

in the middle of a journey readings in unitarian PDF

In the middle of a journey readings in Unitarian often serve as a profound reflection of the spiritual and philosophical exploration that many adherents and seekers undertake. Unitarian Universalism, with its rich tapestry of beliefs drawn from diverse religious traditions, emphasizes personal spiritual growth, open-minded inquiry, and the pursuit of truth. During a spiritual journey, reading materials become invaluable tools for inspiration, guidance, and understanding. Whether you are a lifelong member or a newcomer exploring the faith, engaging with thoughtful writings can deepen your experience and foster a sense of connection with the broader Unitarian community. This article explores the significance of readings during one's spiritual journey within Unitarianism, highlighting key texts, themes, and practices that support growth and reflection.

Understanding the Role of Readings in Unitarian Spiritual Journeys

The Importance of Texts in Spiritual Development

In Unitarianism, readings are more than mere words; they are gateways to insight, sources of comfort, and catalysts for reflection. They help articulate complex ideas about spirituality, ethics, and human interconnectedness. During a journey of faith or exploration, these texts can:

- Inspire personal insights
- Challenge existing beliefs
- Provide historical and philosophical context
- Foster a sense of community through shared ideas

Unitarian readings often emphasize inclusivity, questioning, and the pursuit of truth, making them ideal companions during periods of introspection and growth.

Types of Readings in Unitarian Context

There is a diverse array of texts that serve as meaningful readings during a spiritual journey:

- **Sacred Texts and Religious Writings:** Although Unitarianism is not dogmatic, many find value in sacred scriptures from various traditions, including the Bible, Quran, Bhagavad Gita, and others, to explore universal themes.

- **Poetry and Inspirational Quotes:** Poets like Rainer Maria Rilke, Emily Dickinson, and contemporary voices often express spiritual truths beautifully.
- **Philosophical and Ethical Writings:** Works by thinkers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and modern philosophers provide reflections on nature, morality, and the human condition.
- **Unitarian Universalist Texts:** The Seven Principles and the UU Statement of Principles serve as foundational documents guiding personal and communal exploration.

Key Themes in Unitarian Readings During a Journey

Personal Growth and Self-Discovery

A core focus of Unitarian readings is fostering individual understanding of oneself and one's place in the universe. Texts often encourage:

- Reflection on personal values
- Embracing curiosity and doubt
- Cultivating compassion and empathy

For example, Ralph Waldo Emerson's essays champion self-reliance and individual intuition, resonating deeply during transformative journeys.

Interconnectedness and Community

Unitarianism emphasizes the interconnected nature of all life. Readings that explore this theme help individuals see beyond themselves and recognize their role within a larger community. Such texts include:

- Works on ecological awareness
- Writings about social justice
- Passages that highlight human interconnectedness

Poetry and writings that celebrate nature often invoke feelings of unity and shared responsibility.

Questioning and Inquiry

A hallmark of Unitarian thought is the valuing of questioning over dogma. During a spiritual journey, readings that challenge assumptions can be particularly meaningful. They encourage:

- Critical thinking
- Openness to new ideas
- Personal interpretation of spiritual truths

This might involve engaging with texts that explore different religious traditions or philosophical perspectives.

Recommended Readings for Unitarian Spiritual Journeys

Classics and Foundational Texts

These works have shaped Unitarian thought and continue to inspire seekers:

- **Ralph Waldo Emerson ? "Self-Reliance"**: Advocates for individual intuition and personal authenticity.
- **Henry David Thoreau ? "Walden"**: Explores simplicity, nature, and self-awareness.
- **William Ellery Channing ? "The Unitarian Christianity"**: Articulates core Unitarian principles.
- **Margaret Fuller ? "Woman in the Nineteenth Century"**: Emphasizes equality, justice, and human potential.

Contemporary and Modern Writings

Modern authors build upon these foundations, offering fresh perspectives:

- **Rebecca Ann Parker ? "A New Look at Unitarian Universalism"**: Explores inclusivity and spiritual exploration.
- **Joanna Macy ? "Active Hope"**: Focuses on ecological activism and hope in times of crisis.
- **Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley ? "The Spirit of Life"**: Reflects on spiritual growth and social justice.

