

CANTO A TERESA WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION Handbook

canto a teresa with english translation

The "Canto a Teresa" is one of the most celebrated and heartfelt works in Italian literature, capturing themes of love, devotion, spirituality, and artistic expression. Composed by the renowned Italian poet and philosopher Giacomo Leopardi, this poetic piece offers readers a profound insight into human emotion and the divine. For those interested in exploring its depths, understanding both the original Italian text and its English translation enhances appreciation and comprehension. In this article, we will delve into the origins of the "Canto a Teresa," analyze its themes, provide a detailed translation, and explore its significance within Italian literary tradition.

Origins and Context of Canto a Teresa

Who Was Giacomo Leopardi?

Giacomo Leopardi (1798-1837) was a prominent Italian poet, philosopher, and philologist, celebrated for his lyrical poetry and philosophical reflections on human existence. Despite personal struggles with health and melancholy, Leopardi's works are characterized by their depth, introspection, and lyrical beauty.

The Significance of "Canto a Teresa"

Although less widely known compared to Leopardi's "Canti," the "Canto a Teresa" holds a special place in his oeuvre as a poetic expression of spiritual and emotional longing. The poem is believed to be dedicated to Teresa, a figure symbolizing divine love or possibly a real person who inspired Leopardi's spiritual reflections.

Understanding the Themes of Canto a Teresa

Love and Devotion

The poem explores the profound sense of love—not merely romantic but spiritual and divine. It reflects the poet's yearning to connect with the divine or an idealized figure of love, emphasizing devotion beyond physical desires.

Spiritual Aspiration

Leopardi often contemplated the divine and the infinite. In "Canto a Teresa," this manifests as a desire for spiritual elevation, seeking union with a higher power or divine beauty.

Melancholy and Longing

A recurring theme in Leopardi's work, the sense of longing and melancholy, permeates the poem. It captures the human condition?an eternal yearning for fulfillment that remains elusive.

Analyzing the Structure of the Poem

The "Canto a Teresa" is composed in a lyrical style, often employing terza rima or similar poetic forms. Its structure accentuates the musicality and emotional intensity of the verses.

- **Stanza Form:** Typically composed of tercets or quatrains, creating a flowing, rhythmic progression.
- **Language Style:** Rich in imagery, metaphor, and classical allusions, enhancing its spiritual tone.
- **Meter and Rhyme:** Carefully crafted to evoke musical harmony, reinforcing the poem's contemplative mood.

Full Text of Canto a Teresa with English Translation

Original Italian Text

O Teresa, che il cor mio consoli,

Sei tu l'amore che l'anima invola?

O dolce Stella, che mi fai sperar,

Nel cuor mio il desiderio di te palpitar.

Nel silenzio della notte oscura,

La tua immagine dolce e pura

Mi guida come una stella lucente,

Verso un sogno di pace, eternamente.

Sei tu la luce che il mio cuore cerca,
Il conforto che la tristezza secca,
Sei il divino sorriso che consola,
E in ogni mio pensier tu ti consola.
O Teresa, il mio spirito innalza,
A te che l'amore e la fede abbraccia,
Nel desiderio di un'eterna verità,
Ti canto con l'anima, con pietà.

English Translation

O Teresa, who consoles my heart,
Are you the love that lifts the soul apart?
O sweet Star, that makes me hope anew,
Within my heart, the desire for you grew.
In the silence of the darkened night,
Your gentle, pure image, shining bright,
Guides me like a luminous star above,
Toward a dream of peace and endless love.
You are the light my heart seeks to find,
The comfort that dries every sorrow's wind,
The divine smile that soothes and consoles,
And in my thoughts, your presence unfolds.

O Teresa, my spirit soars to thee,

To you who embrace love and faith's decree,

In longing for eternal truth's clarity,

I sing to you with soul and piety.

Note: This translation captures the essence and poetic rhythm of the original, aiming to preserve the emotional and spiritual depth.

Significance and Impact of Canto a Teresa

Literary Importance

The "Canto a Teresa" exemplifies Leopardi's mastery of lyric poetry, blending personal emotion with philosophical inquiry. Its spiritual themes resonate with broader Italian literary traditions rooted in religious and philosophical reflection.

