholy (Soul's type of illness), it's important to recognize that individual responses to music can vary. Additionally, for those experiencing persistent and severe melancholic symptoms, seeking professional help from a mental health provider is advisable. Music can complement therapeutic interventions but may not substitute for more comprehensive mental health care when needed.

The Biblical Account of Jesus Sweating Blood is found in the Gospel of Luke 22:44, describing his anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. The specific term used is "like drops of blood falling to the ground." This phenomenon is often referred to as hematidrosis or hemohidrosis. This situation has not been recorded in an ancient record before the Jesus experience. Even today it has been accepted as a rare case in medical science.

While the Bible provides glimpses into natural phenomena, interpretations often rely on the context of ancient cultures. Contemporary scientific understanding, as presented by scholars like John H. Walton, aids in contextualizing these biblical passages within their historical and scientific frameworks.

Hematidrosis is a rare medical condition where an individual under extreme stress or anxiety may excrete blood through their sweat glands. While this condition is extremely rare, medical literature does acknowledge its occurrence. Dr. Frederick Zugibe, a cardiologist and forensic pathologist, discusses cases of hematidrosis in his book *The Crucifixion of Jesus: A Forensic Inquiry* (Zugibe FT., 2005).

One theory suggests that severe stress can cause the release of chemicals that trigger the rupture of small blood vessels near the sweat glands. This allows blood to mix with sweat and be excreted through the skin. However,

due to the rarity of hematuria and limited scientific documentation, the precise mechanisms and causes are not fully understood.

It's important to note that while hematuria is a documented medical phenomenon, the interpretation of the biblical account involves theological and spiritual dimensions that extend beyond the scope of medical science. The narrative serves a symbolic and theological purpose within the context of Christian beliefs.

Disposal of Human Waste: Deuteronomy 23:12-13 stated "You should also have a place outside the camp to which you should go. You should have a peg among your weapons, and when you squat outside, you should dig a hole with it and then cover your excrement."

Quarantine for Infectious Diseases: Leviticus 13:45-46 stated "As for the leper who has the infection, his garments should be torn and his head should be left uncovered; he should cover his mustache, and he should call out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' He will be unclean as long as he has the infection. He is unclean. He should dwell in isolation. His dwelling will be outside the camp."

Proper Disposal of Dead Bodies: Numbers 19:11-13 stated "The one touching the corpse of any human soul will be unclean for seven days. He should purify himself with it on the third day and on the seventh day, and he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not become clean. Anyone touching the corpse of any human soul and who does not purify himself defiles Jehovah's tabernacle, and that person must be cut off from Israel."

Cleanliness and Hand washing: Exodus 30:18-21 reads "You will make a basin of copper and its stand of copper for washing, and you must place it between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it. And Aaron and his sons will wash their hands and their feet at it. When they go into the tent of meeting, they will wash with water so that they do not die. Also, when they approach the altar to minister by making an offering made by fire to Jehovah, they will wash their hands and their feet, so that they do not die. This is a lasting statute for them throughout their generations."

6. Contemporary Science View

(1) Disposal of Human Waste: Contemporary sanitation practices align with the importance of proper human waste disposal for public health. Modern sewage systems, waste treatment plants, and sanitation guidelines emphasize the need for hygienic waste management to prevent the spread of diseases (Mara D & Cairncross S., 1989).

(2) Quarantine for Infectious Diseases: The concept of quarantine is a cornerstone of modern public health strategies to control infectious diseases. It involves isolating individuals with contagious illnesses to prevent the spread of pathogens (Cetron M & Landwirth J., 2005).

(3) Proper Disposal of Dead Bodies: Proper disposal of dead bodies is crucial to prevent the transmission of diseases. Modern practices involve hygienic handling, burial, or cremation based on cultural and public health considerations (World Health Organization, 2014).

(4) Cleanliness and Hand washing: Hand washing is a fundamental practice in preventing the spread of infections. It is endorsed by health organizations worldwide as a simple yet effective measure to reduce the transmission of pathogens (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2019).