Poetry and Inspirational Literature

Poetry can evoke powerful emotional and spiritual responses:

- Rainer Maria Rilke?s "Letters to a Young Poet"
- Emily Dickinson?s reflective poems
- Wendell Berry?s writings on community and nature

Practicing Reflection Through Readings

Journaling and Meditation

Integrating readings into daily practice can deepen understanding:

- Read a passage thoughtfully
- Reflect on its relevance to your life
- Write down insights or questions
- Meditate on the themes presented

This process enhances personal growth and helps internalize spiritual lessons.

Discussion Groups and Study Circles

Participating in communal discussions fosters shared understanding. Many Unitarian churches and groups host:

- Book clubs focused on spiritual texts
- Study circles exploring themes like justice, nature, or spirituality
- Workshops on interpreting and applying readings

Engaging with others provides diverse perspectives and enriches the journey.

Incorporating Readings into Worship and Rituals

Readings often feature in Unitarian services, rituals, and ceremonies, serving as touchstones during pivotal moments:

- Opening or closing prayers
- Meditation segments
- Reflection periods during services

Using meaningful texts in these settings can reinforce spiritual intentions and community bonds.

Conclusion: Embracing the Journey with Thoughtful Readings

During the course of a spiritual journey within Unitarianism, readings act as guiding

stars?illuminating paths, inspiring questions, and fostering connection. They serve as mirrors reflecting personal truths and windows into the diverse spiritual landscape that Unitarianism offers. Whether engaging with sacred texts, poetry, philosophical writings, or contemporary reflections, seekers find that these words nurture their growth, challenge their perspectives, and deepen their understanding of themselves and the universe. As part of a lifelong journey, embracing a variety of readings can cultivate a richer, more meaningful spiritual life?one rooted in curiosity, compassion, and the relentless pursuit of truth. Ultimately, in the middle of any journey, thoughtful readings can provide comfort and insight, helping individuals navigate their unique spiritual paths with openness and resilience.

In the Middle of a Journey Readings in Unitarianism: An In-Depth Exploration

Unitarianism, with its rich history of spiritual exploration and philosophical openness, has long been a fertile ground for meaningful readings and reflections. Among these, "In the Middle of a Journey" readings stand out as a powerful tool for personal growth, communal connection, and theological understanding. These readings serve as an integral part of Unitarian worship and community life, providing a space for members to reflect on their spiritual journeys, grapple with life's uncertainties, and find inspiration in shared human experiences.

This article offers an expert-level examination of "In the Middle of a Journey" readings in Unitarianism, delving into their origins, significance, thematic content, and practical application within congregational settings. Whether you're a seasoned Unitarian, a newcomer exploring the faith, or a scholar of religious studies, this comprehensive overview aims to deepen your appreciation of these readings and their vital role in Unitarian spiritual practice.

Understanding the Origins and Context of "In the Middle of a Journey" Readings

Historical Roots and Development

The phrase "In the Middle of a Journey" encapsulates a core aspect of Unitarian spiritual life ? the recognition that faith and personal growth are ongoing processes. While specific readings titled "In the Middle of a Journey" may vary across congregations, their conceptual roots trace back to the broader Unitarian tradition of emphasizing personal experience, moral development, and ongoing search for truth.

Historically, Unitarianism emerged from the Protestant Reformation and evolved through Enlightenment influences that prioritized reason, individual conscience, and inclusivity. As the movement matured, its worship practices incorporated readings that acknowledged life's uncertainties and the importance of perseverance through spiritual and existential challenges. The "middle of the journey" motif aligns with this ethos, emphasizing that faith is not a static destination

but a continuous voyage.

Over time, Unitarian writers and ministers began creating specific readings and poems that reflected this journeying motif, emphasizing themes such as hope amid doubt, resilience in adversity, and the search for meaning. These texts often draw from diverse sources, including literary works, philosophical writings, and personal testimonies, all woven together to inspire congregants to view their spiritual path as ongoing.