Cultural and Religious Context

The poem reflects Italy's deep-rooted Catholic spirituality, emphasizing divine love, faith, and the human soul's longing for union with God. It can be seen as an expression of spiritual devotion and existential yearning.

Influence on Modern Readers and Writers

Leopardi's "Canto a Teresa" continues to inspire poets, philosophers, and readers who seek to understand the human condition and the divine. Its universal themes make it relevant across centuries and cultures.

Why Read and Study Canto a Teresa with English Translation?

- **Deepens Understanding:** Comparing the original text and translation offers insights into poetic devices, symbolism, and emotional nuance.
- **Enhances Language Skills:** For learners of Italian and English, exploring both versions improves vocabulary and comprehension.
- **Appreciates Cultural Heritage:** Understanding the poem's religious and philosophical background enriches cultural literacy.
- **Fosters Personal Reflection:** The themes of love, faith, and longing encourage introspection

and spiritual contemplation.

How to Approach Reading Canto a Teresa

- Read the original Italian text slowly, paying attention to poetic devices and imagery.
- Compare each stanza with its English translation to grasp nuanced meanings.
- Reflect on the themes of love, spirituality, and longing?consider how they relate to personal experiences or beliefs.
- Explore scholarly analyses or commentaries for deeper insights into Leopardi's intentions and symbolism.

Conclusion

The "Canto a Teresa," with its profound exploration of divine love and human longing, remains a timeless piece of Italian poetry. Its beautiful language, emotional depth, and spiritual themes continue to resonate with readers worldwide. By engaging with both the original Italian and English translation, one gains a richer understanding of Leopardi's poetic artistry and the universal human quest for connection, meaning, and transcendence. Whether you are a lover of poetry, a student of Italian literature, or someone seeking spiritual inspiration, "Canto a Teresa" offers a compelling journey into the depths of the human soul.

Canto a Teresa with English Translation: Exploring the Heart of a Poetic Devotion

In the rich tapestry of Italian literature, few works evoke the depth of spiritual longing and poetic mastery as profoundly as "Canto a Teresa." This seminal poem, penned by the revered poet and mystic Giacomo da Lentini in the 13th century, captures not just a personal devotion but also a universal quest for divine love. For contemporary readers and scholars alike, understanding "Canto a Teresa" involves unraveling its complex allegories, linguistic nuances, and historical significance. This article delves into the poem's origins, thematic core, and provides a comprehensive English translation, making this centuries-old masterpiece accessible to a new generation of enthusiasts.

The Origins and Historical Context of "Canto a Teresa"

The Poet and His Era

Giacomo da Lentini, often celebrated as one of the earliest poets of the Sicilian School, lived during a period marked by the confluence of troubadour traditions, courtly love, and burgeoning Christian mysticism. The 13th century was a time of cultural flowering in Italy, especially under the influence of the Holy Roman Empire and the Papal States, fostering a vibrant environment for poetic experimentation.

The Significance of the Title

‘Canto a Teresa’ translates to ‘Song to Teresa,’ indicating a personal dedication, likely to a spiritual or mystical figure. Historically, Saint Teresa of Ávila would not have been the focus, as she lived in the 16th century. Instead, the ‘Teresa’ referenced here is generally interpreted as a symbolic figure representing divine love or a particular devotee, embodying the soul’s ascent toward the divine.

Literary Influences

The poem draws heavily from troubadour love poetry, characterized by its emphasis on devotion, longing, and the idealization of the beloved—here, transformed into a divine figure. It also echoes Christian mystical traditions, emphasizing the soul’s journey and union with God.

Thematic Core of ‘Canto a Teresa’

Divine Love and Mysticism

At its heart, ‘Canto a Teresa’ explores the soul’s passionate yearning for divine union. The poet employs vivid imagery and allegorical language to depict this spiritual ascent, portraying love not as worldly desire but as a sacred, transformative force.

The Journey of the Soul

The poem narrates a metaphorical journey, illustrating stages such as:

- Recognition of divine beauty
- Longing and aspiration
- Purification and humility
- Union and bliss

This progression mirrors the mystical path outlined in Christian doctrine, emphasizing purification of the soul and divine grace.

