



HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 3

Jesus Loves Me, *This I Know*



Allen Webster

Anna Warner’s simple poem, *Jesus Loves Me*, is perhaps the best-loved Christian hymn ever composed. It has been translated into more languages than any other. Even after 160 years, it remains the Number 1 children’s spiritual song around the world.

It is more than a children’s song, though. It is that rare song that connects with all ages. It has the simple lyrics and timeless tune to reach youthful hearts, but it also has the depth to engage adult minds.

One preacher went so far as to say, “Everything I ever needed to know about religion I learned from *Jesus loves me, this I know*.” He may not have exaggerated much, for the entire scheme of redemption is found within its lyrics.

VERSE 1: DIVINE LOVE, REVELATION, AND HUMAN NEED

Jesus loves me—this I know, for the Bible tells me so; Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong.

The song starts with a simple assertion (“Jesus loves me”) and then proceeds to prove it. How does one know

that? “The Bible tells me so.” Of all the world’s religious books, only Christianity’s Bible tells of God’s great love. It is the inspired revelation of God’s love for all men of all time (Psalm 19:7–8; 1 Corinthians 2:9–16).

Where does the Bible say He loves us?

- Jesus said, “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you” (John 15:9).
- “For the love of Christ constraineth us” (2 Corinthians 5:14). We live in it; it compels, controls, and guides us along.
- “The Son of God . . . loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).
- “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins” (Revelation 1:5).

Whom does the Bible say Jesus loved?

- The rich young ruler (Mark 10:21).
- Martha and Mary (John 11:5).
- Lazarus (John 11:3; cf. 11:36).
- John (John 13:23; cf. 19:26; 20:2; 21:7).
- His disciples. During His last night with His disciples (found in John 13–17) Jesus said “love” thirty-one times. Follow love’s scarlet thread (13:1, 15, 34–35; 14:15, 21, 23–24; 15:12, 17; 16:27; 17:26).



*“Watch and pray,
that ye enter not
into temptation:
the spirit indeed
is willing, but the
flesh is weak.”*

MATTHEW 26:41

This song next points to human need: “Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong.” We are weak because we sin, and we sin because we are weak. Jesus told Peter, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41). In spite of our weaknesses, Jesus still loves us. Thankfully, He also makes us strong (Philippians 3:12–14).

Phyllis Zeno’s life was changed the day DHR brought a beautiful but troubled girl to her daycare. Born in prison after her mom had used marijuana, crack, and cocaine her entire pregnancy, she did not speak and had little emotional control. When approached, she became violent and fell to a fetal position, crying.

As months passed, Phyllis bonded with this child that no one wanted. She was captivated by one who had so little but needed so much; she was heartbroken that a four-year-old could suffer so deeply.

Daily they sat in a rocking chair, swaying back and forth, with Phyllis singing *Jesus Loves Me*. This always calmed her. Though she never spoke, a peaceful look would cover her face.

After one hard episode, Phyllis held her, silently rocking. The troubled girl looked through tears and spoke for the first time. She said, “Sing to me about that Man who loves me.”¹

VERSE 2: THE INCARNATION AND CRUCIFIXION

Jesus from His throne on high, came into this world to die; That I might from sin be free—bled and died upon the tree.

Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Vietnam veteran and Air Force Colonel John Mansur tells about an eight-year-old orphan wounded by a mortar who needed a blood transfusion. No American had her blood type, but several of the other orphans did.

In pidgin Vietnamese, with a nurse’s smattering of high-school French, the doctor explained to the frightened children that unless they could replace some of the girl’s lost blood, she would die. He asked who would be willing.

The children looked in wide-eyed silence. After several moments, a hand was raised, wavered, dropped, and then went back up. “Oh, thank you,” the nurse said. “What is your name?”

“Heng.” Heng’s arm was quickly swabbed and a needle was inserted in his vein. At first, he lay stiff and silent. Then he began sobbing. He covered his face in shame with a fist in his mouth. His sobs turned to silent crying.

A Vietnamese nurse arrived. Seeing Heng’s distress, she spoke rapidly in

Vietnamese, listened, and answered in a soothing voice. He stopped crying and looked questioningly at her. When she nodded, relief spread over his face.

She then said to the Americans, “He misunderstood. He thought he was dying. He thought you asked him to give all his blood so she could live.”

After thoughtful silence, the American nurse asked, “Why would he be willing to do that?” The translator asked him. He answered simply, “She’s my friend.”²

Paul wrote, “Scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6–8).