Core Principles Embedded in the Readings

At their heart, "In the Middle of a Journey" readings embody several core Unitarian principles:

- Religious Pluralism: Embracing multiple truths and perspectives, recognizing that the journey is uniquely personal.
- Personal Responsibility: Encouraging individuals to own their spiritual quest, making meaning through reflection and action.
- Continuous Growth: Viewing faith as an evolving process rather than a fixed state.
- Compassion and Connection: Acknowledging shared human struggles and fostering community support.

These principles inform the content and tone of the readings, making them resonant for diverse congregations and individuals.

Key Themes and Content of "In the Middle of a Journey" Readings

Exploring the Themes

The readings typically explore themes central to the human spiritual journey. A few recurring themes include:

- Perseverance in the Face of Uncertainty: Recognizing that doubt and challenge are natural parts of growth.
- Hope and Resilience: Inspiring faith that the journey, despite obstacles, leads to deeper understanding.
- Self-Discovery and Authenticity: Encouraging individuals to seek their truth and live authentically.
- Transition and Transformation: Embracing change as an integral component of spiritual evolution.
- Community and Support: Highlighting the importance of shared journeys and mutual

encouragement.

These themes are often presented through poetic, metaphorical, or narrative texts that resonate emotionally and intellectually.

Typical Content and Literary Forms

"Middle of the journey" readings in Unitarian contexts often feature:

- Poetry: Works by poets like Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, or contemporary writers that evoke the ongoing quest.
- Excerpts from Philosophical and Literary Texts: Passages from writers like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, or modern thinkers that reflect the Unitarian emphasis on reason and individual conscience.
- Personal Reflections and Testimonies: Real-life stories of perseverance, doubt, and eventual insight.
- Prayers and Meditative Texts: Short prayers or meditative passages that affirm hope and resilience.

The literary style tends to be contemplative, inclusive, and open-ended, inviting personal interpretation and reflection.

Practical Application in Unitarian Worship and Community Life

In Worship Services

"In the Middle of a Journey" readings are often integrated into weekly worship services, serving as a focal point for sermons or as meditative reflections. Typical applications include:

- Opening or Closing Readings: Setting the tone or offering closure that acknowledges life's ongoing process.
- Theme-Based Reflections: Aligning the reading with the sermon topic, such as perseverance, hope, or transformation.
- Special Services: Used during transitional periods like anniversaries, memorials, or times of collective challenge.

The readings work best when they evoke shared experience, fostering community reflection and connection.

In Small Groups and Educational Settings

Unitarian education programs and small groups frequently utilize "In the Middle of a Journey" readings to stimulate dialogue and personal reflection. They serve as prompts for discussions on:

- Personal spiritual growth
- Navigating doubt and faith
- Embracing change and uncertainty
- Building resilience in life and faith

Facilitators often encourage members to share their interpretations and relate the readings to their own journeys, fostering empathy and mutual understanding.

For Personal Devotion and Reflection

Many individuals incorporate these readings into daily or weekly spiritual practices. They serve as anchors during difficult times or moments of transition, reminding practitioners that they are not alone in their struggles and that growth continues amid challenges.

Selected Examples of "In the Middle of a Journey" Readings

To illustrate the richness of these texts, here are examples that exemplify their themes and style:

Poetry Excerpt: Walt Whitman, "Song of the Open Road"

_"Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,

Healthy, free, the world before me,

The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose."_

This poem embodies the spirit of ongoing exploration, resilience, and hope.

Philosophical Reflection: Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Life is a journey, not a destination. It is in the act of living that we find meaning, even amid doubt and uncertainty."

This quote encourages embracing the process of becoming, not just arriving.

Personal Testimony (Sample):

"There were days when I felt lost, unsure if I was on the right path. But through patience and community, I learned that being in the middle of my journey was where growth truly happened."

Personal stories like this reinforce the universal nature of the journey motif.

Conclusion: The Significance of "In the Middle of a Journey" Readings in Unitarianism

Unitarian "In the Middle of a Journey" readings serve as vital spiritual anchors, reminding practitioners that faith and growth are ongoing processes characterized by perseverance, hope, and community. Their themes resonate deeply with the Unitarian emphasis on individual conscience, ongoing search, and inclusivity. By integrating poetic, philosophical, and personal texts into worship and community life, these readings foster reflection, resilience, and connection.

