



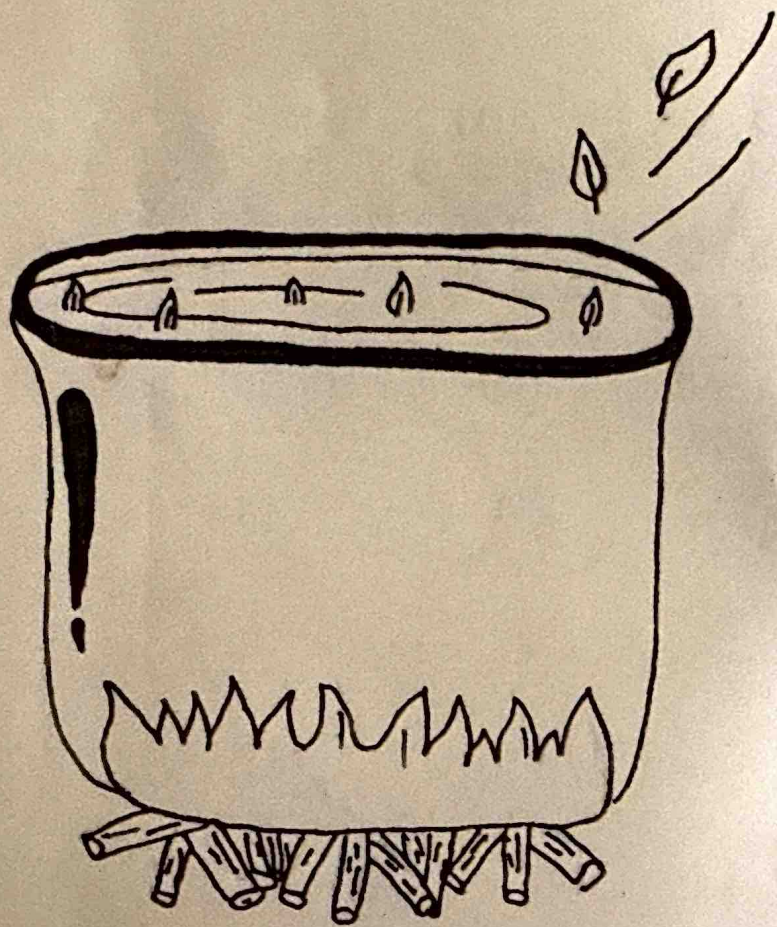
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Legendary origins of tea

The story of tea began in Ancient China more than 5000 years ago. According to the Chinese mythology tea began with Emperor Shen Nung.

One summer day while visiting a distant region of Shen Nung's kingdom he and his Court stopped to rest.

In accordance to his ruling, the servants began to boil water for all to drink. Some dried leaves from a nearby bush fell into the water and turned brownish.

The Emperor, being a scientist was interested and drank the infused water.



He found it refreshing. Legend says that the Emperor discovered tea's medicinal properties during his research.

CHA
is a chinese word.