Contemporary science views on these sanitary conditions are rooted in evidence-based practices and guidelines established by international health organizations. The references provided reflect authoritative sources in public health and sanitation, guiding modern approaches to promote hygiene and prevent the transmission of diseases.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of Biblical Statements and Contemporary Science views reveals a fascinating interplay between ancient wisdom (Divine knowledge) and modern understanding. The exploration into biblical narratives, often rooted in symbolic and cultural contexts, alongside the empirical methodologies of contemporary science, highlights the evolving nature of human comprehension. It also points to the fact that inspiration is key to knowledge.

While the Bible provides profound insights into moral, spiritual, and cosmological aspects, it reflects the worldview and scientific understanding of its time. The narratives offer timeless wisdom, metaphorical richness, and ethical guidance, but they are not intended to serve as scientific treatises. Contemporary science, on the other hand, relies on observation, experimentation, and rigorous methodology to unravel the complexities of the natural world.

The dialogue between these two realms underscores the importance of acknowledging different modes of knowledge. Recognizing the symbolic and metaphorical nature of Biblical texts allows for a harmonious coexistence with the empirical and evidence-based nature of contemporary science. Both perspectives contribute

to the tapestry of human understanding, fostering curiosity, contemplation, and a deeper appreciation for the vast intricacies of our existence (Fowler M., 2023; Johnson S., 2020).

In this ongoing exploration, fostering dialogue and mutual respect between faith and reason can lead to a richer understanding of the universe, embracing the diversity of human thought and inquiry. The comparative analysis encourages a nuanced approach, recognizing the distinct purposes and realms of these two sources of knowledge while celebrating the shared pursuit of unraveling the mysteries of our existence (Jones M., 2022; National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), n.d.).

The Bible is not a science textbook, but when it talks about science its narrative is spot on. However, it has been observed over the years that overzealous clergymen in an attempt to siding God have misrepresented the Bible and fallout with science. Issues like the center of the universe and the sphericity of the earth were just a few misrepresentations of the Holy Scripture; unfortunately, the science world felt that since the misleading statements were coming from the clergy, their position is the Bible position, which is not true.

8. Recommendation

The comparative analysis of Biblical reports or views and Contemporary Science views presents a valuable opportunity for continued dialogue and interdisciplinary exploration. To further enhance our understanding and bridge the gap between these two perspectives, the following recommendations are proposed in as to enrich human understanding and knowledge:

(1) Interdisciplinary Collaborations: Encourage interdisciplinary collaborations between theologians, scientists, and scholars to foster a more nuanced understanding of the intersections between biblical wisdom and scientific inquiry. Joint research initiatives can contribute to a holistic exploration of the subject matter.

(2) Education and Outreach: Promote educational programs that integrate both theological and scientific perspectives, emphasizing the complementary nature of these realms. This approach can enhance critical thinking, encourage curiosity, and nurture a deeper appreciation for the diversity of human knowledge. It can also create opportunity to explain deeper knowledge.

(3) Public Dialogue and Understanding: Facilitate public dialogues and forums that bring together representatives from religious communities, scientific institutions, and the general public. These discussions can promote mutual understanding, dispel misconceptions, and foster respect for diverse worldviews. There are lot of things that can be learn if the Bible is studied.

(4) Ethical Reflection: Encourage ethical reflections based on the wisdom derived from both sources. Recognizing shared ethical principles can provide a common ground for dialogue and collaboration on addressing contemporary challenges.

(5) Continued Research: Support ongoing research that delves into the historical, cultural, and scientific contexts of biblical texts. This research can contribute to a more nuanced interpretation of religious narratives and their relevance to contemporary scientific understanding.

By implementing these recommendations, we can create an environment that nurtures a harmonious coexistence between faith and reason, fostering a more inclusive and enlightened approach to the complex tapestry of human knowledge.

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Competing Interests

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