## Easy Money

Valuable Straightforward Advice On how to succeed in earning a living and enjoy a spiritually fulfilled life at the same time.

Written by the holy tzaddik

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### EASY MONEY

1.

The ability to earn a good living, comfortably is determined by a person's awareness of G-d. Those who fail to recognize G-d's decisive role in their destiny, including the realm of finances, senselessly overwork themselves, always in strenuous pursuit of another buck. But when you feel a pervasive sense of G-d's presence in your life, then you casually assume a relaxed attitude towards earning your livelihood. You will attend leisurely to your business, confident in G-d's generosity to provide, as He does universally for every creature, large or small. When you've identified in your mind that it is solely G-d who determines a person's financial status, irrespective of human device, then you'll realize how needless it is to overly strain yourself to eke out a living, for aren't there an infinite variety of ways that G-d can furnish Man with support? G-d will shoulder your financial burden and you will never be lacking at His philanthropic hand, if you would just accept the reality of your utter reliance on Him for everything.

2.

Despite the prevailing notion that there is no place for virtue in the competitive world of business, still making a good living means making an honest living! For success of any lasting value has to be legitimately gained, and not acquired at the cost of your beliefs and ideals. Guided by a strong sense of moral conviction and definite purpose, the ethical businessman is never steered off course by the lure of ill-gotten gain. Even at the risk of initial profit loss, he defends his word, ever mindful of G-d's watchful eye, for his faith is uncompromising, and his reputation in business sterling. He bides his time, all the while earning the admiration and steady patronage of fellow business associates, for eventually he knows his patience and honesty will payoff in handsome return. The opportunist, on the other hand is motivated only by greed. Without conscience, he twists and bends the truth to meet popular demand, and conforms his standards to flatter even the lowest tastes. In the name of getting ahead, he aims to please, only to rudely discover that despite all his underhandedness, conniving, and manipulation, success tragically eludes him, while at the same time he's scorned by the business community. The doors of economic opportunity will open wide, allowing you to live a nice comfortable life, if you preserve your integrity and shun deceit.

3.

Are financial pressures getting you down? Do you feel like you can't cope because your flat broke? Your despair has been instigated by an erroneous belief that all of life's circumstances are senselessly arbitrary. Once you discover, however, that behind the seemingly random nature of life events lies G-d's administrative hand, orchestrating all of creation in perfect synchrony and with utmost precision, better will you be able to derive meaning from your own dire predicament. No longer will you be offended by the social incongruity of rich versus poor, because you will be able to interpret your own personal financial dilemma as a test by G-d

of your reaction to adversity: do you respond by turning to G-d for support and relief, or do you greet it with unhealthy skepticism and incriminating doubts? Take advantage of this Divine initiative by starting a dialogue with G-d. Make it part of your regular routine to converse with G-d, confiding in Him exclusively, your distress at your deprivation and penury. Don't go sobbing on other people's shoulders for support, for what benefit can you possible expect, except perhaps a sympathetic ear! Remember, all fiscal decisions are decided solely by Heaven. Therefore, why resent when others have and you don't? Welcome the challenge as an inducement by G-d to bring you closer to Him.

4.

Do you feel as if economic considerations govern your life? Do you feel lacking in other areas of your life, because your neurotically driven by an incessant desire for more money? To acquire true freedom from fears of economic insecurity and to have material wealth just naturally gravitate towards you, you must take the plunge towards total reliance on G-d. Begin by initiating dialogue with G-d, outlining in painstaking

detail your struggle to cope with economic hardship and financial setback. Naturally, your initial attempts at communicating will seem awkward and stiff, as you become increasingly aware of how estranged you've become from G-d, as well as how self-conscious and ashamed you are about your poverty. Pangs of guilt over your neglectful and indiscreet past, which left your heart spiritually dull, will haunt you and further stymie your untrained tongue, as latent feelings struggle for expression. Doubts and skepticism will insinuate themselves into your mind, daring you to believe that the words you mouth make any difference to G-d or are of any use. Nonetheless you must defy the chorus of self doubts and with a fierce determination, persuade G-d to melt down those mental barriers and allow awareness in. Success will bring you remarkable insight and a secure feeling of being under G-d's custodial care, where financial worry is nonexistent. In order for your heart to perceive what your mind only comprehends, however, you must maintain this regular practice of speaking to G-d. Those with enough intellectual honesty will recognize the value of speaking plainly to G-d, without pretense or artifice.