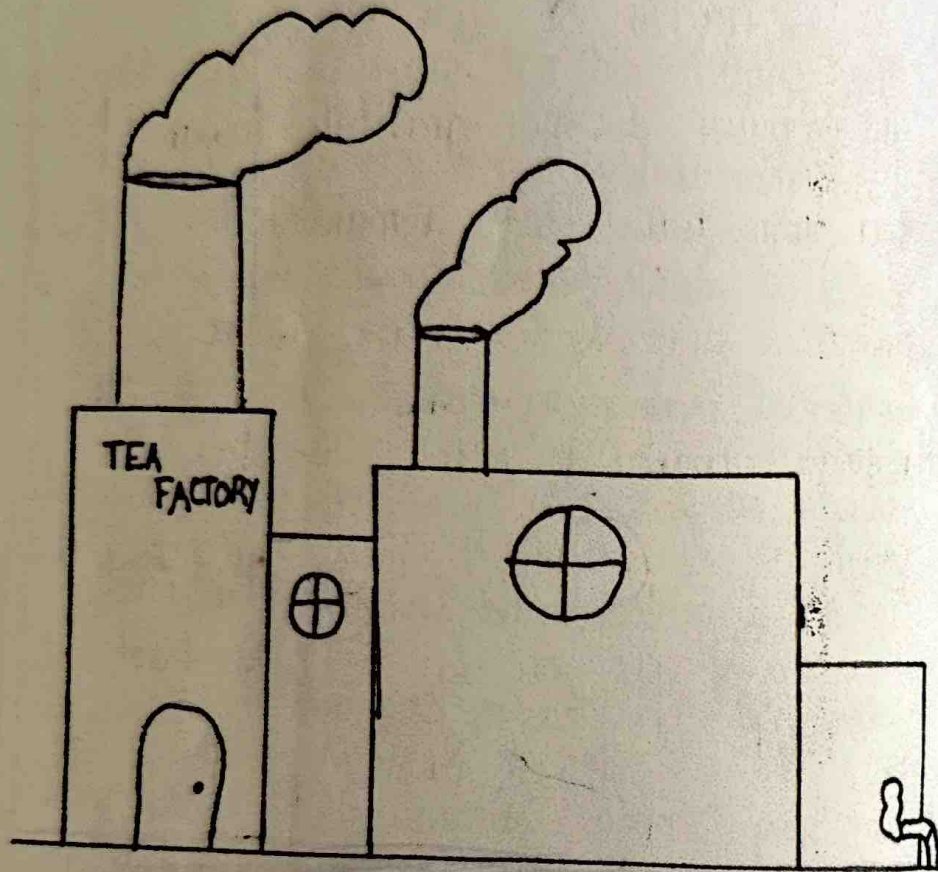
Japan

Around the early 9th century a Japanese Buddhist monk, Saicho, is credited with introducing tea to Japan. While studying in China, Saicho discovered tea and brought back seeds to grow at his monastery. Over time, other monks followed suit and soon small tea plantations sprouted. Tea's popularity in Japan did not blossom until thirteenth century. This powder was called MATCHA in Japan. The warlords of Japan would always pause to drink tea before going for battle.



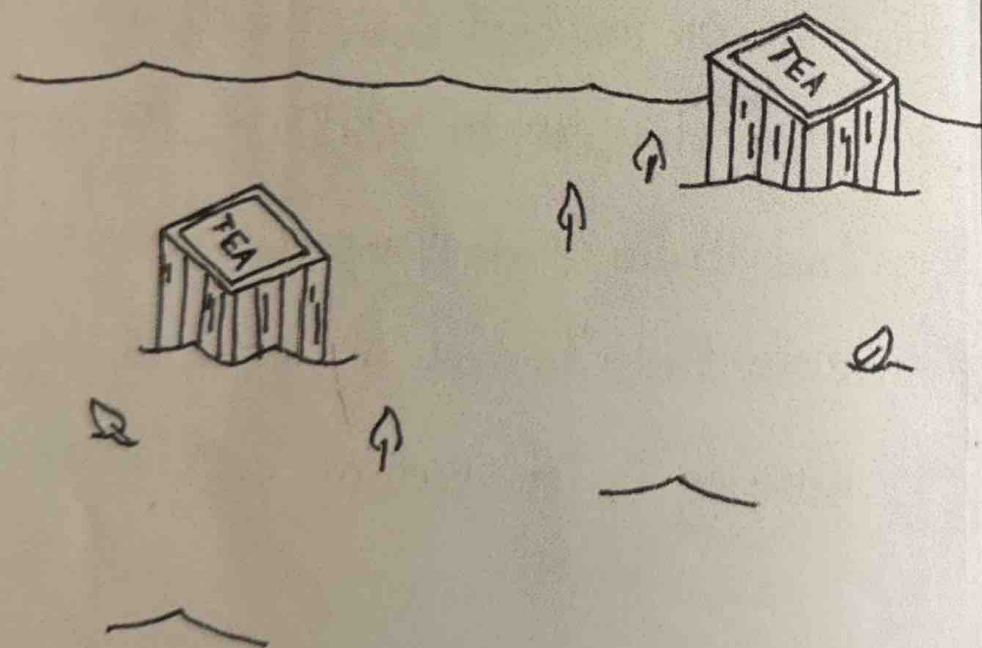
English ^{love} ♥ for tea

The English did not gravitate towards tea immediately. Coffee remained the preferred drink. Coffee houses were frequented mainly by men. The tea fad caught on slowly with women who perceived it as a genteel drink. In 1657, the first shop to sell tea in England opened, run by Thomas Garraway. The shop sold tea imported by the Dutch and contributed to the rise in its popularity in London's cafes and coffee houses. The drink gained further legitimacy when



