

JEAN PIERRE MADGE

HE IS TERRIFIED OF MOSQUITOES, HENCE DANIEL MADE SURE THERE WOULD BE NO DEARTH OF THEM IN HIS HOME IN NETHERLANDS, WHERE THE TRIO, JP, JOSE AND DANIEL TOOK ON THE 24 HOUR CHALLENGE. HIS ENGLISH IS ENDEARINGLY PEPPERED WITH A FRENCH ACCENT. HE IS A STREAMLINER WHO HAS HELPED TO MAKE THE REACH OF LINE DANCE ACROSS THE WORLD, A RESOUNDING SUCCESS. WHAT ELSE DO WE KNOW ABOUT HIM? DID YOU KNOW THAT HIS INTEREST IN DANCE STARTED AFTER HE HAD A STOMACH FULL OF FRENCH FRIES. HE LIKES BLACK COFFEE ONLY, AND HE DOES NOT LIKE TO BE MEAN TO ANYONE.

THE PERFECT GENTLEMAN, JEAN PIERRE MADGE ASKED ME WHAT KIND OF COFFEE I WOULD LIKE DURING OUR CHAT. I FELT PLUGGED IN, IN A REAL WAY AND NOT JUST VIRTUAL. A CUP FULL OF MILK, 2 HEAPED SPOONS OF SUGAR AND VERY LITTLE COFFEE, THANK YOU, I REQUESTED. A MEETING IN A COFFEE SHOP SOUNDS LIKE A DREAM SINCE MARCH 2020, BUT THIS FELT LIKE ONE.

WITH A WARM START, I FELT I COULD PUT WINGS TO THE STORY I WAS RECOUNTING, THOUGH A TRANSLATION OF ANOTHER'S STORY FEELS RESTRICTIVE. JP, AS HE IS CALLED THE WORLD OVER, WILL NOT JUDGE MY PHRASES AND SENTENCES AND JUST LET ME BE IN MY STORY OF HIM, I HOPE.



'MY DANCE CAREER STARTED ACCIDENTALLY'. HE AND HIS PARENTS WERE OUT FOR A WALK. THEY COULD NOT LEAVE HIM HOME ALONE AS HE WAS ONLY SIX THEN. HE ATE FRENCH FRIES AND CHEESE BURGERS AT A SALON WITH HIS PARENTS, AND AUNTS AND UNCLES, AND THEY WALKED INTO A DANCE CLUB FOR A TRIAL. THEY DANCED THE ELECTRIC SLIDE AND THE CUCARACHA, AND WENT BACK AGAIN NEXT WEEK. HIS FAMILY, ESPECIALLY HIS MOTHER, FEATURES OFTEN IN HIS NARRATIVE, AND IF HE WAS TO WRITE A MEMOIR, HIS MOTHER WOULD BE A PROMINENT CHARACTER. FAME AND ACCLAIM ASIDE, MOTHERS ALWAYS HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR STORIES.

Once
upon
a:
Time

DON'T WORRY, IT'S EASY

by MONICA BHASIN

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Merry feet
Line Dance

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DESIGN BY

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«I AM DIFFERENT BECAUSE I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE A CHOREOGRAPHER»

IN THE MILIEU OF COMPETITION, THIS IS A COMFORTABLE PLACE TO BE IN. HE PLAYED POOL WHILE HIS PARENTS DANCED. HE GOT 'BORED' AS HE HAD NO MONEY AND HAD TO JOIN HIS PARENTS IN THE HALL THEY WERE DANCING IN. THIS WAS THE YEAR 1999. 'MY PARENTS LOVED IT AND I FOLLOWED THEM' AND THERE WAS NO LOOKING BACK.