They will enjoy the benefits of G-d's support, even while the rest of the world is crushed by inflation.

5.

When you are thoroughly convinced that G-d's ubiquitous presence pervades all of nature, you will realize that what's visually observed, is merely an expression of G-d's will, garbed in an earthly veneer. Sensing G-d's presence so openly proclaimed by nature, you no longer need to frantically scramble after financial security, for such is your abiding trust in G-d's control over your destiny. The Sages inform us that trust in G-d serves one well in this lifetime as well as in the next, (Menachos, 29:2). For faith grants you that inner strength and serenity with which to cope, even when you are financially strapped. Your eyes become opened to the wonder of how G-d so intimately involves Himself in your personal care and in the management of your general affairs. Indeed, by making G-d a part of your life, the intensity of your mutual relationship will grow to such a level that eventually you will discover in your lifetime, that which is apparent in the World of Truth how much a part of G-d you are.

If a person attributes economic success to external factors, allowing them to lull him into a false sense of security, eventually he'll wake up to the sad truth that, all along, he was grasping at straw. Because attaching excessive importance to that which is material and transient. brings about unrealistic need and dependency, as is homiletically expressed in the phrase, "He reigned, and died" - by allowing material objects to reign over your life, you surrender yourself to them. But once you realize G-d's relevance in all that transpires in the universe and you relate it to your own personal experience, then you will earn your keep comfortably, without the mad pursuit for the material. In this same vein, the Sages suggest, "If a person sees that his livelihood is meager, let him offer what he has to charity!". In one broad and magnanimous gesture, you're defiantly protesting that economics will not trample your spirit, because you place your trust in the Almighty. With your mind now freed of economic oppression and possessed with an indomitable will, any endeavor you choose will yield success. So when you come across a sage who has selflessly dedicated his life to serving G-d, don't be surprised how financially well off he may be. Keep in mind that, surely he is also rich in faith!

7.

Exercising discretion when you speak is smart business sense. Remember, "actions speak louder than words!", (Avos, 4). Speech is a precious commodity when used sparingly, but lethal as poison when wasted. Idle chatter not only keeps you behind in your work. but is also disruptive and annoying to your fellow co-workers, – and gone unchecked, may be grounds for your dismissal. Excessive conversation may lead to indiscreet remarks that may damage your reputation, or you may unwittingly disclose confidential corporate information. compromising your company's competitive edge in the market. Flattery will neither enhance your prestige nor does it hold the promise of promotion, and more often than not, you lose the popularity you sought to gain, only to be left despised and tangled in the web of lies you spun. Don't waste your time courting success, rather work on building your character, and success will chase after you. A

good work ethic comprises good habits: be diligent in your work, private about your personal affairs, and reticent on the job floor. What's important in any job is, "not how much you promise, but how much you produce!", (Avos, 4). So, while climbing the ladder of success always try to be most productive, look to shoulder more responsibility, and don't banter on company time. This invaluable advice is indispensable for life in general; live life to its fullest, without all the commentary, by doing all that you can to create your own success story.

8.

The pressure of today's fast-paced, hi-tech, money-oriented society demand clear-headedness, quick reflexes, and sound choices. By keeping the lid on your temper and not losing your cool, you will be able to survive the financial hurdles that line the horizon of your career. The hothead, on the other hand, steers a reckless course driving opportunity out of his life, while leaving financial ruin in his wrathful wake. So insistent is the impulse in some personalities to vent rage, that in a moment of indignation, one can forfeit

his entire fortune in a rash display of unleashed fury (Likutei Moharan 1:68). Ironically, buried beneath the surface of that coarse exterior, lies a fragile ego, tormented by feelings of insecurity, and harboring a basic mistrust of people. Feeling generally threatened, they eye all with suspicion, imagining them as wanting to steal customers from them, to frustrate their business enterprises, or just to plainly, rob them of their money. By realizing, however, that G-d's supervision extends over all commercial activity - so no one can exploit you at will - you will release your mind from the unfounded fears that have inexorably gripped it. You will abandon your formerly restless existence, where you found yourself wrestling impatiently with the hassles of earning a living. With the recognition that G-d is continuously regulating the world's finances, and that he is even concerned about vour own economic welfare, comes the ability to tolerate all of life's vicissitudes and greet them as welcomed challenges. No longer will you be disturbed by the inequitable distribution of wealth in society, because you will justify it as circumstances deliberately engineered by G-d to prompt Mankind into an even greater awareness of Him. So don't be resentful of the

economic imbalance that exists, rather understand it as an opportunity presented to you to help you develop into a more tolerant person. When you stop feeling persecuted, your anger towards others will subside, leaving you free to work and earn in comfort.

