

# Heart Matters: Psalms and Proverbs

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***Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Proverbs 4:23***

*The heart matters. Of the 750+ Bible verses that mention the heart, almost all are figurative for the center of a person sometimes defined as thoughts, feelings, or spirit. Father God, Jesus, Holy Spirit and the love of the Father live in our hearts as well as walking beside us every day. The Bible tells us that we do not know our hearts, but that God does. Paul prays for us in Ephesians 1:15-17 that the Spirit of Wisdom (touching the heart) and then the Spirit of Revelation (touching our minds) be sent to us so that we might encounter the true Jesus. Despite what our minds might know about Him, our hearts can trump that knowledge with what we really believe according to our interpretation of previous experiences. The wounds, sins, and lies lodged in our hearts must be dealt with. In Immanuel, Jesus works with our hearts to bring righteousness, peace and joy.*

Studies included in this article are: Heart As Center; Trust and the Heart; Keeping the Heart; Fool's Heart; State of the Heart; Heart And The Lord; Training For The Heart; Heart As Source; Characteristics of An Evil Heart; Wounded Heart; Characteristics of A Good Heart; Hardness of Heart; Thoughts of The Heart; Heart's Desire; Direction From The Heart.

For additional information on this topic, please see: "With All My Heart"; "Heart Matters: New Testament"; "Jesus Knows Our Hearts"; "Heart of Gladness"

## **Heart As Center**

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Proverbs 23:7a For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.

Proverbs 23:19 Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way.

Proverbs 27:19 As in water face *reflects* face, So a man's heart *reveals* the man.

## **Trust and the Heart**

Psalms 13:5 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Psalms 28:7 The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.

Psalms 33:21 For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name.

Psalms 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God *is* a refuge for us.  
Selah

Psalms 64:10 The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory.

Psalms 112:7 He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding.

Proverbs 28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.

Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.

### **Keeping the Heart**

Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands.

Proverbs 4:21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

### **Fool's Heart**

Psalms 14:1 To the Chief Musician. *A Psalm* of David. The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

Psalms 53:1 To the Chief Musician. Set to "Mahalath." A Contemplation of David. The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; *There is none* who does good.

Proverbs 12:23 A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

Proverbs 14:33 Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding, But *what is* in the heart of fools is made known.

Proverbs 15:7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, But the heart of the fool *does not do* so.

Proverbs 15:14 The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

Proverbs 17:16 Why *is there* in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, Since *he has* no heart *for it*?

Proverbs 18:2 A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.

Proverbs 19:3 The foolishness of a man twists his way, And his heart frets against the LORD.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

## State of the Heart

Psalms 17:3 You have tested my heart; You have visited *me* in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

Psalms 22:26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

Psalms 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.

Psalms 84:5 Blessed *is* the man whose strength *is* in You, Whose heart *is* set on pilgrimage.

Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties.

Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor *is* humility.

Proverbs 25:3 *As* the heavens for height and the earth for depth, So the heart of kings *is* unsearchable.

Proverbs 10:20 The tongue of the righteous *is* choice silver; The heart of the wicked *is worth* little.

## Heart And The Lord

Psalms 7:10 My defense *is* of God, Who saves the upright in heart.

Psalms 10:3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy *and* renounces the LORD.

Psalms 10:17 LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear.

Psalms 19:8 The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

Psalms 27:8 *When You said*, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

Psalms 27:14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Psalms 31:24 Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD.

Psalms 32:11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all *you* upright in heart!

Psalms 33:11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.

Psalms 34:18 The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

Psalms 69:32 The humble shall see *this and* be glad; And you who seek God, your hearts shall live.

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail; *But* God *is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalms 84:5 Blessed *is* the man whose strength *is* in You, Whose heart *is* set on pilgrimage.

Psalms 86:11 Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.

Psalms 105:3 Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding.

Proverbs 11:20 Those who are of a perverse heart *are* an abomination to the LORD, *But the* blameless in their ways *are* His delight.

Proverbs 14:14 The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, *But* a good man *will be satisfied* from above.

Proverbs 16:1 The preparations of the heart *belong* to man, *But* the answer of the tongue *is* from the LORD.

Proverbs 16:5 Everyone proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD; *Though they join* forces, none will go unpunished.

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, *But* the LORD directs his steps.

Proverbs 19:3 The foolishness of a man twists his way, *And* his heart frets against the LORD.

Proverbs 19:21 There are many plans in a man's heart, *Nevertheless* the LORD'S counsel—that will stand.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD, *Like* the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 23:17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, *But be zealous* for the fear of the LORD all the day.

Proverbs 24:12 If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts consider *it*?  
He who keeps your soul, does He *not* know *it*? *And* will He *not* render to *each* man according to his deeds?

Proverbs 28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, *But* he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.

## **Training For The Heart**

Psalms 10:17 LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear.

Psalms 27:14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Psalms 31:24 Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD.