God’s plan involved Jesus coming “from His throne on high . . . into this world to die” in the incarnation. “The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14; cf. 3:17).

The culmination of the plan was the substitution of Jesus for sinners on the cross as He “bled and died upon the tree.” His biographers record history’s greatest event in a most subdued style: “When they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him” (Luke 23:33; cf. Romans 3:23–26).

VERSE 3: SALVATION AND HOPE

Jesus loves me—He who died Heaven’s gate to open wide; He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.

The cross shows how much God loved us. “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Jesus’ love provided a way to “let His little child come in” (John 14:6; Romans 5:9–10) which involved “washing away my sin.” Only one cleanser can remove a sin stain—the blood of a Lamb. God’s Lamb gave a sufficient quantity of blood to remove all humanity’s sins (Revelation 1:5). Appropriately enough, God applies this soul-cleansing while our bodies are being washed in water (Acts 22:16; Romans 6:1–6; Ephesians 5:25–27).

VERSE 4: ASSURANCE AND COMFORT

Jesus loves the children dear, children far away or near; They are safe when in His care, every day and everywhere.

Jesus loves “children far away or near.” His love is as boundless as space, as wide as the ocean, as limitless as the sky. It reaches people of every race, religion, and rank; every color, caste, class, and climate, every sex and station; every tribe and tongue (Matthew 11:28–29; 1 Timothy 2:3–4; Hebrews 2:9–10).

Jesus died for all (Romans 5:18), so He wants His message to go to all (Mark 16:15–16). People of all nations responded to Him: Jews (Acts 2); Samaritans (Acts 8); Gentiles (Acts 10); Ethiopians (Acts 8); Europeans (Acts 16); and Romans (Acts 16). In fact, by the end of the New Testament, John wrote that Christ had redeemed out of “every kindred” (genetic group), “and tongue” (linguistic group) “and people” (social group), “and nation” (political group) (Revelation 5:9; cf. 7:9).

God’s children “are safe when in His care, every day and everywhere” (Romans 8:33–39). Jesus said His sheep “shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” (John 10:28). He protects through sorrow, loneliness, poverty, disappointment, tragedy, and sin.

New Testament passages that show Christians are “safe” include the following:

- Romans 8:28: All things work for good
- Romans 8:38–39: Nothing can separate
- 1 John 1:9: Confess, He forgives sins
- 1 Peter 5:7: Cast care on Jesus; He cares
- 1 Corinthians 13:4–8: Love never fails
- 1 Corinthians 10:13: God provides a way
- Matthew 10:28: No need to fear
- Hebrews 13:8: Christ is same forever
- 1 Corinthians 15:58: Labor is not in vain
- James 1:12: Blessed if we persevere
- 2 Peter 3:9: Lord wants none to perish
- 1 Corinthians 13:13: Faith, hope, love remain

VERSE 5: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Jesus, take this heart of mine, make it pure and wholly Thine; Thou hast bled and died for me; I will henceforth live for Thee.

Paul wrote, “He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him” (2 Corinthians 5:15). The most important command—a summation of all commands—is to love God and your neighbor (Matthew 22:36–40; cf. John 13:34).

It is one thing to sing, “Jesus loves me” but another to sing, “Oh, how I love Jesus.” We show we mean it by obeying Him. He said, “If ye love me,



keep my commandments” (John 14:15; cf. 15:14).

When Karl Barth lectured in Chicago, he was asked his greatest theological discovery. Many expected a complicated answer, but Barth paused, smiled, and said, “The greatest theological insight that I have ever had is ‘Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!’” He got many things wrong, to be sure, but surely no one ever discovers anything better than “Jesus loves me.”

Footnotes:

¹⁻² Sermoncentral.com



Husband for Sale

Tom Brokaw of *NBC News* once reported a story about a Mrs. Louise Horner from Maryland, who put an ad in the local paper. It read,

Husband for sale, Cheap! Comes equipped with hunting and fishing equipment, two shirts, boots, and black

Labrador Retriever . . . but he’s not home much from October to November. (That’s hunting season.)

Mrs. Horner received sixty responses to her ad . . . and she was only joking!

Maybe it’s time for husbands to sit up and take notice of the amount of time they devote to recreations like hunting. While recreation is good and necessary, sometimes we husbands borrow time that really belongs to our wives and add it to our time in the woods.

Maybe it’s time to put the gun back in the truck and head on home.