9.

Poverty is a state of mind; it is G-d portrayed as too removed from earthly concern to be moved by your economic blight and privation, to offer relief. In contrast, when you see G-d as relevant in your everyday life, and you appreciate G-d's involved role in the mundane matter of making a living, you become so trusting in G-d's support, that you are immune to despair and feel lacking in nothing. No longer are you fearful of economical vulnerability, where you senselessly imagine some looming threat of sudden financial ruin at the hand of let's say, larger manufacturers with superior products, nor are you apprehensive about being passed over for promotion or raise in favor of a more qualified employee. With a sturdy assurance in G-d's providence, your mind ceases to play host to crippling fears of job insecurity, that prevent you from deriving satisfaction from your work. Much of the misery of job related stress has less to do with job performance than with your neurotic apprehension over the future: What will the economic forecast look like tomorrow? How am I going to put bread on the table for my family? Am I going to join the ever swelling ranks of the unemployed? No amount of wealth can serve to reassure that person who suffers from the paralyzing fear of economic insecurity: He is the true pauper! His every working moment is filled with dread that financial disaster lurks just around the corner. Consumed by worry, he views life menacingly as a relentless struggle to stay afloat in the steady stream of mounting bills, generated by inflated costs and that spiraling taxes. somehow must be accommodated by the dwindling size of his budget. Caught in a battle for survival, in a jungle of fierce competition, he overtaxes himself to meet the demands of hi-pressured jobs and pitiless bosses, until he feels cheated out of any pleasure from his work or joy out of life. Don't allow yourself to become a casualty of your own chronic worrying and needless despair. This kind of negative thinking, which reduces your ability to cope with the strain of earning a living, and leaves you

feeling pessimistic about ever achieving monetary success, is attributable more to your lack of faith, than lack of money. An objective look at life should tell you that not through any manner of human device or intrigue can a person evade their economic destiny. With inexhaustible resources at His disposal, G-d shifts and adjusts the incomes of rich and poor alike, at will, So why panic? Let your whole manner exude confidence and joy and G-d will respond, in kind, with generous support.

10.

The only reason that you're so easily discouraged watching the 'other guy' get ahead, while you seem to be left behind, is because you've been misled by the popular misconception that mens' fortunes are self-made. Remember, appearances are deceiving! Every person's individual income is scrupulously computed, by G-d, down to the last penny. Yet, in today's world, the fiction persists that a person's economic future can be predicted exclusively in terms of marketable skills: the glorification of sharp wit, charisma, poise, and good looks, comprising the

'winner' personality, as the only means of getting one's foot into the selective doors of those prestigious companies; or the credentials of the well educated, who attend only the finest schools, and who are possessed of the belief that only they are endowed with the brilliance of mind - and highly polished resumes to match - that ensure one is rightfully wooed by the top executives of the nation. Nevertheless, even the best laid financial plans of men must humbly bow in submission before the overriding will of the Almighty – intent not on swelling the egos of men, nor their bank accounts, but on the correction of their souls. Irrespective of how financially independent and well off you are in life, you're expected to develop your spiritual self, the purpose of which is to discover, with glaring truth, how dependent you really are on G-d. Yet, experience shows that wealth and prosperity tend to dull the heart, rendering it incapable of feeling G-d, and unmindful of His generosity. So if you find yourself in life financially needy, then consider perhaps, that you are being divinely spared from the corruptive influence of money.