In a broader sense, these readings embody the Unitarian worldview that life's uncertainties are not barriers but opportunities for deeper understanding and authentic living. Whether used in worship, education, or personal devotion, "In the Middle of a Journey" readings inspire individuals to embrace their ongoing spiritual voyage with courage and hope.

For those seeking to deepen their Unitarian practice or simply explore the universal human experience of journeying through life, these readings offer a guiding light ? a reminder that even in the midst of uncertainty, growth continues, and meaning unfolds.

Question What are 'In the Middle of a Journey' readings in Unitarianism? 'In the Middle of a Journey' readings are spiritual or inspirational texts used in Unitarian worship and reflection, emphasizing ongoing spiritual growth and the journey of life rather than a fixed destination. How can these readings enhance personal spiritual practice in Unitarian communities? They encourage mindfulness, reflection on life's ongoing process, and foster a sense of community and shared spiritual exploration, helping individuals find meaning amid life's transitions. Are 'In the Middle of a Journey' readings specific to Unitarian traditions? While rooted in Unitarian values, these readings are often adaptable and can be appreciated across various spiritual paths that emphasize personal growth and the ongoing nature of spiritual journeying. What types of texts are included in 'In the Middle of a Journey' readings? They typically include poetry, philosophical excerpts, spiritual reflections, and quotes from diverse thinkers that resonate with themes of journey, growth, and transformation. How can Unitarian congregations incorporate 'In the Middle of a Journey' readings into their services? They can be used during sermons, meditation sessions, or contemplative moments to inspire reflection and connect congregants with the ongoing process of spiritual discovery. Why are these readings particularly relevant in contemporary Unitarian practice? Because they emphasize ongoing personal and collective growth, adaptability, and embracing life's

uncertainties?core aspects of modern Unitarian spirituality.

Related keywords: Unitarian readings, spiritual journey, meditation, inspiration, faith, prayer, reflection, religious texts, personal growth, spiritual guidance

The unitarian universalist pocket guide english e

the unitarian universalist pocket guide english e is an essential resource for those interested in understanding the principles, history, and community of Unitarian Universalism in an accessible and concise format. Whether you're a newcomer exploring spiritual paths or a seasoned member seeking a quick reference, this pocket guide offers valuable insights into one of the most inclusive and progressive religious movements. In this comprehensive article, we will delve into the core aspects of the Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide, exploring its significance, key themes, and practical applications, all optimized for SEO to help you discover everything you need to know about this influential spiritual guide.

What is the Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide?

Overview and Purpose

The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide is a compact, easy-to-carry manual designed to introduce individuals to the beliefs, history, and community practices of Unitarian Universalism (UU). Its primary purpose is to serve as a quick reference that summarizes the core values, history, and ethical principles that define UU congregations worldwide.

Target Audience

This guide is tailored for:

- New members and visitors exploring UU churches
- Longtime members seeking a refresher
- Religious educators and ministers
- Anyone interested in progressive spiritual traditions

Format and Accessibility

Typically printed as a small booklet or pocket-sized pamphlet, the guide emphasizes clarity and

brevity. It uses straightforward language, making complex theological concepts accessible to diverse audiences.

Core Principles and Values of Unitarian Universalism

Seven UU Principles

Unitarian Universalism is grounded in seven core principles that emphasize justice, equity, compassion, and spiritual growth:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence

Seven UU Sources

The guide also highlights the diverse sources that inspire UU beliefs:

- Direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men
- Wisdom from world religions
- Jewish and Christian teachings
- Humanist teachings
- Earth-centered spiritualities
- Other sources of inspiration

History and Origins of Unitarian Universalism

Historical Background

Unitarian Universalism emerged from the union of two historically distinct traditions:

- Unitarianism, emphasizing the oneness of God and the humanity of Jesus
- Universalism, advocating that all souls will ultimately be saved

The merger occurred in 1961, creating a more inclusive and pluralistic faith community.