—Glenn Colley, Huntsville, Alabama

“Husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife.”

1 PETER 3:7

God’s Plan for Saving Man

God’s Grace, Ephesians 2:8

Christ’s Blood, Romans 5:9

The Holy Spirit’s Gospel, Romans 1:16

Sinner’s Faith, Acts 16:31

Sinner’s Repentance, Luke 13:3

Sinner’s Confession, Romans 10:10

Sinner’s Baptism, 1 Peter 3:21

Christian’s Work, James 2:24

Christian’s Hope, Romans 8:24

Christian’s Endurance, Revelation 2:10

Home PAGE



Love Is the Key

A recent study of maladjusted high schoolers shows how important it is to tell our children we love them.

After the counselors had worked long enough to gain rapport with ten of the most maladjusted students, they asked them how long it had been since their parents had told them they loved them. Not a single one could remember having heard such a comment.

By contrast, ten of the best adjusted teens answered the question by saying, "This morning" or "Last night" or by indicating that they had been verbally reassured of their parents' love within the last few hours. —Unknown



For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.



What If Jesus Came to Your House?

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two—
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in,
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard,
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, nasty word?

And I wonder if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you keep right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace,
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,
If Jesus came in person to spend some time with you. —Lois Blanchard Eades

How to Hurt Your Spouse

A woman came into the preacher's office full of anger and spite toward her husband. "I don't want to just leave him; I want to make him pay. Before I divorce him, I want to make him suffer as much as he has made me suffer."

The preacher came up with a brilliant plan. "Before you leave him, build him up. Act like you really love him. Tell him how important he is to you and how much he means to you. Shower him with praises. Be as nice and considerate as you can. Make him believe that you truly love him. After you convince him that you love him and can't live without him, then tell him you are getting a divorce. That will really sting."

With revenge in her heart, she smiled and said, "Wonderful! That will show him."

She threw herself into this with vigor. For two months she showed him love, kindness, and affection. She listened, gave of her time, and shared her heart. After a couple of months, the preacher called to check how things were going. "Are you ready to go through with the divorce?"

"Divorce?" she said. "Never! I found out that I really do love him."

Her actions had changed her feelings. Love is established not just by promise and feeling but often by repeated actions.

"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table."

PSALM 128:3

30 New Testament Verses to Learn Before You Die



Salvation through Christ

- 2 Timothy 3:16** Scripture is from God
- 1 Timothy 3:16** The New Testament in one verse
- John 3:16** God's love for the world
- John 1:14** Jesus became man (2 Corinthians 8:9)
- Hebrews 4:15** Jesus lived a perfect life (Hebrews 7:26)
- Matthew 27:35–62; 28:1–6** Jesus' death, burial, resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1–3)
- Acts 1:9–11** Jesus ascended to God's right hand
- Romans 1:16** The gospel is the power of God for salvation
- John 10:10** Jesus gives abundant life (Matthew 11:28–30)
- Matthew 7:21** Do what Jesus says
- Hebrews 11:1, 7** Faith obeys, saves
- Acts 2:38** Repent, be baptized (Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:26–28)
- Ephesians 2:8–9** Salvation is by grace
- 2 Corinthians 5:17** A new creature in Christ
- Philippians 4:7** Peace with God

Man's response to God's grace

- Romans 3:23; 6:23** All men sin; sin's wages is death
- John 14:6** Jesus is the way to heaven; look to Him (Hebrews 12:2)
- Matthew 7:13–14** The narrow way leads to heaven

The Christian Life

- 1 John 1:7–9** Walk in the light; His blood keeps clean
- Matthew 22:37–39** Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind, and your neighbor as self.
- John 13:34** Love each other as Jesus loved.

No greater love (John 15:12–13)

- Matthew 7:12** Live by the Golden Rule

Assurance and comfort

- 1 John 1:9** When we confess, He forgives
- 1 Corinthians 13:4–8** Love never fails
- 1 Corinthians 10:13** God provides a way
- 1 Corinthians 15:58** Labor is not in vain in the Lord
- 1 Corinthians 13:13** Faith, hope, and love remain, but the greatest is love.
- 2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is longsuffering, not wanting anyone to perish
- Matthew 25:31–46** There is a great day coming
- Matthew 28:19** So go tell everyone about it

For a bookmark with an expanded list of 60 verses, please fill out the Bible quiz and send to the address on the front of HTH.