HIS MIND FLASHES BACK TO AN OCCASION, WHICH HE, AS A YOUNG BOY, WITH HIS GROUP OF DANCERS ATTENDED, AND HE SAW ALL THESE ACCOMPLISHED STARS AT THE BACK DANCING AND TEACHING. HE HAS A PHOTOGRAPH FROM THEN, WITH ROY, ROB, JOSE, PIM, DANIEL AND HIM DANCING ON THE SAME FLOOR. 'NOW I AM CHOREOGRAPHING'. SINCE HE WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD, HE HAS BEEN PART OF THE SAME DANCE SCHOOL. CLASSES HAVE BEEN PUT ON HOLD SINCE MARCH 2020, AS IN MOST CASES. A FRESH BATCH JOINED LAST YEAR, SOME HAVE LEFT BUT THEY STAY IN TOUCH ON MAILS AND MESSAGES. FOR HIM RELATIONSHIPS ARE MADE TO KEEP.



«I WAS VERY LUCKY»

'THE BIG NAMES, RACHAEL AND FRED AND SHANE AND THE OTHERS HAVE DONE COMPETITIONS SINCE THEY WERE BORN'. POSITIONS, POSTURE AND TECHNIQUE HAS BEEN IN THEIR BLOOD WITH THE TRAINING THEY HAVE RECEIVED AND IMPARTED. 'I TRIED TO LEARN BUT IT DID NOT WORK. NO GOOD TEACHERS IN THIS AREA'. HE TRAVELED A DIFFERENT ROUTE AND ENDED UP 'IN THE SAME WAY AS OTHERS'. 'THIS IS VERY INTERESTING TO SEE', SAYS JP. THE YOUNG ASPIRANTS MUST FEEL INSPIRED BY SUCH A CANDID OBSERVATION.

HE WAS SIXTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN RACHAEL VISITED CANADA AND DANCED HIS FIRST CHOREOGRAPHY WITH HIM. HIS TEACHERS HAD SUGGESTED TO RACHAEL THAT SHE SHOULD LOOK AT THE DANCE HE HAD WRITTEN. HE WAS DELIGHTED TO GET VIDEOS FROM HER WITH EVERYONE DANCING WHAT HE HAD CREATED. THIS FIRST STEP WAS A BIG ONE.

WE PIGGY-BACK ON QUALITIES THAT WE OBSERVE IN OTHERS, TO STAY INSPIRED. PAUL McADAM'S MUSICALITY, IN HIS OPINION, IS UNMATCHED, AND THAT IS AN ASPECT HE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE. 'TODAY I WOULD DO A MIX BETWEEN ROY SUBROTO AND HIM', FOR HE FINDS ROY SUBROTO'S STYLE HYPNOTIC WITH ALMOST SUPERHUMAN QUALITIES. FRED'S MUSICALITY AND TECHNIQUE IS EXCELLENT. HE IS A STAR. YOU HAVE A FAN BASE OF YOUR OWN, JP, WITH EXCEPTIONAL APPEAL IN YOUR TEACHING AND DANCING.

HIS EXCITEMENT AND NERVOUSNESS KNEW NO BOUNDS WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO SPEAK ON STAGE AT STOKE-ON-TRENT. HE WAS SHAKING AS HE PLUNGED INTO A VOLLEY OF WORDS, STUTTERED, SPOKE ENDLESSLY, AND OVERSHOT TIME. GUYTON WAS KIND ENOUGH TO OBSERVE THAT HE MUST GET ANOTHER CHANCE. TO BE INVITED TO THE CRYSTAL BOOT AWARDS IS AN HONOUR, AND TO TEACH THERE, IS A CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT. HE HAD TO READ HIS INVITATION SEVERAL TIMES BECAUSE IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT SUCH DISTINCTION HAD BEEN BESTOWED ON HIM. HE HAD GROWN UP SEEING OTHERS AWARDED THIS KIND OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION.