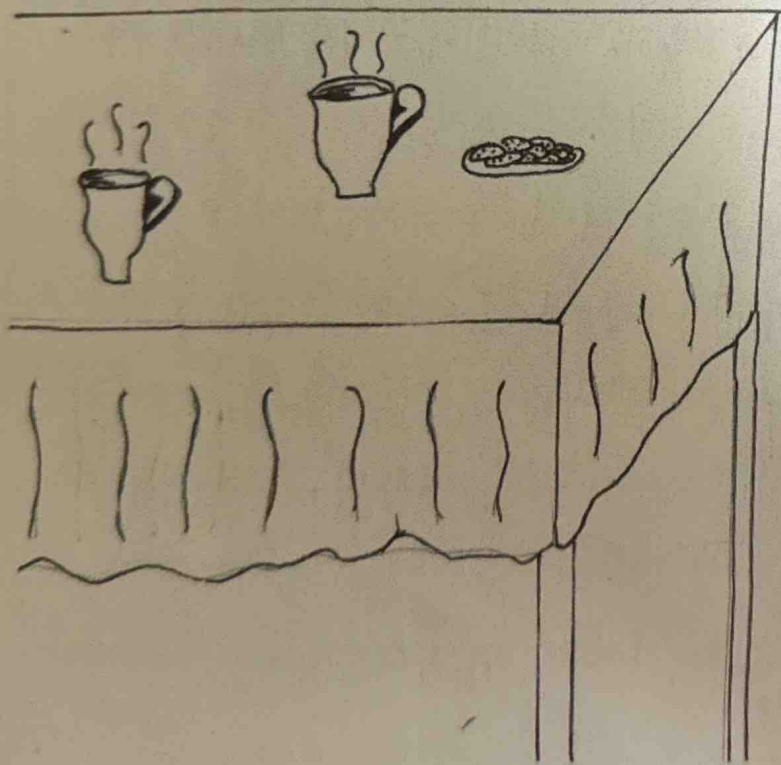
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Charles II married Catherine of Braganza, a Portuguese royal, who adored tea and introduced the concept of tea time to the court. Soon thereafter, a key competitor to the Dutch, the British East India Trade Company, established their first foothold in the East by securing a tea factory in Macao.



Like Europe, tea initially came to America in the mid-1600s by way of the Dutch settlement of new Amsterdam. The colony was captured by England in 1664 and renamed New York where the tea flourished amongst colonial women and wealthy colonists. At the same time, the British East India Company had persuaded the English Parliament to implement heavy taxes on tea by way of the Tea Act to bolster up their failing financial.

position. This allowed them to ship tea duty-free directly to the colonists and profit by excluding the colonial merchants. This created a tense political environment in America, resulting in dissent and the popularization of notion of "no taxation without representation" amongst the colonies. Political tensions came to a climax with the Boston Tea Party.



Tea in India

Robert Bruce discovered tea in the
Bramhaputra valley -1823.

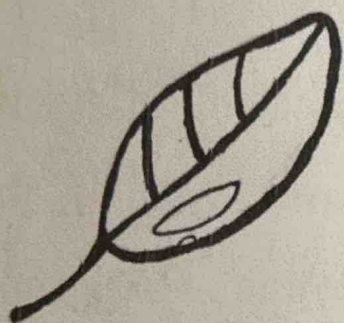
Long before the commercial production
of tea started in India in the
1830s, the tea plant was growing
wild in the jungles of North East
Assam. Then between 1823 and 1831,
Robert Bruce and his brother Charles
Bruce, employee of EAST INDIA
COMPANY confirmed that the tea
plant was indeed a native of
the Assam area. Seed and
specimen plants were sent to





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the newly established Botanical Garden of Kolkata. The company suddenly lost its monopoly in China and then woke up to the fact that India may prove a profitable alternative. The seeds were planted in the Botanical gardens, Kolkata, and matured until they were sturdy enough to travel a thousand miles to the newly prepared tea gardens. Meanwhile in Assam Charles Bruce and other pioneers were clearing suitable areas of land on which to



TEA

develop plantation and experimenting with the freshly plucked leaves.

