



Al-Ma'rifa
INSTITUTE

PROSPECTUS

2024-2025

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ABOUT AL-MA'RIFA

We're nurturing a community of intellectually and spiritually empowered Muslims who are rooted in the timeless teachings of the Muhammadan way.

We are Al-Ma'rifa institute - an online traditional Islamic education provider. We serve the ever-growing intellectual and spiritual needs of the Muslim community.

We equip Muslim students with transformative knowledge, connecting them to classical Islamic scholarship in a way that is contextually relevant.

We stand with our students at every stage of their intellectual and spiritual journeys by empowering them with the knowledge and skills required to process and navigate the modern age through a Prophetic lens.

Together, we're creating a community which is imbued with a deep love of Prophetic guidance, a desire to embody it, and a firm resolution to convey it to others.

Al-Ma'rifa makes classical knowledge accessible, enriching lives, strengthening faith, and helping Muslims walk the Prophetic path.

OUR PATRON

Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri

“Ours is a way of knowledge, truth, purity and service. All one’s spiritual affairs and needs are taken care of when one walks this path. Desire only to be desireless. Seek to be such that you seek nothing...”



Al-Ma’rifa Institute has been established under the direct guidance, careful supervision and loving gaze of the erudite scholar and sage of our age, Shaykh ul-Islam Dr. Muhammad Tahir ul-Qadri.

The Shaykh is a remnant and custodian of the classical age of Islamic scholarship. He combines outward expertise of the rational and transmitted sciences with inward mastery of spiritual realities, an encyclopaedic knowledge with an angelic presence, and eloquence of speech with a serene soul that permeates everything in his environment.

Shaykh ul-Islam was raised under the visionary guidance and tutelage of his father, the polymath Shaykh Dr. Fariduddin Qadri, a graduate of Firangi Mahal - one of the oldest & most prestigious seats of classical learning in the Subcontinent. He assiduously gave himself to the study of classical works in Arabic grammar, literature, rhetoric, logic, law, legal theory, spirituality and other disciplines for over 15 formative years. He went on to master the most advanced texts in classical disciplines, reading canonical works of Hadith and attaining licences to narrate them from several Hadith masters including Shaykh Sardar Ahmad al-Qadri, Shaykh Sayyid Abul Barakat Alwari and Shaykh Ahmad Sa’id Kazimi.

Shaykh ul-Islam has continued this way of life to this very day. Now in his seventies, he spends 12 to 16 hours a day studying, researching, writing, counselling, and serving the intellectual and spiritual needs of people across the globe.

Shaykh ul-Islam is a master educationalist. He is a Murabbi, nurturing hearts, souls, and minds, and transforming millions of people across the world by empowering them to lead spiritually fulfilling lives through the sacred knowledge tradition of Islam. He is an embodiment of Prophetic concern, endlessly contemplating the state of the Umma and its needs, while planning projects to revive the principles and ideals of the Muhammadan Way. Al-Ma’rifa Institute is but one of his dreams.

OUR TEACHERS



Bilal Hussain

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Bilal Hussain has been studying and sharing classical Islamic knowledge for over a decade, translating classical texts, designing curricula and delivering courses. He has been blessed to benefit from the company, guidance and teachings of several sages of our age, at the head of whom are the likes of the polymath, Shaykh ul-Islam Dr. Muhammad Tahir ul-Qadri, and the late Hadith master of Alexandria, Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abdul Ba'ith al-Kattani.



Qasim Farid

LECTURER

Born into a family of knowledge and scholarship, he spent his formative years studying privately and completing the Arabic language program at the prestigious Al-Azhar university in Egypt. He has been blessed to study the Islamic sciences extensively with luminaries from the subcontinent, including Allama Hakim Muhammad Abdul Khaliq Mujadaddji and, the polymath, Allama Syed Zahid Hussain Shah Bukhari. He graduated in Philosophy, Religion, and Education (Joint BA Honours) and also completed a Masters in Islamic Studies from SOAS University of London.



Waqas Amin

LECTURER

Waqas Amin has been working as a translator and researcher at the Farid-e-Millat Research Institute (FMRI-UK) since 2012, while also delivering classes and sermons in various mosques and institutes across the UK. He has been blessed to intensively study a number of classical Islamic disciplines with several teachers under the guidance of Shaykh ul-Islam Dr. Muhammad Tahir ul-Qadri. He has also completed a Masters in Political Theory and Philosophy from the University of Sheffield.



CLASSICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

5 year online part-time certified programme

Start date: 23rd September 2024

Fees: single payment-£699/year (instalment plans available)

Apply via website

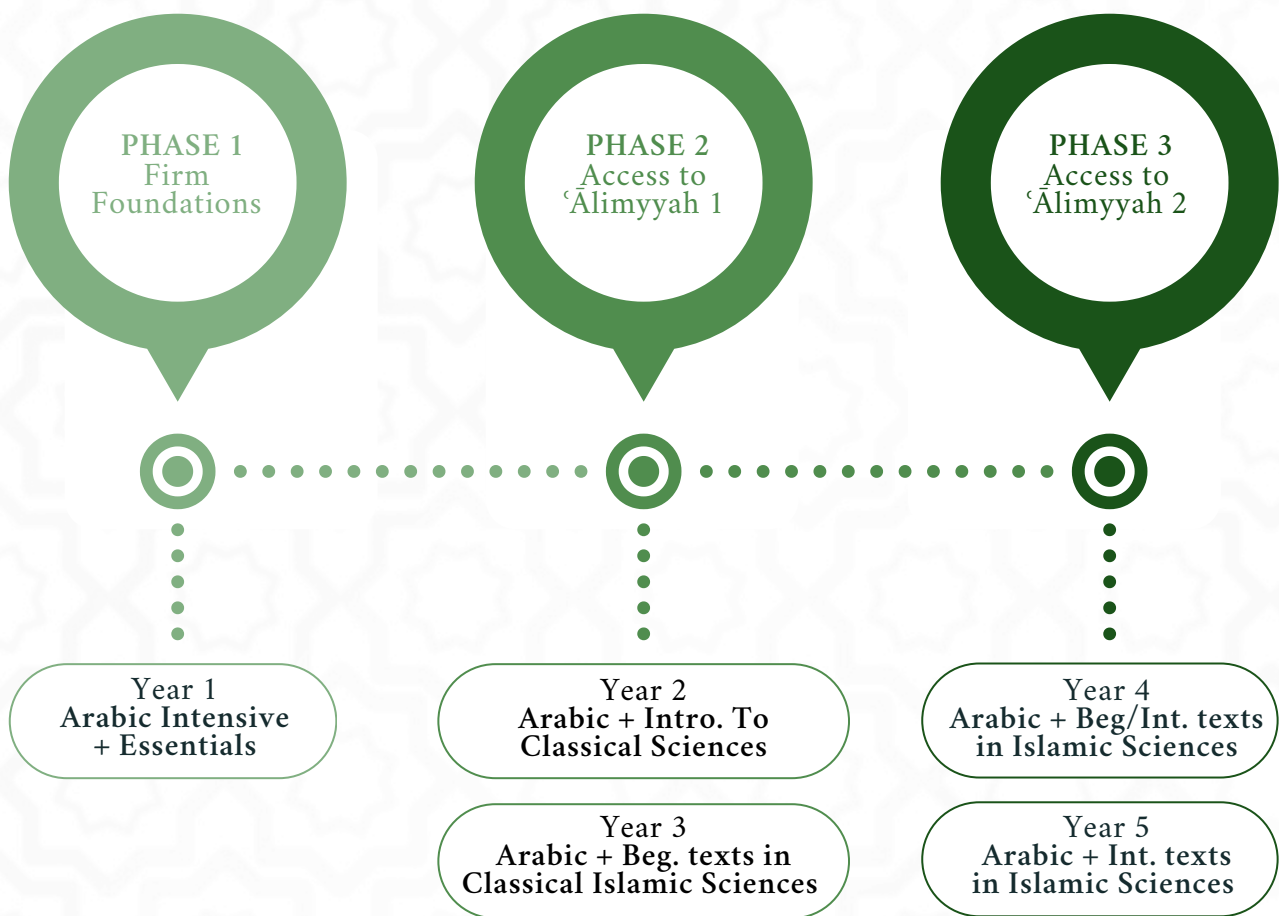
The Classical Scholarship Programme (CSP) paves the way to Islamic scholarship that is textually adept and contextually relevant. The core curriculum of the programme focuses on developing textual and contextual competence in students, while imbuing them with a love of knowledge, its practice, and its conveyance.

The programme accomplishes this through a diligent study of classical texts that underpin the scholastic tradition of Islam. We draw on the great syllabi of our tradition, while introducing students to the broad philosophical undercurrents of the modern world.

Programme Aims

- To teach students key classical Islamic disciplines forming the bedrock of Islamic scholarship in accordance with the received tradition and methodological framework of mainstream scholarship.
- To nurture deep-rooted *Adab*, love of sacred knowledge, and an active concern for the affairs of the Muslim community.
- To equip students with the intellectual and practical skills required to correctly understand and effectively convey the teachings of the Islam, while confronting the challenges of modern society.