Key Historical Milestones

- 16th-century roots in the Reformation and Christian humanism
- Formation of American Unitarianism in the early 19th century
- Adoption of the Universalist Church's doctrines in the 18th century
- The 1961 merger forming the modern UU movement
- Growth of social justice activism throughout the 20th and 21st centuries

Practices and Community Life in Unitarian Universalism

Worship and Rituals

UU worship services are diverse, often including:

- Inspirational readings
- Music and singing
- Meditation and silent reflection
- Rituals such as lighting candles, water ceremonies, and rites of passage

Community Engagement

Unitarian Universalists prioritize social justice, community service, and interfaith dialogue. Activities include:

- Volunteer programs
- Advocacy campaigns
- Educational workshops
- Interfaith collaborations

Personal Spiritual Growth

Members are encouraged to explore their own spiritual paths through:

- Study groups
- Meditation practices

- Ethical living
- Reflection and journaling

How the Pocket Guide Enhances Understanding of UU Principles

Quick Reference for Key Concepts

The guide distills complex ideas into digestible summaries, making it easier for readers to grasp:

- The meaning behind each UU principle
- The significance of diverse spiritual sources
- The history that shaped UU identity

Practical Applications

Readers can use the guide to:

- Navigate conversations about faith and spirituality
- Participate actively in UU community events
- Advocate for social justice aligned with UU values
- Foster personal spiritual development

Benefits of Using the Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide

Educational Resource

The guide serves as an excellent educational tool for:

- newcomers learning about UU
- educators developing curriculum
- community organizers spreading awareness

Accessibility and Portability

Its compact size allows members to carry it everywhere, making it a handy reference during:

- discussions with friends or family

- visits to UU congregations
- community outreach events

Promotes Inclusivity and Open-mindedness

By summarizing UU's inclusive philosophy, the guide encourages acceptance and curiosity about different spiritual traditions.

Where to Find the Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide

Official Sources

You can acquire the guide from:

- The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website
- Local UU congregations
- Religious bookstores specializing in spiritual literature

Digital Versions

Many editions are available in PDF format or as e-books, making it easy to access on your devices.

Conclusion: Embracing the UU Spirit with the Pocket Guide

The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide is more than just a booklet; it embodies the inclusive, compassionate, and open-minded spirit that defines UU communities worldwide. By providing clear summaries of the core principles, history, and practices, it empowers individuals to engage meaningfully with UU values. Whether you are exploring spiritual paths, seeking community involvement, or deepening your understanding of social justice, this pocket guide is an invaluable resource. As you carry it with you, let it serve as a reminder of the interconnected web of life and the ongoing journey toward truth, love, and justice.

Keywords optimized for SEO: Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide, UU principles, UU history, Unitarian Universalism practices, UU community, spiritual growth, social justice, UU sources, UU beliefs, UU resources

The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide English E is a compact yet comprehensive resource designed to introduce readers to the core principles, history, and diverse practices of Unitarian Universalism. As a quick reference tool, it aims to serve both newcomers seeking an overview and longtime members looking for a refresher. This guide stands out for its accessibility, clarity, and

thoughtful organization, making it a popular choice among individuals interested in exploring or deepening their understanding of this inclusive faith tradition.

Overview of The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide English E

The Pocket Guide is crafted to distill the essence of Unitarian Universalism (UU) into a manageable, easy-to-navigate format. Its primary goal is to provide a succinct yet rich snapshot of UU beliefs, history, practices, and community life. The "English E" designation indicates its focus on English-language content and linguistic accessibility, aiming to reach a broad audience across English-speaking regions.

Designed with portability in mind, the guide is usually small enough to fit in a pocket or purse, making it a handy reference for church members, visitors, or anyone curious about UU. Despite its size, it manages to pack in a wealth of information, including key principles, historical milestones, and suggestions for engagement.

Content and Structure

The guide is organized into several sections, each focusing on different aspects of Unitarian Universalism:

Core Principles and Values

This section outlines the Seven Principles and the Six Sources that form the foundation of UU beliefs. It provides brief explanations of each principle, emphasizing themes like justice, compassion, spiritual growth, and respect for diverse beliefs.