The conditions were incredibly harsh.

Gradually the jungle was opened up to the best tea tracks cultivated,

under light shade of surrounding

trees. New seedlings were planted to fill

gaps and create true tea gardens. The

first 12 chests of manufactured tea

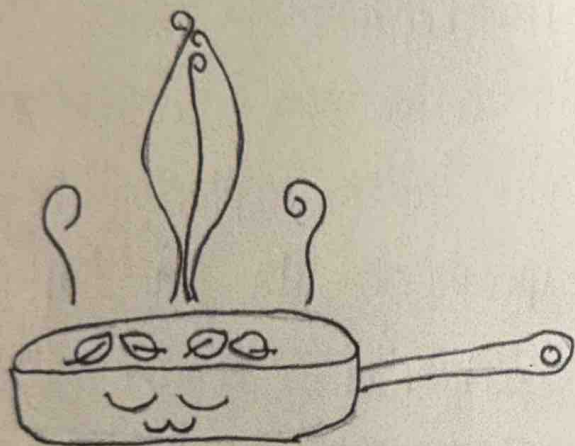
made from indigenous Assam leaf were

shipped to London in 1838.



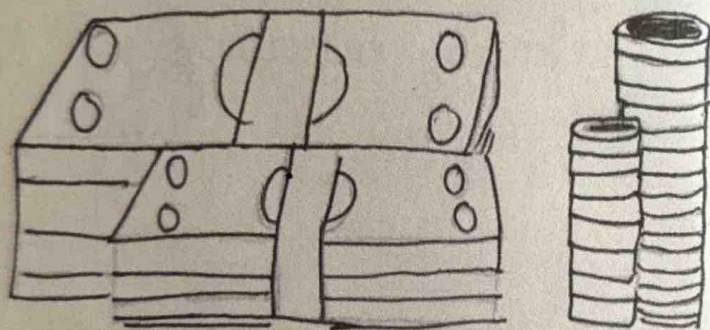
Nilgiris

South Indian tea was slow to take off because of the preoccupation with coffee. However, their coffee failed and the planters began to experiment with tea. Early experimentation of tea began in 1823. Tea plants, sent to the Nilgiris, were planted chiefly at the experimental farm at Ketti by Colonel. Crew and M. Perottet botanist. By the year 1840 sample of Nilgiris tea were sent by John Sullivan to the Madras Agri Horti



cultural society. The leaves had been withered in the open and fired in a frying pan, and it was pronounced excellent by enthusiasts who tasted it. Tea from the Nilgiris received popular acclaim in Great Britain.

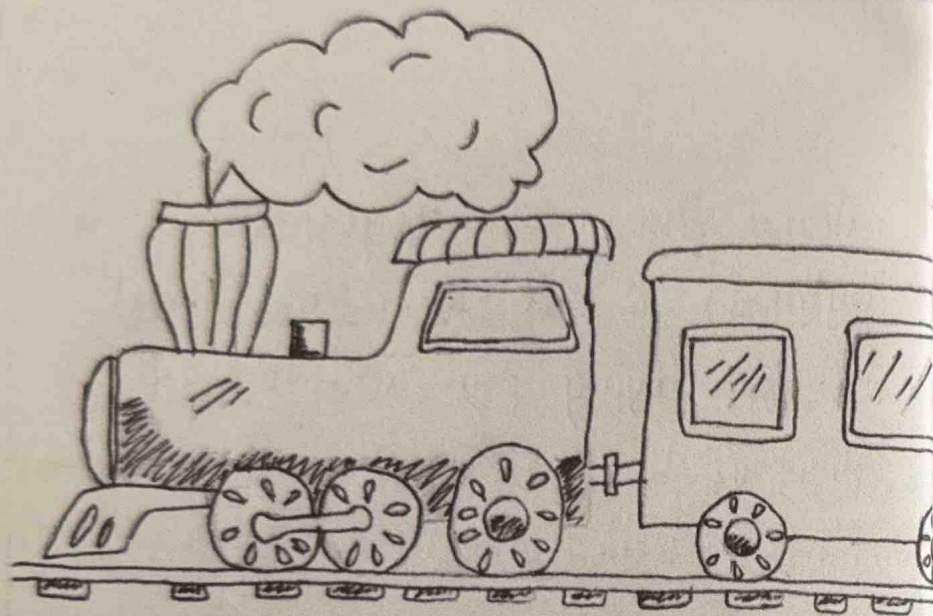
A small tea nursery was formed in the Chincona plantation in Doddabetta. Tea in the Nilgiris was here to stay. Credit of Nilgiris tea goes to Mr. Mann. He got a supply of tea plants