Once upon a Time

DON'T WORRY, IT'S EASY

by MONICA BHASIN

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STORIES ARE A WONDERFUL REFLECTION OF THOUGHT, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE POSITIONED YOURSELF AS THE LISTENER, THAT RECORDS WITHOUT PROCESSING. JP'S UNDERSTANDING AND CONCERN FOR OTHERS MAKES HIM IRRESISTIBLE AS A FRIEND. HE REMEMBERS AN INCIDENT WHEN HE, ROY, AND ROB FOWLER WERE AT AN EVENT. THEY WERE BUSY CHATTING AND THEY LEARNT THAT ONE OF THE GROUPS VISITING, HAD ONLY THIS ONE EVENT SCHEDULED FOR THE YEAR. HE KNEW THAT HE HAD TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE THEM COMFORTABLE AND MAKE THIS EXPERIENCE SPECIAL FOR THEM. HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE THEM HAPPY ABOUT PARTICIPATING.

HE HAD SLEPT AT SIX IN THE MORNING AT ONE OF THESE AFTER PARTY EVENINGS, AND WAS READY EARLY. 'I'M LIKE THAT, SLEEPING FOR TWO HOURS AND THEN READY'. MADDISON CAME AND USHERED THEM ALL INTO A DANCEHALL SAYING NOMINEES WERE SUPPOSED TO ASSEMBLE THERE. THEY PRACTICED FOR THE NOMINEES' SHOW, AND DANCED THE MAMA MARIA FOR THREE HOURS. THEY WERE SITTING AT LUNCH WHEN JOSE CAME AND REMINDED THEM THAT THEY HAD TO BE BACK AT THE PRACTICE. JONAS TOLD HIM HE WAS NOT A NOMINEE. JOSE ASKED JP, BUT JP HAD THOUGHTLESSLY FOLLOWED THEM. HE WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE SHOW, HE SOON REALISED, AND ASKED SIMON WHAT HE SHOULD DO. 'GET OUT OF HERE' SAID SIMON. HE ANNOUNCED THAT UN-NOMINATED DANCERS MUST NOT WASTE HIS TIME AND LEAVE THE HALL. JP SAID HE HAD NEVER FELT MORE EMBARRASSED BEFORE. HE SLIPPED OUT OF THE HALL WHILE OTHERS LAUGHED, THE ANGST OF BEING A NEW IGNORANT, ENTRANT, FORGOTTEN IN THE FUN OF IT ALL. HE ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE, 'THOUGH THREE HOURS OF MY LIFE WERE GONE'. THAT IS OUR JP, HAPPY AND CONTENT.

HE SPEAKS ABOUT THE TIME WHEN HE WAS THIRTEEN YEARS OLD, AND HAD ENTERED THE SWISS MASTERS' COMPETITION. THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS WERE DRESSED IN THEMES AND LOOKED THE PART THEY WERE PLAYING. JP HOWEVER FOCUSSED ON HIS STEPS AND THE DANCE ALONE.

THOUGH HE LEARNT FROM THE EXPERIENCE, HE DOES NOT REMEMBER ENJOYING IT MUCH. HE REALISED HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN COMPETITIONS. 'I STARTED DANCING WITH MY PARENTS' AND HAVE ENJOYED DANCING SOCIALLY. 'IT IS GOOD TO HAVE THE RIGHT TECHNIQUE, THOUGH, FOR BACK, KNEES AND STYLING, AND I REALISED THIS ONLY TWO YEARS BACK'. HE HAS SPOKEN ABOUT THIS WITH FRED AND DANIEL. 'I AM LUCKY TO HAVE GOOD TECHNIQUE TEACHERS AS FRIENDS'. HE USES TECHNIQUE TO MAKE HIS BODY FEEL COMFORTABLE, AND THIS IS WHAT HE TRAINS HIS STUDENTS IN. 'TO AVOID LOOKING LIKE A ROBOT, AND TO AVOID PAIN', TECHNIQUE HELPS.