Tri-Phasic Study of Classical Islamic Sciences



The Three Pillars of the CSP Curriculum

The CSP curriculum has been designed to ensure that students receive a holistic and balanced training. The 3 pillars of our curriculum are not taught as standalone subjects, but they are present in all aspects of teaching and learning. The curriculum as a whole; its structure, contents and delivery, is designed to develop these three types of competencies in students, preparing them for a life of sound scholarship and sacred service.



PHASE 1 - FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Duration: 1 Year

This phase focuses on achieving proficiency in the core aspects of Arabic grammar, morphology, and language that enables access to classical Arabic texts. The aim is to equip students with the rudimentary skills required to grammatically analyse words and basic constructs, correctly vowelise word-endings and translate with grammatical accuracy. Additionally, students will cover a basic curriculum in *Fard 'Ayn* subjects and *Tajwīd*.

Curriculum

- 1. Arabic Language Studies:** Students will be introduced to the study of classical Arabic focusing on the essential theories, principles and rules of word and sentence formation, syntactical analysis of basic to intermediate constructs, and building a basic vocabulary in preparation for reading curriculum texts in Arabic.
- 2. Essential Islamic Literacy:** Students will cover a basic curriculum, based on translations of classical manuals, covering the essentials of *Tajwīd*, the law of ritual worship and core aspects of Islamic beliefs. Students will also be introduced to the living tradition of sacred knowledge and scholarship in Islam, where they will be given an overview of the development, transmission, and preservation of the Islamic tradition, as well as the etiquettes and methods of seeking sacred knowledge.

PHASE 2 - ACCESS TO 'ĀLIMIYYAH 1

Duration: 2 Years

This phase of the CSP marks the shift to studying core disciplines of the classical curriculum, directly from Arabic texts, for the most part, while expanding and deepening students' knowledge of classical Arabic grammar and literature.

Curriculum Year 1

Focus on achieving greater proficiency in applied grammar, while introducing core classical sciences through the study of a set text or in-house tailored textbooks drawn from various classical & contemporary resources. The overall objective is to provide students with an introductory level familiarity with the key terms, concepts and discussions from the major disciplines of a traditional curriculum.

- 1. Arabic Language Studies:** Building on the foundation set in Phase 1, students will progress to studying separate texts in the core sciences of Arabic grammar, while reading literature in classical Arabic honing their application skills.
- 2. Quranic Studies:** Students will be introduced to core concepts & terminology of the Quranic sciences, while memorising select chapters that will be studied with basic commentary. The module will also provide a brief overview of discussions around the historicity of the Quran and its miraculous nature.

3. **Hadith studies:** Students will be introduced to core concepts & terminology of the Hadith sciences, paired with a synoptic study of the authoritative centrality of Hadith, the history of Hadith compilation and an overview of canonical works. Select short but comprehensive Hadith (*Jawāmi' al-Kalim*) will be memorised and studied with basic commentary.
4. **Sciences of Prophecy:** This module introduces students to the life, times and blessed personage of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. As well as recounting key events from his life, the module will engage in a detailed study of his unique qualities, sublime character and miracles. Special focus will be placed on drawing practical lessons from the Prophet's struggles, tribulations, decisions and his manner of engaging with the circumstances that affected him and his companions, while becoming spiritual intimate with his blessed being ﷺ.
5. **Spirituality & Ethics:** This module introduces students to the key concepts, principles and frameworks that constitute the science of self-purification, *Tazkiya*. Students will be familiarised with the essential theory and core practices that constitute the bedrock of spiritual development and self-purification in the inherited tradition, covering selections from the works of early Masters.
6. **Legal Theory & Principles:** This module introduces students to the highly sophisticated discipline of Islamic Legal Theory, or *Usūl al Fiqh*. Students will be given introductory insights into the legal philosophy and interpretative methodologies that underpin Islamic Law. Students will learn the principles and methods that are essential to the correct understanding, contextualising and interpreting of the Quran and Sunnah. This methodological framework is the cornerstone of mainstream Islam and the secret to its preservation from perversion.

Curriculum Year 2

This year marks the shift to studying the Islamic sciences solely from classical Arabic texts in line with the great syllabi of the scholarly tradition. The programme will focus on developing depth and breadth in foundational disciplines, through complete readings of core primers, as well supplementary readings from a variety of classical and contemporary texts.