Boston tea party

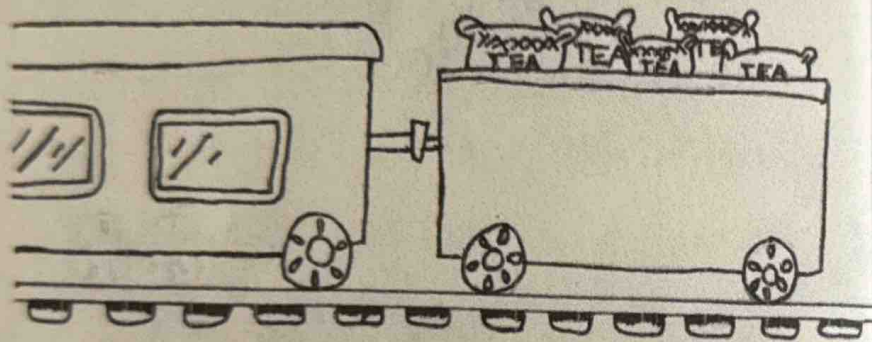
from the finest plantation in China in 1854, and planted them on a peice of land in Coonoor now called the Coonoor tea estate. The earliest tea estate in the Nilgiris were Dunsun Dale estate, Thai shola estate and Bell mount estate. Tea soon emerged as the main state of the economy of the nilgiris.

Nilgiris tea plantation

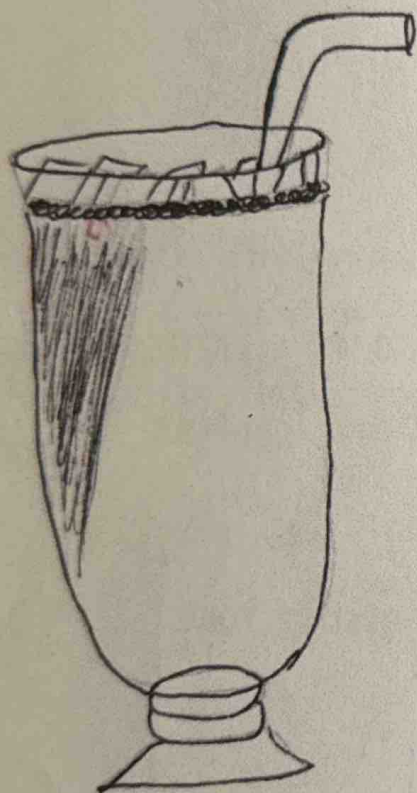


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The Nilgiri mountain rail way (NMR) provided the link between the same plantation in the Nilgiris and the rest of the world. The tea garden express was a special train launched to transport tea chests of Mettupalayam to Kochin and the train functions even today. This marked an important step in evolution of the tea industries in the tea of Nilgiris.