#### 11.

Turn your hard-earned cash into easy money by recognizing G-d as the decisive factor in determining your income. Don't be misled by the popularly touted dogma of the 'work ethic' that places a premium on hard work and glorifies human endeavor as the necessary ingredients for success. Following this line of thought, you will be forced to rely solely on your own limited potentials in coping with the ordeal of earning a living. You will find yourself hustling tirelessly through life trying to establish the 'right' contacts and impressing the 'right' people in the hope that someone will finally give you a break. Why not liberate yourself from the hold that other people have on you, by realizing that no one has a monopoly over when, where, or how you're going to make money, except G-d. Reason with yourself, that if G-d is the end-all of existence, and He is invisibly controlling the entire world, therefore, He must be piloting your career path as well. Why then are you foolishly waiting for handouts from others? Taste the sweet success of true financial independence by coming to terms with your own dependence on G-d.

12.

become consciously aware that G-d is universally concerned about the economic welfare of the universe, providing nourishment for every living being, large or small, as well as involved, on an individual basis, with your financial provisions, is the true definition of financial security. Relying solely on your own resources, on the other hand, you will scurry relentlessly after more and more money, in hopeless pursuit of a sense of security and contentment, that annoyingly eludes you. Then you will be left feeling only jealous and resentful over what others have, and you don't. Once you've clarified in your mind that financial security is a matter of perspective and not of the pocketbook, you will invest your time more in relating to G-d, than looking for cash.

13.

Don't jump the gun! Becoming a financial success requires application, diligence, and most of all, plenty of patience. Those who are in a rush to get rich and are restless to reach the top, are destined to financially fall

many-a-time. By waiting your turn, however, you gain the wisdom of experience and the advantage of making prudent choices that are the by-products of sound thinking. Remember, success comes to those who wait!

## 

Why do you waste your time, worrying day and night about your economic woes? Spend your time productively, by divesting your mind of the misconception that income level is a function of the type of job you have. The distribution of wealth is in G-d's hands alone, and is not a factor of the comfortable correlations we conveniently form in our heads. You can sail the high seas and cross the vast desert in search of the proverbial pot of gold lying behind some imagined rainbow and not come a penny closer in meeting your ideal of material success (Bamidbar Rabba 22,7). For the secret to success lies not in a clever show of entrepreneurial skill, but in the intensity of your religious convictions. It is an unfaltering faith in the Almighty's power as the universal financial broker, that makes you seek no further justification for the economic disparity existing in society, other than that is His Divine will. Satisfied that G-d exquisitely accords each person their means in a manner that they so deserve, you withdraw from the competitive rat race that has the whole world running. No longer do you fall prey to the seductive persuasions of the get-rich -quick schemes and other wild gimmicks that abound today. Life can be lived complacently by enriching it with faith; then earning will come with ease and not with hardship.

#### 15.

Economic opportunity knocks on the door daily; It's only the believer whose fortunate enough to hear that clarion call. It is his heart, yearning for G-d, that dares to take the risk of just letting go, permitting G-d alone to shepherd him through life's tribulations. At the spiritual urging of his soul, he conducts a life-long search for G-d. The arresting beauty of nature, that unmistakably attests to the existence of G-d, assures him that, as he walks through life, G-d is never far behind, so he doesn't need to retreat behind the imagined safety of contrived beliefs. Satisfied with the

meaningful coherence that faith has lent to his life, whether rich or poor, he never feels lacking, because he holds the promise that G-d will always provide. Those with spiritually vacant souls, on the other hand, who only relish in the glory of self-achievement, travel a very bumpy road in their assiduously sought after careers. Assailed by the financial hardships and disappointments that inevitably confronts everyone in life, they're left stranded and confused, wondering, 'how could this happen to me'? Know, G-d is not aloof from mankind: you just have to open the door of your heart and let him in, when you hear Him knock.

16.

Having money has the paradoxical effect of making you feel more insecure financially. As your assets multiply and your investments expand, a paranoid suspicion that others, coveting your money, are secretly conspiring against you, insidiously crosses your mind. Anarchy does not exist in the world; G-d is in control so that no one can forcibly seize that which is rightfully reserved for another. Your deep-seated, predatory fear has its basis in the start of your career,

when you contemplated the limitless options available in today's confusing job market. With no clear-cut guidelines on how to proceed you felt threatened by the success of others and started entertaining doubts about your own self-worth. With your financial state mirroring you emotional one, you found yourself constantly wondering what your talents may be and where the source of the most profit lies. Speculation may have sent you frantically chasing your fortune across the globe, or strategically leapfrogging from one job to next, in search of sunnier career prospects, or generating a flurry of endless statistical data, financial analyses, and demographic graphing in hope of cornering financial markets. That you were so hard-pressed to make a living is not, however, without any redeeming value or Divine intent. You looked any which way you can, but to G-d, to satisfy your gnawing need for economic stability. If your troubled soul could only perceive G-d's control it would at once recognize how needless it is to chase after money. By seeking G-d's assistance, you're thinking will become more organized, your activities will be more structured and life itself will seem more meaningfully coherent as you gain a solid sense of direction - a clarity of purpose. Operating within this context, life will be a breeze and earning will come with ease.