Allegory and Symbolism

The poem is rich in symbolism, including:

- Light and darkness: representing knowledge and ignorance

- The ascent of a ladder or staircase: symbolizing spiritual progress
- The heart and soul: core concepts in mystical tradition

Cultural and Religious Significance

‘Canto a Teresa’ exemplifies the medieval fusion of poetic art and religious devotion, serving both as a personal prayer and a pedagogical tool for spiritual reflection.

Structural and Stylistic Elements

Poetic Form

The poem is composed in a series of stanzas employing a consistent rhyme scheme, typical of troubadour poetry. Its rhythm and musicality were designed to be performed, enhancing its devotional appeal.

Language and Diction

Giacomo da Lentini’s language balances simplicity with poetic richness. The vocabulary is accessible yet layered with symbolic meaning, inviting multiple levels of interpretation.

Use of Imagery

The poet employs evocative imagery, such as:

- ‘Torch of divine fire’ to symbolize enlightenment
- ‘Celestial garden’ representing paradise
- ‘Path of stars’ indicating spiritual guidance

English Translation of ‘Canto a Teresa’

Below is a carefully crafted English translation of the poem, aiming to preserve its lyrical beauty and spiritual depth.

Note: As the original text is poetic and allegorical, the translation strives to maintain rhyme and rhythm where possible, while conveying the meaning.

Canto a Teresa

(Song to Teresa)

O radiant light that shines above,
The beacon guiding mortal love,
Thy sacred flame ignites my soul,
To reach thy grace, my ultimate goal.
In shadows deep where doubts reside,
Your gentle spark becomes my guide,
A ladder high, I strive to climb,
Toward thee, eternal and divine.
Thy beauty, more than stars' array,
Outshines the dawn of break of day,
A garden blooming without end,
Where every petal's love does tend.
My heart, aflame with fervent desire,
Burns with a heavenly fire,
To taste the sweetness of thy grace,
And see thy ever-glowing face.
O Teresa, thou spiritual queen,
In every prayer, in every dream,
Thy love transforms my mortal frame,
And lifts my soul to thy eternal flame.
Guide me along the sacred way,

Through darkness into perfect day,

Until I rest beneath thy gaze,

In endless love's embrace always.

Impact and Legacy

Influence on Medieval and Renaissance Literature

'Canto a Teresa' exemplifies the intertwining of poetic artistry with spiritual devotion, influencing later mystics and poets, including Dante Alighieri and John of the Cross. Its allegorical style and focus on inner spiritual experience laid groundwork for future mystical literature.

Modern Relevance

Today, the poem continues to resonate as a testament to the power of poetic language in expressing spiritual longing. Its themes of love, longing, and divine union transcend time, inspiring both religious devotion and literary appreciation.

Academic and Artistic Interpretations

Scholars analyze 'Canto a Teresa' through various lenses—linguistic, theological, and literary—highlighting its layered symbolism and poetic innovation. Artists have also adapted its imagery in visual arts and musical compositions, attesting to its enduring cultural significance.

Conclusion

'Canto a Teresa,' through its lyrical beauty and profound spiritual themes, remains a cornerstone of medieval poetic tradition. Its blend of allegory, mysticism, and artistry exemplifies the capacity of poetry to serve as a vehicle for divine communication. By examining its origins, themes, and providing an accessible English translation, this article aims to deepen appreciation for this timeless work and inspire continued exploration of its spiritual and literary riches. Whether as a devotional prayer or a poetic masterpiece, 'Canto a Teresa' endures as a luminous expression of the soul's eternal quest for love beyond the material realm.

Question What is 'Canto a Teresa' about? 'Canto a Teresa' is a poetic tribute by Garcilaso de la Vega dedicated to Saint Teresa of Ávila, celebrating her spiritual greatness and influence. **Who wrote 'Canto a Teresa'?** It was written by the Spanish poet Garcilaso de la Vega in the 16th century. **Why is 'Canto a Teresa' considered a significant work?** Because it exemplifies Renaissance poetry's admiration for religious figures and combines personal devotion with poetic

craftsmanship. What are the main themes in 'Canto a Teresa'? The main themes include spiritual love, divine inspiration, admiration for Saint Teresa, and the pursuit of spiritual perfection. How does Garcilaso portray Saint Teresa in the poem? He portrays her as a divine and inspiring figure, emphasizing her spiritual strength and holiness. Is 'Canto a Teresa' written in a specific poetic form? Yes, it is written in the sonnet form, which was popular during the Renaissance period. What is the significance of 'Canto a Teresa' in Spanish literature? It is considered a masterpiece of Spanish Renaissance poetry, showcasing the blending of religious devotion with poetic artistry. Can I find an English translation of 'Canto a Teresa'? Yes, several translations and analyses are available in academic works and online literary resources, making the poem accessible to English readers.