1. **Arabic Language Studies:** Having studied two beginner level primers in Arabic grammar up to this point, students will cover their first intermediate level manual of Arabic grammar from cover to cover, achieving proficiency in all the key discussions of grammar required for the remainder of the programme. In their study of literature, students will be exposed to various genres in both prose and poetry.
2. **Hadith Studies:** In this module students will be guided through a close reading of the short, yet comprehensive Hadith compilation, the *Arba'in* of Imam al-Nawawī, with selections from multiple other classical and contemporary texts and commentaries. The module introduces students to the tradition of reading, memorising and studying Prophetic Traditions ﷺ. The module will focus on unravelling the language and eloquence of the Prophetic expression, while covering legal, creedal and spiritual themes, as well as Prophetic etiquettes for daily life. Alongside the Hadith readings, students will be formally introduced to the science of Hadith nomenclature and categorisation, consolidating, organising and building on Year 1 content.

3. **Sacred Law & Jurisprudence:** Having previously covered rulings related to ritual worship at a basic level, students will now progress to an intensive and comprehensive study of the Hanafi legal tradition, covering all the key topics of Islamic Law, from purification to bequests & inheritance. The module will comprise a study of a core classical manual from the Hanafi legal canon, with selected readings from several other texts and commentaries from the Hanafi legal tradition, highlighting the legal rationales, permutations and applications of rules.

PHASE 3 - ACCESS TO 'ĀLIMIYYAH 2

Duration: 2 Years

Phase 3 of the CSP is a direct extension of Phase 2 Year 2, where students were fully initiated into the study of classical texts in the core disciplines of the traditional Islamic curriculum. At this stage, students will be familiarised with core principal-texts (*Mutūn*) in various sciences, while being required to apply and operationalise previous learning. Phase 3 is designed to directly prepare dedicated students for studying advanced Islamic studies, equipping them with the tools and knowledge required to skilfully engage with the scholarly tradition.

Curriculum Year 1

1. **Hadith Studies:** Topic-based readings from a wide variety of classical and contemporary Hadith compilations. The module will focus on unravelling the language and eloquence of the Prophetic expression, while covering legal, creedal and spiritual themes, as well as prophetic etiquettes for daily life. Students will deepen their study of Hadith literature and nomenclature through the study of a core text, supplemented by key discussions from an array of commentaries, marginalia and parallel texts.
2. **Sacred Law & Jurisprudence:** A continuation of Phase 2 Year 2, studying the Hanafi legal tradition, covering all the key topics of Islamic Law, from purification to bequests & inheritance. The module will comprise a study of a core classical manual from the Hanafi legal canon, with selected readings from several other texts and commentaries from the Hanafi legal tradition, highlighting the legal rationales, permutations and applications of rules.
3. **Legal Theory & Principles:** Students will be guided through a core principal-text on Islamic legal theory according to the Hanafi school. Students will be introduced to the unique style of writing and expression employed by the Hanafi masters, while developing an appreciation for the sophistication and depth of the processes and mechanics at work in deriving legal rulings.
4. **Creedal Theology:** Having learnt the essential creed of Islam in Phase 1, students will now be formally introduced to the texts of classical Islamic theology. As with other modules at this level, study will primarily comprise of the study of a core classical manual of theology, supplemented by readings from commentaries, marginalia and other classical and contemporary texts of a similar level. Students will be trained in applying principles and modes of reasoning to both classical and contemporary theological & philosophical issues; including those that arise from within the Islamic theological spectrum, as well as those from without.

5. **Spirituality & Ethics:** Based on select readings from the classics of Islamic spirituality and ethics, this module will give students a comprehensive overview of all the key discussion points in the field of Islamic psycho-spiritual development and ethics. The module will introduce students to the science of purification, methods for identifying spiritual ailments, their signs and symptoms, and prescriptions for the treatment and transformation of such vices.

Curriculum Year 2

1. **Quran Studies:** Building on the basic introduction to Quranic studies in Year 1 of Phase 2, in this module, students will study a short but comprehensive primer on the Quranic sciences, covering a broad array of discussion points, including the historical, the linguistic, and especially the exegetical. Students will be introduced in detail to the genre and types of Quranic exegesis, as well the fundamental principles and processes that govern the interpretation of the Holy Scripture.
2. **Hadith Studies:** A continuation of Phase 2 Year 2, in which students will progress further and deeper with their topic-based readings, study and analysis of classical and contemporary Hadith compilations. Students will be introduced to the genre of 'Legal Hadith', exhibiting for them the sophistication and complexity of deriving rulings from Hadith.
3. **Arabic Language Studies - Rhetoric:** Having studied their first comprehensive, beginner-intermediate level text in Arabic grammar in Year 2 of Phase 2, students will now be introduced to other core disciplines of the Arabic language. The focus here is on introducing students to the science of rhetoric (*Balāgha*), in which they will be given a window into the essential beauty, eloquence and power of the Arabic language.
4. **Creedal Theology:** Having begun the reading of key theological discussions from various classical texts in the previous year, this module will build on that by broadening the readings to previously untouched topics. There will also be greater engagement with philosophical and theological fault lines, enabling students to operationalise the principles, arguments and reasoning skills they have acquired.
5. **Spirituality & Ethics:** Students will continue their readings of the classics of Islamic spirituality and ethics, while broadening the scope of the texts to introduce them to the various approaches and methodologies that have been employed by the masters of this science.