Psalms 73:13 Surely I have cleansed my heart *in vain*, And washed my hands in innocence. (-)

Psalms 86:11 Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.

Psalms 104:15 And wine *that* makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make *his* face shine, And bread *which* strengthens man's heart.

Psalms 105:25 He turned their heart to hate His people, To deal craftily with His servants.

Psalms 119:32 I will run the course of Your commandments, For You shall enlarge my heart.

Psalms 119:36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness.

Psalms 119:112 I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, to the very end.

Psalms 141:4 Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works With men who work iniquity; And do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Proverbs 2:2 So That you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding.

Proverbs 2:10 When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul.

Proverbs 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.

Proverbs 4:4 He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live."

Proverbs 6:21 Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck.

Proverbs 7:3 Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart.

Proverbs 7:25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths.

Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

Proverbs 20:9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?

Proverbs 22:17 Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your heart to my knowledge.

Proverbs 23:12 Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge.

Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.

Proverbs 24:17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles.

## Heart As Source

Psalms 39:3 My heart was hot within me; While I was musing, the fire burned. *Then* I spoke with my tongue:

Psalms 40:10 I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your loving kindness and Your truth From the great assembly.

Proverbs 12:20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy.

Proverbs 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out.

Proverbs 23:33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things.

Proverbs 24:2 For their heart devises violence, And their lips talk of troublemaking. (Violence)

## Characteristics of An Evil Heart

Psalms 12:2 They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; *With* flattering lips *and* a double heart they speak. (Divided, Double)

Psalms 41:6 And if he comes to see *me*, he speaks lies; His heart gathers iniquity to itself; *When* he goes out, he tells *it*. (Bent Toward Sin)

Psalms 55:21 *The words* of his mouth were smoother than butter, But war *was* in his heart; His words were softer than oil, Yet they *were* drawn swords. (Deceitful)

Psalms 78:37 For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant. (Unfaithful)

Psalms 119:70 Their heart is as fat as grease, *But* I delight in Your law. (Self Satisfied)

Proverbs 5:12 And say: "How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! (Rebelliousness)

Proverbs 6:14 Perversity *is* in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord. (Perversity)

Proverbs 6:18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil. (Wicked)

Proverbs 6:25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. (Lustful)

Proverbs 7:10 And there a woman met him, *With* the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. (Deceitfulness)

Proverbs 12:8 A man will be commended according to his wisdom, But he who is of a perverse heart will be despised. (Perverse)

Proverbs 12:23 A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness. (Foolishness)

Proverbs 17:20 He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, And he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil. (Deceitful)

Proverbs 21:4 A haughty look, a proud heart, *And* the plowing of the wicked *are* sin. (Pride)

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him. (Foolishness)

Proverbs 24:2 For their heart devises violence, And their lips talk of troublemaking. (Violence)

Proverbs 26:23 Fervent lips with a wicked heart *Are like* earthenware covered with silver dross. (Wicked)

Proverbs 26:25 When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For *there are* seven abominations in his heart. (Hatred)

Proverbs 28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered. (Proud)

## **Wounded Heart**

Psalms 13:2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, *Having* sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? (Sorrow)

Psalms 22:14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. (Melted)

Psalms 25:17 The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses! (Troubled)

Psalms 34:18 The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. (Broken and Contrite)

Psalms 38:8 I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. (Tumult)

Psalms 38:10 My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. (Exhausted)

Psalms 40:12 For innumerable evils have surrounded me; My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; They are more than the hairs of my head; Therefore my heart fails me. (Failing)

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise. (Broken and Contrite)

Psalms 55:4 My heart is severely pained within me, And the terrors of death have fallen upon me. (Pained)

Psalms 61:2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. (Overwhelmed)

Psalms 69:20 Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked *for someone* to take pity, but *there was* none; And for comforters, but I found none. (Broken)

Psalms 73:21 Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. (Grieved)

Psalms 107:12 Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and *there was* none to help. (Heavy and Helpless)

Psalms 109:16 Because he did not remember to show mercy, But persecuted the poor and needy man, That he might even slay the broken in heart. (Broken)

Psalms 109:22 For I *am* poor and needy, And my heart is wounded within me. (Wounded)

Psalms 143:4 Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed. (Overwhelmed and Distressed)

Psalms 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds. (Brokenhearted)

Proverbs 12:25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad. (Anxious and Depressed)

Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But *when* the desire comes, *it is* a tree of life. (Sick)

Proverbs 14:10 The heart knows its own bitterness, And a stranger does not share its joy. (Bitter)

Proverbs 14:13 Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, And the end of mirth *may be* grief. (Sorrowful)

Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. (Sorrowful)

Proverbs 25:20 *Like* one who takes away a garment in cold weather, *And like* vinegar on soda, *Is* one who sings songs to a heavy heart. (Heavy)

### **Characteristics of A Good Heart**

Psalms 4:7 You have put gladness in my heart, More than in the season that their grain and wine increased. (Glad)