Bible QUIZ

VOLUME 21:3



Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "60 Verses to Learn Before You Die" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

Answers to Last Issue: Jesus as a Boy: 1. Nazareth (Luke 4:16); 2. Simeon (Luke 2:25–26); 3. Herod (Matthew 2:19); 4. Wisdom (Luke 2:40); 5. The Feast of the Passover (Luke 2:41); 6. Temple (Luke 2:46); 7. 12 (Luke 2:42); 8. 3 days (Luke 2:46); 9. Teaching in the temple (Luke 2:46); 10. Doctors of the law (Luke 2:46); 11. Sorrowing (Luke 2:48); 12. Father's (Luke 2:49); 13. God, man (Luke 2:52); 14. Subject (Luke 2:51); 15. In her heart (Luke 2:51); 16. Four (Mark 6:3); 17. Yes (Mark 6:3); 18. Carpentry (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3); 19. Country, kin (Mark 6:4); 20. Example, steps (1 Peter 2:21).

The Mighty Deeds of King Jesus

Directions: Find the answers in Matthew 8–10, 12, and Mark 5

- Whose mother-in-law was sick with a fever? _____
- What was Jesus doing immediately before He calmed the storm? _____
- "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea _____ him!"
- Who felt unworthy for Jesus to come under his roof? _____
- What was it about the centurion that caused Jesus to marvel? _____
- How soon after Jesus touched the leper was he healed? _____
- What person did the centurion ask Jesus to help? _____
- Jesus' healing miracles fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our _____."
- "Lord, _____ us: we _____."
- How many men possessed of devils (demons) came to meet Jesus near the country of Gergesenes? _____
- Where did the demons want to go when they left the men? _____
- What happened to those animals when the demons entered them? _____
- When Jesus healed a man with palsy, scribes accused Jesus of what sin? _____
- How long had the woman had an "issue of blood" before she was healed by touching the hem of Jesus' garment? _____
- How old was the ruler's daughter that Jesus raised from the dead? _____
- What unusual request did Jesus make of the blind men He healed? _____
- "Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching . . . and healing _____ sickness and _____ disease among the people."
- The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out devils by the power of _____.
- To whom did Jesus give power to cast unclean spirits out, and to heal all sickness and disease? _____

INDESTRUCTIBLE

Bernard Ramm wrote, “A thousand times over the centuries the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the flowers ordered, the inscription placed on the tomb stone and the eulogy written but somehow the corpse never stays put.”

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

ISAIAH 40:8



Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

Recommended Resource



The Gospel Broadcasting Network is unique in the world of religious TV—commercial free and no requests for money! Sponsored by the churches of Christ, GBN is available on many cable systems, through the GBN smartphone app, Roku devices, and gbntv.org.

I want to learn more
about the Bible!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Phone: _____

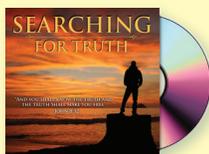
Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____

I would like:



A Bible Correspondence Course



A DVD Bible Study

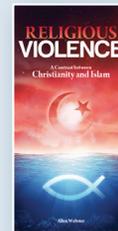


An In-Home Bible Study

New Tracts!



Booklet: Why Would God Want to Save Someone Like Me?



Booklet: Religious Violence: A Contrast between Christianity and Islam

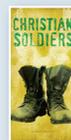


Tract: The Unpardonable Sin



Tract: Walking in Confidence

More subjects:



Christian Soldiers



Don't Stop In Haran



The Doctor Who Never Lost A Case



The Pro's and Con's of Starting The Smoking Habit



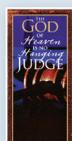
Beating The Devil At His Own Game



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What God Wants To Do To Every Sinner

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VOLUME 21:3



Jesus Is *the Way*

In a day of compromise, arbitration, and concession, the thought of there being only one way to life is offensive to some. Yet Jesus was not a lunatic when He affirmed, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

Jesus is the way out. He is the way out of sin. Sin deceives and many are enslaved without realizing it. Some say, like the ancient Pharisees, “We are not under bondage” (cf. John 8:33). This denial is based on a limited understanding of sin and moral wrongdoing. Sin will manifest itself by blatant actions such as stealing, killing, and immorality, but it may also occur in attitudes and ambitions. Only Jesus can deliver from the slavery of sin (John 8:32).

Jesus is the way through. When illnesses, disappointments, and failures come, Jesus is the way through these difficulties. Just as Israel needed the cloud by day and light by night, so we need a guide that assists us through the dangers of evil and wrong. Jesus is also the way through an uncertain future. Jesus gives us hope for the future. Experience confirms the need for strong daily faith.