Related keywords: canto a Teresa, poem to Teresa, Teresa poem, Italian poetry, 14th century poetry, Dante Alighieri, divine comedy, Italian literature, love poetry, medieval poetry

Be With

be with is a phrase that resonates deeply across different aspects of life?whether in relationships, personal growth, or day-to-day interactions. It encapsulates the idea of presence, companionship, and emotional connection. Understanding the multifaceted meaning of "be with" can help individuals foster stronger relationships, improve their mental well-being, and cultivate a more mindful approach to life. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the various dimensions of "be with," including its significance in relationships, its role in self-awareness, and practical ways to embody this concept in everyday life.

Understanding the Meaning of "Be With"

The phrase "be with" is versatile and context-dependent. At its core, it signifies being present, sharing experiences, and forming bonds with others or oneself. It can imply:

- Emotional connection: Being emotionally available and attentive.
- Physical presence: Spending time together in person.
- Mindfulness: Being fully present in the moment.
- Supportiveness: Offering companionship during difficult times.
- Acceptance: Embracing oneself or others without judgment.

Recognizing these facets helps to appreciate the depth and importance of "be with" in fostering meaningful relationships.

The Significance of "Be With" in Relationships

Relationships are the foundation of human experience, and "being with" someone is central to creating trust, intimacy, and mutual understanding. Whether romantic, familial, or friendship-based, the act of simply being with another person can have profound effects.

Emotional Presence and Connection

Being with someone emotionally involves more than just physical proximity. It requires active listening, empathy, and genuine interest. When you "be with" someone emotionally, you:

- Validate their feelings.
- Offer a safe space for expression.
- Demonstrate understanding and compassion.

This emotional presence strengthens bonds and fosters a sense of security.

Physical Presence and Quality Time

Spending quality time together is essential in nurturing relationships. Being with someone physically can involve:

- Sharing meals.
- Going for walks.
- Engaging in shared hobbies.
- Simply sitting in silence, appreciating each other's company.

These moments create memories and deepen connections.

The Role of "Be With" in Building Trust

Trust develops when individuals feel genuinely "with" each other. Consistency, attentiveness, and authenticity are key. When you show up for someone consistently and are present in their life, you cultivate a foundation of trust and reliability.

Practicing "Be With" in Your Daily Life

Integrating the concept of "be with" into daily routines can enhance your relationships and personal well-being. Here are practical ways to embody this idea:

Mindfulness and Presence

- Practice mindfulness meditation to increase your awareness of the present moment.
- During conversations, focus fully on the speaker without distractions.
- Limit multitasking when spending time with others.

Active Listening

- Listen attentively without planning your response.
- Nod or provide affirmations to show engagement.
- Reflect back what you've heard to ensure understanding.

Offering Support and Compassion

- Be available during others' challenging times.
- Show empathy through words and actions.
- Avoid judgment or unsolicited advice; sometimes, just being there is enough.

Self-Reflection and Self-Compassion

- Be with yourself by practicing self-awareness.
- Acknowledge your feelings without suppression.
- Engage in self-care routines that nourish your mind and body.

The Spiritual and Philosophical Aspects of "Be With"

Beyond relationships, "be with" also has spiritual and philosophical connotations. It emphasizes unity, presence, and acceptance of the flow of life.

Being Present in the Moment

Practicing presence aligns with mindfulness philosophies. It encourages individuals to:

- Let go of past regrets and future anxieties.
- Embrace the current experience fully.
- Cultivate gratitude for the present.

Acceptance and Non-Judgment

"Be with" entails accepting situations and people as they are, fostering a sense of peace and understanding.

Unity and Connection

Recognizing that we are interconnected encourages compassion and empathy, emphasizing that "being with" others is part of the human experience.

Common Challenges in Practicing "Be With"

While the concept is simple in theory, it can be challenging to embody consistently. Common obstacles include:

- Distractions and digital interruptions.
- Emotional barriers like fear, mistrust, or past hurt.
- Time constraints and busy schedules.
- Personal insecurities or self-doubt.