«I'M LIKE THAT,
SLEEPING FOR TWO
HOURS AND THEN
READY»

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JP IS A GREAT INFLUENCER OF MOODS, BECAUSE IF PEOPLE ARE IN HIS COMPANY, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THEY WILL BE LAUGHING. HE DOES NOT SPARE HIS MOTHER FOR THE JOKES HE CAN CRACK ON HER. THE DYNAMIC **STREAMLINE** TRIO HAS BRIGHTENED UP OUR DAYS WITH THE BURLESQUE, WITH A HEIGHTENED SENSE OF COMEDY IN THEIR NONSTOP NONSENSE, WHICH EVERYONE HAS BEEN ACCLIMATIZED TO, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO. HE WORKS AT **TOMMY HILFIGER** AND HIS COLLEAGUES 'SUFFER HIS STUPID **PJs**' IN HIS OPINION. FOR ME THIS GENRE OF HUMOUR WORKS LIKE A DE-STRESSING SPA.

'WE WERE BORED' WE WERE GETTING 'CANCELLATION, CANCELLATION, CANCELLATION'.

JOSE SAID HE WAS GOING LIVE ON **FACEBOOK**. **'I WAS EATING WHEN JOSE CALLED'**. THE TWO OF THEM AND **DANIEL** HAD A CONVERSATION AND THEY DECIDED TO DO A **ZOOM MEET**. **TIM** SAID HE WAS BUSY WORKING FROM HOME BUT WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR HELP. **THUS** STARTED **STREAMLINE**. **JOSE, DANIEL** AND HE MAKE SURE THAT AT **STREAMLINE**, WORKSHOPS START ON TIME AND EVENT DIRECTORS SUPPORT THEIR COMMITMENT. THEY ENSURE THAT THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON THE OTHER INSTRUCTORS AND NOT ON THE THREE OF THEM. WE, THE WORLD OVER, BENEFIT BY LEARNING, DE-STRESSING, AND MAKING FRIENDS GLOBALLY. **JP** SAYS AND I AGREE WITH HIM, THERE IS SOMETHING UNIQUE IN EVERY STYLE, EVERY INSTRUCTOR. THIS IS A CULTURE THAT COULD BE REPLICATED. IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, THEY HAVE UNITED THE LINE DANCE WORLD LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

SHAPING THE CURRENT TREND OF INCLUSIVENESS AND LATITUDE WITH LINE DANCE, IS SURELY A PRIORITY WITH HIM. DRIVING THROUGH **BELGIUM, FRANCE** AND **SWITZERLAND**, TO STRING THE LINE DANCE FAMILY INTO HAPPY TOGETHERNESS DURING LOCKDOWN IS EXEMPLARY. HE SAYS THE TRIO INTENDS COVERING **GERMANY, AUSTRIA** AND **SWITZERLAND** AS WELL. I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT THE **ALPS** MEANT THIS REGION TO BE A MAJESTIC WHOLE BEFORE STAGES OF CULTURAL EVOLUTION DIVIDED THEM INTO THREE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, CUISINE AND LOYALTIES, DISBANDING IT INTO SMALLER PARTS.

MOST OF US WOULD AGREE WITH **JP** WHEN HE SAYS THAT, NOWHERE, AND IN NO OTHER SPORT DOES ONE HAVE A FAMILY LIKE ONE BUILDS IN THE LINE DANCE WORLD. **THERE** IS LOVE AND SUPPORT. **THE LDF**, IN HIS OPINION, HAS KEPT THIS FAMILY TOGETHER. **HE** IS PROUD OF THEM. **IT** HAS TAKEN CARE OF MANY, IN DIFFICULT TIMES. **THE LDF** HAS EXPANDED ITS SCOPE AND HAS STOOD BY PEOPLE IN THE PAST YEAR. **THEY** WERE BIG ALREADY AND THEY HAVE GROWN REMARKABLY TO BRING THE LINE DANCE WORLD UNDER ONE BANNER. **ABOUT** THE **LDF** TEAM, HE SURMISES, 'THEY KNOW WHAT TO SAY AND WHEN TO SAY IT, THEY ARE THE LIGHT, IT IS INCREDIBLE'. **HE** RIGHTLY USES THE WORD 'TACT' TO DESCRIBE THIS QUALITY, SOMETHING WE SHOULD EMULATE.