Jesus is the way in. Jesus gives life in abundance. All seek satisfaction, yet some are confused in thinking an affluent life is equivalent to abundant living. Jesus said, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). He is the way to have inexpressible joy, a condition much deeper and more permanent than happiness. Happiness to many depends on circumstances, yet Christ brings joy even in the midst of the most adverse circumstances.

Jesus is the way up. He enables us to reach greater potential. We’re made to love, worship, and serve the Lord. Someone once said, “If you would find the best potatoes, go to Idaho; the best onions, go to Michigan; the best apples, go to Washington; the best peaches, go to Georgia; the best sailors, go to Annapolis; the best soldiers, go to West Point; but to find the best being, you must go to Jesus.” He alone will lift you up to heights never imagined before.

Jesus is the way to heaven. If you sought a guide to a location you had never visited before, you would not choose a guide who had never visited your desired destination, but you would seek one who knew the way. Jesus left the splendors of being with the Father. —www.TheLord'sWay.com



Destined for Greatness

When it was built for an international exposition in the nineteenth century, the structure was called monstrous by the citizens of the city, who demanded it be torn down as soon as the exposition was over.

Yet the architect who designed it took pride in it and defended it from those who wished to destroy it. He knew it was destined for greatness.

Today it is one of the architectural wonders of the modern world and stands as the primary landmark of Paris, France. The architect, of course, was Alexander Gustav Eiffel, and his famous tower still stands after being built in 1889.

In the same way, we’re struck with Jesus’ loyalty to another structure: the church, which He entrusted to an unlikely band of disciples, whom He defended, prayed for, and prepared to spread the gospel.

To outsiders, the church may appear insignificant, but Jesus, the architect of the church, knows this structure is destined for heaven when He returns . . . and He is counting on us to carry out His mission.

Thoughts from the HEART

A Real Home Is . . .

A real home is a gymnasium. The ideal of a healthy body is a basic one to give a child.

A real home is a lighthouse. A lighthouse reveals the breakers ahead and shows a clear way past them.

A real home is a playground. It is a place where the family can enjoy good, clean fun together.

A real home is a workshop. Pity the boy without a kit of tools and the girl without a sewing basket. They haven't learned the fun of doing things—and there is no fun like it.

A real home is a forum. Honest, open discussion of life's problems belongs originally in the family circle.

A real home is a secret society. Loyalty to one's family should mean keeping silent on family matters.

A real home is a health resort. Mothers are the natural physicians.

A real home is a cooperative league. Households flourish where the interest of each is made the interest of all.

A real home is a business concern. Order is a housewife's hobby, but order without system is a harness without a horse.

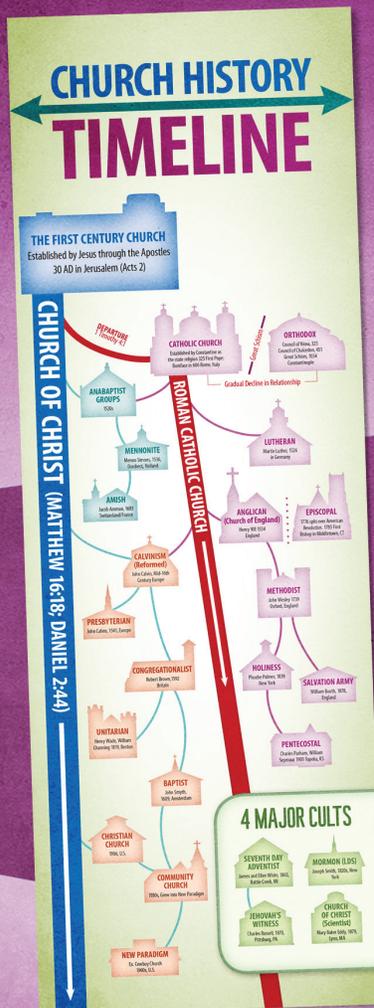
A real home is a haven of refuge. The world does this for us all: it makes us hunger for a loving sympathy and a calming, soothing touch.

A real home is a temple of worship.

—Ed Purinton in Sunday School Digest



Please recycle House to House by giving this copy to your family or friends.



Church History Timeline

FREE door poster!

Free 21" x 58" door poster showing the history of the original church and when various divisions occurred throughout the centuries.

Request yours today (contact information listed on front).
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