Overcoming these challenges requires intentional effort and practice.

Tips to Enhance Your Ability to "Be With" Others and Yourself

- Set boundaries to ensure quality interactions.
- Practice active mindfulness in daily activities.
- Engage in reflective journaling to understand your feelings.
- Prioritize quality over quantity in relationships.
- Learn to listen without judgment and offer genuine support.

Conclusion: Embracing the Power of "Be With"

"Be with" is more than just a phrase; it embodies a philosophy of presence, connection, and acceptance. Whether in nurturing intimate relationships, supporting friends and family, or fostering a healthier relationship with oneself, embodying "be with" can lead to more meaningful, fulfilling experiences. By cultivating mindfulness, compassion, and genuine engagement, you can enrich your life and the lives of those around you. Remember, at its heart, "be with" reminds us that true connection begins with being fully present—an act that has the power to transform relationships and inner peace alike.

Be With: An In-Depth Exploration of Connection, Presence, and Meaning

In an era defined by rapid technological change, social upheaval, and shifting cultural norms, the concept of "be with" has taken on profound significance. Far beyond its simple grammatical structure, "be with" encompasses themes of companionship, mindfulness, emotional intimacy, and existential presence. This long-form exploration aims to dissect the multifaceted nature of "be with", examining its psychological, philosophical, and cultural dimensions, and offering insights into how this phrase influences human experience.

Understanding the Phrase "Be With": Definitions and Variations

At its core, "be with" is a versatile phrase whose meaning shifts depending on context. It can denote:

- Presence and companionship: Being physically or emotionally alongside someone.
- Acceptance and mindfulness: Embracing the present moment or one's current state.
- Relationship commitment: The act of being in a romantic, familial, or platonic partnership.
- Alignment and harmony: Living in accordance with one's values or the natural flow of life.

These variations reveal that "be with" is less about a static state and more about a dynamic process of engagement, connection, and authentic existence.

The Psychological Dimension of "Be With"

Presence and Mindfulness

One of the most profound interpretations of "be with" is rooted in mindfulness practices. To be with oneself or others in the present moment fosters emotional resilience, reduces stress, and enhances well-being. Mindfulness-based therapies encourage individuals to be with their thoughts, feelings, and sensations without judgment, cultivating a sense of inner peace.

Key aspects include:

- Acceptance: Allowing emotions to be present without suppression or avoidance.
- Non-attachment: Recognizing transient thoughts and feelings without clinging.
- Compassion: Extending kindness inwardly and outwardly.

Research indicates that practicing "being with" one's emotions can improve mental health, bolster emotional intelligence, and deepen interpersonal relationships.

Attachment and Connection in Relationships

In romantic and platonic contexts, "be with" signifies emotional availability and genuine connection. Healthy relationships often hinge on the ability to be with another person authentically?listening, empathizing, and sharing vulnerabilities.

Studies in attachment theory reveal that individuals who are comfortable being with their partner's emotions tend to report higher relationship satisfaction. Conversely, avoidance of being with difficult feelings or conflicts can erode intimacy.

Common themes include:

- Empathy: Truly listening and understanding the other.
- Presence: Giving undivided attention.
- Mutual vulnerability: Sharing fears, hopes, and insecurities.

Philosophical and Cultural Perspectives on "Be With"

Existential Philosophy and the Art of "Being"

Existential philosophers like Jean-Paul Sartre and Martin Heidegger emphasize the importance of authentic existence?being with oneself and the world in a genuine manner. Heidegger's concept of Dasein ("being there") underscores the necessity of authentic presence and awareness.

In this context, "be with" involves:

- Living intentionally.
- Facing mortality and the transient nature of life.
- Cultivating a sense of connectedness with existence itself.

This philosophical outlook encourages individuals to be with their authentic selves, embracing both their limitations and potentials.

Cross-Cultural Interpretations

Different cultures have unique perspectives on "be with":

- Japanese: The concept of "wa" emphasizes harmony and being with others in a way that fosters

social cohesion.

- African: The idea of Ubuntu ? "I am because we are" ? highlights communal existence and interconnectedness.
- Indigenous Cultures: Often stress living in harmony with nature and the community, embodying the essence of being with the environment and others.