History and Origins

A condensed history traces the roots of UU from its 19th-century beginnings, highlighting influential figures, key movements, and milestones that shaped the modern denomination.

Practices and Rituals

Here, readers learn about common UU practices, including worship services, rituals, ceremonies, and community engagement. It emphasizes the diversity within UU practices, reflecting its inclusive philosophy.

Community and Engagement

This part discusses how to participate in UU communities, including local congregations, social

justice initiatives, and educational opportunities. It also offers guidance on becoming involved and fostering a sense of belonging.

Glossary and Resources

A helpful glossary explains key terms and concepts, while resource suggestions point readers toward further reading, websites, and organizations.

Strengths of The Pocket Guide

The guide's design and content offer several notable advantages:

- **Conciseness and Clarity:** Its brevity makes complex ideas accessible without oversimplification.
- **User-Friendly Layout:** Clear headings, bullet points, and summaries facilitate quick reference.
- **Inclusive Language:** The guide emphasizes the UU commitment to inclusivity and respect for diverse beliefs.
- **Practical Focus:** It offers tangible suggestions for engagement, making it valuable for newcomers seeking to participate actively.

Features

- Compact size for portability
- Visual aids such as icons or diagrams to clarify concepts
- Summaries of core beliefs and practices
- Glossary of pertinent terms
- Recommendations for further exploration

Limitations and Criticisms

Despite its many strengths, the Pocket Guide is not without limitations:

- **Lack of Depth:** Due to its size, it cannot delve deeply into complex theological or philosophical debates.
- **Simplification Risks:** Some nuanced aspects of UU history and beliefs may be oversimplified or glossed over.
- **Cultural Specificity:** While focusing on English language and contexts, it may not fully address the diversity of practices worldwide.
- **Static Content:** As UU evolves, the guide may require periodic updates to remain current.

Target Audience and Usage

The guide is particularly well-suited for:

- Individuals new to Unitarian Universalism
- Visitors attending UU services for the first time
- Educators and leaders seeking a quick overview
- Members seeking a portable refresher

It can be used in various settings: during introductory sessions, as a handout at events, or for personal study.

Comparison with Other Resources

Compared to larger books or detailed online articles, the Pocket Guide offers:

- Accessibility: Its small format makes it easier to carry and reference.
- Convenience: Quick to consult during conversations or planning.
- Limitations: Less comprehensive than full-length texts like *Unitarian Universalism: A Guide for the Curious* or *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide* editions.

However, it complements these more in-depth resources by serving as an entry point or quick reference.

Conclusion

The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide English E is a valuable tool for anyone seeking a concise yet informative overview of UU. Its strengths lie in its clarity, accessibility, and focus on core principles, making it an ideal starting point for newcomers and a handy reference for members. While it cannot replace comprehensive texts for in-depth study, its compact size and thoughtfully curated content make it an enduring resource for fostering understanding and engagement within the UU community. Whether carried in a pocket or kept on a bookshelf, this guide helps to demystify UU and invites more people to explore its inclusive, evolving spiritual landscape.

Question What is the Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide in English E? The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide in English E is a concise resource that provides an overview of Unitarian Universalist beliefs, history, principles, and practices, designed to be accessible and informative for members and those interested in the faith. **Answer** How can the Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide benefit new members? It offers new members a clear and straightforward introduction to UU values, history,

and community practices, helping them to understand and engage with the faith more effectively. What topics are typically covered in the Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide? The guide usually covers UU origins, core principles, religious diversity, ethical living, worship practices, and ways to get involved in the community. Is the Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide available in multiple languages? Yes, while the 'English E' edition refers to the English version, similar guides are often translated into various languages to reach a diverse global audience. Where can I find the latest edition of the Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide in English? You can find the latest edition through official UU websites, church bookstores, or online retailers specializing in religious and spiritual literature.

Related keywords: Unitarian Universalism, UU principles, spiritual beliefs, religious tolerance, faith community, liberal religion, social justice, religious diversity, UU history, spiritual practices

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