17.

Success does not happen by accident! It's takes a courageous leap of faith that transcends the boundaries of conventional thought and popular myth, to savor the true contentment of real success. With it, you'll soon forget dollar-and-cents considerations, as your thoughts now become dominated by the novel awareness of G-d's subtle and sublime existence suddenly piercing your misty consciousness. Realizing that G-d is the decisive factor in your existence, you'll seek your sustenance from none other, than His hand alone. The agnostics, intellectuals, sophisticates, and others of the liberal persuasion, however, deny G-d full recognition of His central role in the universe. Waving the banner of the rationalist approach, they obstinately insist on fitting all phenomenon into neat empirical formulas, lending credence only to that which can be measured by the naked eye. Given the incidental regard, with which they devote to any spiritual matter, G-d becomes a virtual outcast from their conceited minds. One can detect a hint of self-congratulation in their tone for their scientific achievements, which they feel have advanced mankind from its crude beginnings, while they remain unaware that they've made little progress in their understanding of G-d. The key to apprehending G-d, which not surprisingly, eludes them, is faith; because through faith we admit to our fallibility as humans, in understanding G-d's unfathomable ways. Humbled by the limitations of our intellect, we then walk willingly in the footsteps of our forefathers, carrying on their legacy of faith. The intransigence of the intellectual and scientific communities, regarding matters of the faith, however, leads them to persist in the folly of trying to gain mastery over nature, without giving due recognition to the Master. Their spurious attempts are analogous to one trying to visually capture the image of a mountain in the distance; instead of contracting his focus, by squinting his eyes, to view the whole mountain yonder, he moves his head side to side, only to succeed in glimpsing pieces of the mountain. Similarly, they lack totality in their perception of the Divine, because they explore nature, through the crude lenses of their scientific methods all the while seeing the parts, but missing the whole.

Their cool and rational approach, lacks the personal warmth and sensitivity that characterizes those so struck by the awe of G-d's ethereal majesty, that they seek shelter only under His care. Remaining unaffiliated to G-d, they become married to their careers and join the rest of mankind in the bitter pursuit of always more money and greater prestige. Association with these perverters of truth, serves only to dampen your sense of optimism and enthusiasm for life, derived from serving G-d, and sends you plummeting into economic despair. Contrarily, by placing your trust firmly in G-d, your economic sights are sent soaring to the heights, because then, you are at the mercy of G-d's boundless generosity, instead of being stifled by limitations of a job.

18.

Time can be your own worst enemy! By deluding yourself into thinking that life as you know it will continue forever, you allow the illusion of immortality to exert its deceptive influence over your mind. In aspiring for the so called 'good life', and seeking pleasure in the inane diversions of the world, how