Psalms 7:10 My defense *is* of God, Who saves the upright in heart. (Upright)

Psalms 11:2 For look! The wicked bend *their* bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. (Upright)

Psalms 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. (Glad and Hopeful)

Psalms 24:4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. (Pure)

Psalms 27:3 Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war should rise against me, In this I *will be* confident. (Fearless and Confident)

Psalms 36:10 Oh, continue Your loving kindness to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright in heart. (Upright)

Psalms 37:31 The law of his God *is* in his heart; None of his steps shall slide. (Law Abiding)

Psalms 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law *is* within my heart. (Law Abiding)

Psalms 45:1 To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Lillies." A Contemplation of the sons of Korah. A Song of Love. My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; My tongue *is* the pen of a ready writer. (Overflowing with a good theme)

Psalms 45:5 Your arrows *are* sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; The peoples fall under You. (Agreement With God)

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Clean)

Psalms 57:7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise. (Steadfast)

Psalms 73:1 A Psalm of Asaph. Truly God *is* good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. (Pure)

Psalms 78:72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. (Integrity)

Psalms 84:2 My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. (Hungry For God)

Psalms 86:11 Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. (United)

Psalms 94:15 But judgment will return to righteousness, And all the upright in heart will follow it. (Upright)

Psalms 97:11 Light is sown for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart. (Upright)

Psalms 101:2 I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. (Perfect Heart)

Psalms 108:1 A Song. A Psalm of David. O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. (Steadfast)

Psalms 112:8 His heart *is* established; He will not be afraid, Until he sees *his desire* upon his enemies. (Established)

Psalms 119:7 I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments. (Upright)

Psalms 119:80 Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, That I may not be ashamed. (Blameless and Not Ashamed)

Psalms 119:111 Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they *are* the rejoicing of my heart. (Rejoicing)

Psalms 119:161 SHIN. Princes persecute me without a cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your word. (Fearing The Lord)

Psalms 131:1 A Song of Ascents. Of David. LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me. (Humble)

Proverbs 8:5 O you simple ones, understand prudence, And you fools, be of an understanding heart. (Understanding)

Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall. (Wise)

Proverbs 11:29 He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, And the fool *will be* servant to the wise of heart. (Wise)

Proverbs 14:30 A sound heart *is* life to the body, But envy *is* rottenness to the bones. (Sound or Healthy)

Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. (Merry)

Proverbs 15:15 All the days of the afflicted *are* evil, But he who is of a merry heart *has* a continual feast. (Merry)

Proverbs 15:30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, *And* a good report makes the bones healthy. (Rejoicing)

Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning. (Wise)

Proverbs 16:23 The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips. (Wise)

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones. (Merry)

Proverbs 18:15 The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. (Knowledgeable)

Proverbs 22:11 He who loves purity of heart *And has* grace on his lips, The king *will be* his friend. (Pure)

Proverbs 23:15 My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will rejoice—indeed, I myself. (Wise)

Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands. (Law Abiding)

Proverbs 27:9 Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend *gives delight* by hearty counsel. (Delighted)

Proverbs 27:11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, That I may answer him who reproaches me. (Glad)

### **Hardness of Heart**

Psalms 95:8 Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As *in* the day of trial in the wilderness.

Proverbs 28:14 Happy *is* the man who is always reverent, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

Proverbs 29:1 He who is often rebuked, *and* hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

## Thoughts of The Heart

Psalms 4:4 Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah

Psalms 10:6 He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity."

Psalms 10:11 He has said in his heart, "God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see."

Psalms 10:13 Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, "You will not require *an account*."

Psalms 15:2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart.

Psalms 36:1 To the Chief Musician. *A Psalm* of David the servant of the LORD. An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: *There is* no fear of God before his eyes.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

Psalms 58:2 No, in heart you work wickedness; You weigh out the violence of your hands in the earth.

Psalms 64:6 They devise iniquities: "We have perfected a shrewd scheme." Both the inward thought and the heart of man are deep.

Psalms 77:6 I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, And my spirit makes diligent search.

## Heart's Desire

Psalms 20:4 May He grant you according to your heart's *desire*, And fulfill all your purpose.

Psalms 21:2 You have given him his heart's desire, And have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 49:3 My mouth shall speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart *shall give* understanding.

Psalms 62:10 Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, Do not set *your* heart *on them*.

Psalms 73:7 Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish.

Psalms 78:18 And they tested God in their heart By asking for the food of their fancy.

Psalms 112:8 His heart *is* established; He will not be afraid, Until he sees *his desire* upon his enemies.

## **Direction From The Heart**

Psalms 44:18 Our heart has not turned back, Nor have our steps departed from Your way.

Psalms 78:8 And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation *that* did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Psalms 95:10 For forty years I was grieved with *that* generation, And said, 'It *is* a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.'

Psalms 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

Psalms 140:2 Who plan evil things in *their* hearts; They continually gather together *for* war.

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