HE ENJOYS THE DIFFERENT ACCENTS IN **MUSICOLOGY**, BY THE **MASTERS OF MASTERS IN LINE**. HE HAS HEARD **PRINCE** KEENLY AND ENJOYED THE UNIQUE COMBINATION OF STEPS HIS MUSIC SUGGESTS. **ONE** OF HIS FAVORITE DANCES IS **CRIMINAL MINDS** AND HE LIKES THE MOONWALK BY **TIM JOHNSON**. **THE FIRST TIME HE SAW MOONWALKING, HE SAID, 'AHH THIS IS MY DANCE'.**

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«OOF SO MANY GOOD SEQUENCES, SO FUNKY AT MASTERS IN LINE» SAYS JP

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN HE WOULD NOT STEP OUT WITHOUT HIS BOOTS. HIS COUNTRY DANCE ENSEMBLE, THE HAT, THE RIPPED JEANS, THE BOOTS 'ET ALIA', WERE PART OF HIS ROUTINE. HE REMEMBERS THE FIRST TIME HE TRAVELLED OUT OF SWITZERLAND, IT WAS FOR A SOCIAL DANCING EVENT BY MASTERS IN LINE. THEY DID TEN COUNTRY DANCES AND DID NOT TIRE OF THEM. HE REMEMBERS ENJOYING THE NUANCES IN EACH ONE OF THEM. THE FIRST TIME HE DANCED PUMP IT WITH RACHAEL, HE FELT IT WAS A PRIVILEGE.

HE CAME BACK TO SWITZERLAND AND SUGGESTED TO HIS TEACHER, BONNIE, THAT THEY SHOULD FOCUS ON ADVANCED DANCES FOR THOSE WHO ARE KEEN TO FOLLOW A STRICT ROUTINE. BONNIE IS MOSTLY PRESENT AND SUPPORTS STREAMLINE CLASSES, HE MENTIONS. THEY DANCE SIX TO SEVEN ADVANCED CHOREOGRAPHIES IN A WEEK. HIS FATHER TEACHES SOMETIMES TOO. IT USED TO BE A MARATHON OVER THE WEEKENDS WHEN THEY WOULD WIND UP AT FIVE AM IN THE MORNING. HIS OLD CLASS REMAINS THE SAME BUT THE ROUTINE IS LIGHTER NOW SINCE THE LOCKDOWN.

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HIS STORIES HAVE THE FUNNIEST TWISTS. HE TELLS ME THAT GUYTON SPENDS HIS TIME ON HIS BOATS AND ENJOYS TIME WITH NATALIE. HE DOES NOT TRAVEL TO DANCE EVENTS ANYMORE, THOUGH HE MISSES DANCING. HE RECOUNTS AN EVENT WHERE EVERYONE ENDED UP IN ROOM 301 OR 302 AFTER DOING A DANCE WORKSHOP WITH GUYTON. AS ALWAYS IT WAS GUYTON'S ROOM FOR EVENING MERRIMENT. A FUN EVENING OF DRINKING, PLAYING GAMES AND TRICKS CAN HAVE YOU BITTEN BY THE BUG OF THESE AFTER EVENT PARTIES. HE PASSED OUT IN THE ROOM FROM DRINKING. WAKING UP IN THE MORNING WITH A HANGOVER HEADACHE, HE SAW HIS HAIR SHAVED OFF IN A PATTERN IN THE MIDDLE WITH A HOLE ON THE SIDE. HE WALKED INTO THE LIVING ROOM ONLY TO FIND OTHERS SLEEPING WITH SIMILAR ARTWORK DONE ON EVERYONE'S HEADS. I WONDER IF YOU WOULD USE YOUR FAVOURITE EXPRESSION HERE JP, 'DON'T WORRY, IT'S EASY' TO GROW BACK HAIR?