easily do you forget the transient nature of time! You become swept up by the career fever of a society that venerates work and converts its members into devout workaholics. Rather than face the fact that life is but a brief sojourn, you prefer to escape by fading into the nameless mass of the work force, who trudge daily like robots through their drab jobs. In a dubious attempt to upgrade your standard of living, you nurse false hopes of happiness to be found in someday owning your own house, driving a sleek car, or taking some exotic vacation. A slave to your job, you toil ceaselessly, inured to the admonishing chime of the clock, steadily ticking away. Not pausing to reflect on the swift passage of every precious second of life, you grant no time for the realization of any of your spiritual aspirations. You fail to satisfy the instinctive need for meaning in life that comes only through encountering G-d and forming an emotional attachment to Him – the lasting impressions of which, are eternal and enduring. Instead of giving long, hard thought to the ephemeral nature of your existence, you prefer to settle into a mindless routine of worldly occupation and join the crowd in the mad game of trivial pursuit. Yet the hour of a man's death is appointed at the moment of birth, so consider how worthwhile can all your efforts be and what manner of glory can you achieve when all economic striving is carried out under the dreaded specter of death? Without the objective weighing of the brevity of life against all the squandering of time and energy necessary to obtain material comfort and economic security, your life becomes senseless. In our limited lifetime, the mark of true accomplishment is not measured by the extent to which one satisfies his worldly ambitions for fame and fortune. Indeed, without the sensitive awareness of your fragility as a human being that comes through courageously confronting your own mortality, how can you say that you have lived? Feel with keen awareness how finite this existence of yours is! Realize fully the extent of your utter vulnerability and precariousness and then you can pierce through the deceptive glitter and commercial appeal of capital gain. With your new found freedom, you assume a casual attitude towards making a living - expending just enough effort to get by. Anyway, life is so fleetingly short, so what glamour can their be in such aggressively sought after careers? Why become a slave to some trade? That the rest of society is frivolously wasting their lives motivated by blind ambition, serving as a pretext to satisfy their hedonistic passions, is largely due to their protracted sense of time; the exaggeration that exists in the minds of those who feel life is forever and that they are here to stay! Serious living involves freeing yourself from the economic tyranny that results from the mirage of time. Every moment vanishes with the coming of the next, so there really is no time. Therefore, for life to contain any meaning and to have lasting value, you must strive to know G-d, as an alternative to the futility of earthly pursuits – because He alone is eternal and enduring. Only then can the heart be relieved of its ache for money and your life, from the domination by economic trends. Then you will not have lived in vain!

#### 19.

It is a common presumption in our society that every person has the inalienable right to earn a decent living. While many of us vigorously exercise this right, by devoting our lives to our careers, how many of us recognize that, our efforts notwithstanding, income is privileged to us by G-d, and not issued upon demand?

The Sages have taught, "to earn a living is comparable in difficulty to the splitting of the Red Sea, twice as hard as giving birth, and exceeds the travail of the Redemption". Objectively speaking, if not for the good grace of G-d, no person, rich or poor, could expect to receive the necessary sustenance for human survival. No matter what position of the socio-economic strata you occupy, every single person should feel indebted to G-d for their very existence. In truth, the dynamics of economics operate independent of human virtue, and are not a function of human talent, initiative, or motivation, but rather, they remain in the realm of the mysteries of G-d. This sobering thought should serve to humble the haughty hearts of the wealthy and influential, who celebrate their good fortune by toasting to their own achievements, as well as the nouveau riche who, in their intoxication of new-found wealth, so eagerly forget their former indigence. They should remind themselves how, when caught in the narrow straits of financial deprivation, they responded with outrage, railing at Heaven with indignation. They may have lacked even the most basic needs, vital for continued survival, but that didn't give them license to bring charges against G-d. By providing financial

support, G-d merely indulges Mankind, because He owes us nothing. Therefore, it's morally imperative that you wait for G-d to display his compassion and offer relief, when He sees fit, and not at your convenience. The poorer elements in society must stop feeling victimized by the extremity of their circumstance and start recognizing, as well, the compassionate element to their subsistence - however meager. Despite the fact that they often don't know where their next piece of bread will come from, nevertheless, G-d somehow, always helps them get by. By witnessing first-hand their own miraculous daily survival against the odds, they are in a better position to know, that despite all human know-how, we are all dependent on the immeasurable kindness of G-d. As such, it is easier for them to learn to have trust in G-d, because they rely solely on his tender mercies for their very survival. The invaluable lesson and inspiring message of hope that emerges from their predicament is reminiscent of the same found in the episode of the "Manna" from Heaven. As their only source of nourishment in the wilderness, the "Manna", which was provided only in the form of daily rations, tried and tested the patience and faith of the Jewish people.

By forcing them to turn their eyes Heavenward, the "Manna" served as a daily reminder for them, and an eternal one for us, that sustenance comes from G-d alone. Indeed, sometimes it is precisely in the most extreme circumstance, when the chips are down, that you come closest to achieving the success you so desire. Stripped of all your pride, and feeling so naked and vulnerable as never before, you see no choice but to bare your soul to G-d. Then, and only then, does your eyes open up to the remarkable truth, hidden all along, of how the fortunes and destinies of men rests solely in the wondrous hands of G-d. Then, and only then will success be yours!





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