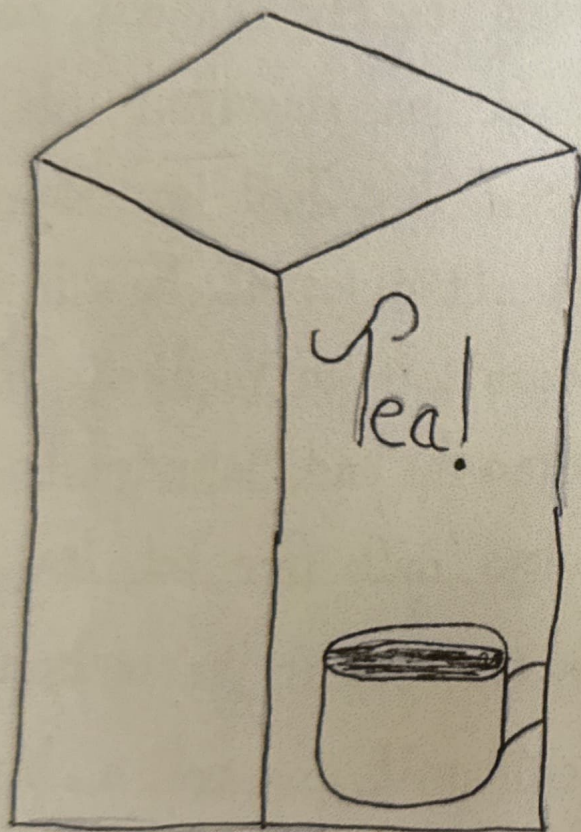


Rail connectivity facilitated quicker and safer transport of tea to auction centres in London ensuring the planters a more remunerative rate.



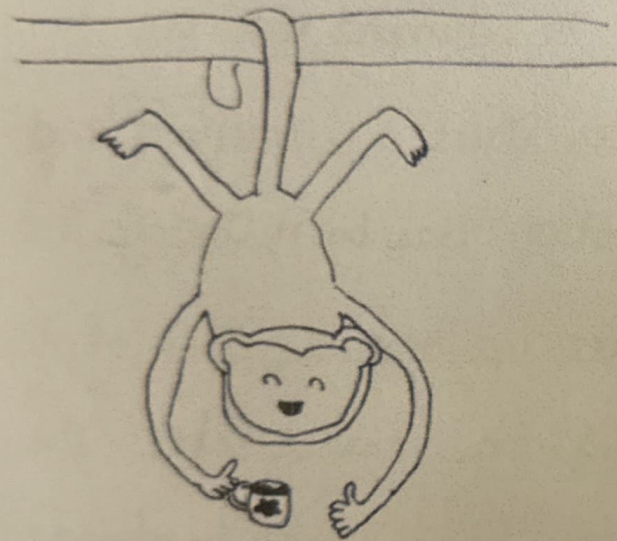
America

During the 19th century, tea drinking played an important role in social life. Iced tea originated at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. A tea merchant from abroad had intended to provide visitors with free hot tea samples. However, due to the unusually hot weather, it was not a big hit. To promote sales, he asked a



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nearby ice cream vendor for some ice, which he dumped into the brewed tea. Thus the American iced tea tradition was born. Today, iced tea makes up around 80% of the entire U.S. tea market sales. The original tea bags were handmade, hand stitched, muslin or silk bags, handcrafted, and in artisan tea pouches.

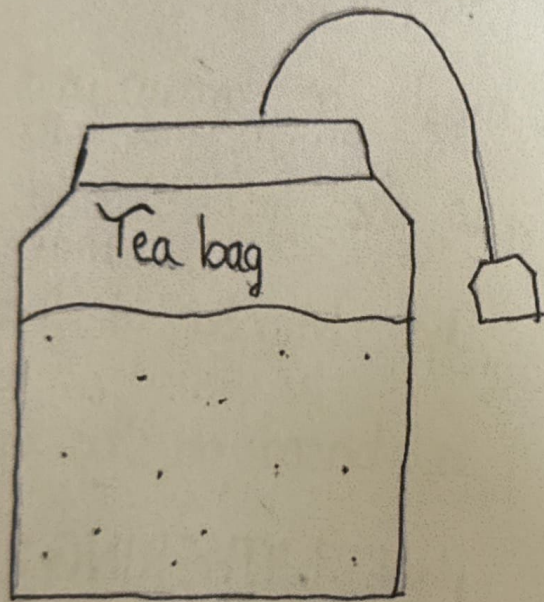


A cup of tea makes
me naughty!

Process of tea making

GROWING: *Camellia sinensis* plants must be grown and harvested as the first step in making tea.

The character of the tea leaf is based on the location of the plant. **WITHERING:** The withering process reduces the water content in the leaf by half.



BRUISING: The leaves are rolled, twisted or otherwise crushed to produce a consistent batch of tea.

OXIDISING: The leaves are then left to oxidize or turn brown.

This process is the primary factor between different styles of tea.



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