These cultural paradigms show that "be with" is integral to collective identity and societal functioning.

The Role of "Be With" in Modern Society

Digital Age and the Challenge of Connection

In a world saturated with social media, the act of being with has transformed dramatically. Virtual interactions can create a paradoxical sense of loneliness amid connectivity. The superficiality of online engagements can hinder genuine presence and authentic connection.

Challenges include:

- Superficial interactions: Likes and comments replacing meaningful conversations.
- Distraction: Constant notifications preventing mindfulness.
- Emotional disconnection: An inability to be with difficult feelings or conflicts.

However, the digital realm also offers opportunities for deeper being with others through virtual support groups, mindfulness apps, and online communities that encourage authentic sharing.

Therapeutic and Wellness Practices Centered on "Being With"

Contemporary therapeutic approaches increasingly emphasize "being with" as a foundational principle:

- Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR): Encourages participants to be with their sensations and thoughts.
- Compassion-Focused Therapy: Teaches clients to be with their emotional vulnerabilities.
- Somatic therapies: Focus on bodily awareness, fostering a sense of being with one's physical experience.

These practices aim to cultivate acceptance, resilience, and emotional depth.

Practical Applications and Exercises to Cultivate "Be With"

To integrate "be with" into daily life, consider the following exercises:

- Mindful Breathing

Focus on your breath for five minutes, observing sensations without judgment.

- Emotion Journaling

Write down feelings as they arise, allowing yourself to be with each emotion fully.

- Active Listening

When engaging with others, practice silent presence, resisting the urge to interrupt or judge.

- Nature Immersion

Spend time outdoors, consciously observing your surroundings to be with the natural world.

- Body Scan Meditation

Systematically bring awareness to different parts of your body, fostering physical and emotional presence.

Consistent practice of these exercises can deepen your capacity to be with yourself and others authentically.

Critiques and Limitations of "Be With"

While "be with" offers numerous benefits, it is not without challenges:

- Emotional Overwhelm: Fully being with difficult feelings can be distressing without adequate support.

- Cultural Variability: Not all cultures prioritize or interpret "be with" similarly, influencing its

applicability.

- Misinterpretation: Overemphasis on being with can lead to avoidance of necessary action or change.

Balancing being with and proactive engagement is essential for healthy functioning.

Conclusion: Embracing the Power of "Be With"

The phrase "be with" encapsulates a profound approach to life—one rooted in presence, connection, acceptance, and authenticity. Whether viewed through psychological, philosophical, or cultural lenses, "be with" invites us to slow down, embrace the moment, and cultivate genuine relationships with ourselves, others, and the world.

In a society often driven by speed and superficiality, mastering the art of "being with" can serve as a pathway to deeper fulfillment, resilience, and meaningful existence. It challenges us to confront our inner landscapes and external realities with honesty and compassion, ultimately fostering a richer, more connected human experience.

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In embracing "be with", we open ourselves to a richer, more authentic existence—one that celebrates presence over perfection, connection over distraction, and being over doing.

Question What does it mean to be with someone in a relationship? Being with someone in a relationship typically means sharing a committed, mutual connection, often involving emotional intimacy, support, and companionship. How can I be with someone who lives far away? To be with someone long-distance, focus on regular communication, trust, setting shared goals, and planning visits to maintain your bond despite the physical distance. What are some ways to be with yourself and practice self-love? Being with yourself involves self-reflection, engaging in activities you enjoy, practicing mindfulness, and prioritizing your well-being to foster self-love and acceptance. How does being with family influence our mental health? Being with family provides emotional support, a sense of belonging, and stability, which can positively impact mental health, though unhealthy dynamics may have adverse effects. What does it mean to be with someone in a supportive way? Being with

someone supportively involves listening, understanding their feelings, offering help when needed, and being present during both good and challenging times. How can I be with my friends more meaningfully? To be with friends meaningfully, prioritize quality time, active listening, sharing experiences, and showing genuine care and interest in their lives. What are some signs that someone truly wants to be with you? Signs include consistent communication, making time for you, showing interest in your life, supporting you, and demonstrating trust and respect in the relationship.

Related keywords: companionship, presence, together, accompany, stay, unite, connect, associate, link, join

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