AS I ENJOY HIS ANECDOTES, I REALISE THERE IS AN INNATE RESPECT FOR AGE THAT STANDS OUT IN HIS STORIES. HIS MOTHER, A SENIOR TEACHER, AND AN ELDERLY STUDENT HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR CONVERSATION. IN AN INCIDENT WHERE HE, GUYTON, AND HIS FRIENDS WERE ENJOYING AN AFTER PARTY AT THE STOKE ON TRENT EVENT IN JANUARY, HIS MOTHER ENTERED THE ROOM WITH BRACELETS FOR ALL. WHILE SHE WAS GIFTING THESE TO ALL PRESENT IN THE ROOM, ONE BROKE ON SOMEONE'S WRIST AND A FLUORESCENT LIQUID FELL OUT OF IT. IT LOOKED SO PRETTY AND STARRY IN THE DARK THAT SHE BROKE THEM ALL SPRAYING 'GUYTON'S ROOM' WITH THIS LIQUID ON ALL WALLS. 'SHE DOES NOT SPEAK A WORD OF ENGLISH', HE SAYS, 'BUT ENJOYS A UNIQUE FRIENDSHIP WITH MY DANCE FRIENDS'. HE VISITED THE SAME HOTEL SOME MONTHS LATER AND IN THE SAME ROOM WHEN LIGHTS WERE SWITCHED OFF, THE WRITING ON THE WALL WAS STILL THERE.

DEMOCRATISATION OF DANCEOLOGY IS CLEARLY ON HIS MIND FOR HE DOES NOT COME FROM A PLACE OF REGRET FOR THE LACK OF SPECIALISED TRAINING. GRATEFUL AT BEING PULLED IN WELCOMINGLY AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH THE BEST, HE HOPES TO OFFER THE SAME ACROSS THE WORLD. HE HEARD THAT MASTERS IN LINE HAD INITIATED THE INTRODUCTION OF LINE DANCE IN BRITISH SCHOOL CURRICULUM. HE WISHES IT IS TRUE AND DOABLE. TDDDDHIS IS CLOSE TO HIS HEART AND HE HOPES HE CAN PARTICIPATE OR LEAD SUCH A DRIVE. SADLY IN SWITZERLAND, LINE DANCE IS NOT AS POPULAR AS IT CAN BE. 'IT IS SUCH A COMPLETE FORM OF DANCE'. HE WOULD BE ASHAMED IN THE PAST, TO SAY THAT HE WAS DANCING AND NOT PLAYING A SPORT. IT IS NOW HIS PRIDE TO BE IN A MAGNIFICENT, WORLD WIDE, UNIFYING THEME THAT BRINGS JOY TO ALL.

A DEAR OLD LADY, JP'S STUDENT, CALLED ANDREE PINARD FELL DOWN AT THE END OF A CBA EVENT AND BROKE HER HIP. AFTER SHE RECOVERED, SHE CAME TO THE CLASS SAYING SHE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DANCE ANYMORE. UNDERSTANDABLE. HOWEVER SHE DANCES THE SAMBA NOW, AND JP FEELS PROUD AND HAPPY ABOUT THIS. THE SPIRITED WOMAN PULLED HIS TIRED MOTHER ON TO THE DANCE FLOOR SAYING, 'YOU CAN SLEEP WHEN YOU ARE DEAD'. 'MOTIVATION MOTIVATION'. JP, IT MUST FEEL GOOD TO KNOW SUCH PEOPLE.

«IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU CAN MAKE SUCH LOVELY MEMORIES WITH DANCING'...

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN BUILD SUCH MEMORIES FROM TENNIS OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITY'»

MY FAMILY WONDERS WHY I SPEND SO MUCH ON TICKETS TO ATTEND THESE EVENTS. I HAD TO SHOW THEM WHY. 'I INVITED MY AUNTS AND UNCLES TO JOIN ME AT BIG DAVE'S LINE DANCE EVENT IN NEWCASTLE, WHERE THEY KNEW NONE OF THE LINE DANCERS'. THEY WERE DAZZLED. THEY SAW GUYTON AND FRED. THEY SAW THE DEDICATION, THE SPEED WITH WHICH PEOPLE PICKED UP NEW DANCES, THE GAMES THAT BROUGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER AT THESE EVENTS.



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