GATEWAY TO SACRED KNOWLEDGE

Essential Islamic Literacy Programme

1 year online part-time certified programme

Start date: 26th September 2024

Fees: single payment-£349 (instalment plans available)

Apply via website

MODULES

The Living Legacy

This module will introduce students to the living tradition of sacred knowledge and scholarship in Islam. Students will be given an overview of the development, transmission, and preservation of the Islamic Tradition. The primary focus is to clearly map out the normative path to studying, practicing, and conveying the classical sciences of Islam through a study of student etiquettes and decorum, effective methods of study, as well as the teacher-student relationship.

Further, the module will explore the features of orthodoxy in Islam, and the tools needed to distinguish between valid and invalid interpretations of the sacred scripture.

Faith Foundations

A classical, methodical and pure articulation of essential and defining Islamic beliefs. It is by accepting this core set of beliefs that a person becomes a believer, and a systematic study of them is one of the keys to strengthening and consolidating one's faith. Given that ours is an age of limitless information, constant exposure to novel ideas and relentless ideological attacks against religious belief, a codified, coherent and intelligent approach to studying doctrine is paramount.

Students will learn the pure creed of the early Muslims, how it defines the believer's worldview, as well as a framework for understanding and articulating it in today's world.

The Foundational Five

A detailed examination of five prophetic statements that have been specifically selected for their universal relevance, timelessness and profundity of meaning. These narrations are amongst those that have been highlighted in the scholarly tradition as succinct expressions that encapsulate the foundational themes of the entire religion of Islam. Referred to in the scholarly literature as the *Jawami' al Kalim* (The Comprehensive Words), this module will analyse these prophetic gems in light of their chains of transmission, the depth of their implication and their role as building blocks in the formation of the Muslim mind.

Steps to Sacred Living – The Law of Purification, Prayer and Fasting

A study of the theory and practice of the essential injunctions of Islamic law pertaining to cardinal acts of Islamic worship. This module will focus on giving students a firm foundation in the sacred rules of ritual purity, prayer, and fasting. The principal aim of this module is to root the daily ritual practice of the students in sound knowledge and understanding, minimising ethical insecurities, and reducing the spiritual uneasiness induced by doubt and conjecture in the practice of religion.

The Living Link – The Beauty and Ethics of the Prophet ﷺ

This module consists of a multi-dimensional study of the blessed personage of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, intended to connect, revive and transform the lives of students by an acute knowledge of him. A deep relationship of love and reverence for the Prophet ﷺ lies at the very heart of every personal and communal renaissance in the Muslim community. As such, any educational programme that doesn't centre itself in the Prophetic way is ultimately bereft of benefit or spiritual value. Students will be introduced to the sublime outward and inward characteristics of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, as well as a study of his day-to-day etiquettes and mannerisms.





SHORT COURSES

Our short courses are designed to provide guidance and clarity on critical issues to help you understand and navigate them from a classical Islamic worldview.

Reaching the Mahdi: Demystifying the Characteristics of the Prophesised Imam ﷺ and his Companions

Amidst the chaos & confusion plaguing every aspect of human life today, many Muslims believe that the arrival of the supreme end-time heir of Prophecy, Sayyiduna Imam Mahdi ﷺ, is ever-imminent. Prophecies, promises and politics dominate the discussion of his blessed emergence and the advent of his holy mandate. The classical Islamic discourse on the Imam, however, is much broader and deeper.

Majesty & Beauty: The Path to Prophetic Manhood & Womanhood

With new-age modernist ideologies establishing a firm grip on virtually every aspect of life, even the most basic and historically undisputed dimensions of human identity have now been placed under the microscope of rampant modern scepticism. At the forefront of these challenged notions is that of gender and sexuality.

This short course seeks to pave the path to recovering from this modern malaise by rediscovering and realising classical Islamic teachings on manhood and womanhood. In addition to providing an analysis and critique of the modern gender discourse rooted in a sound Islamic worldview, the course will also provide practical guidance on how to embody Prophetic manhood and womanhood. Moreover, the course will equip Muslims, young and old, to speak about these topics with intelligence, confidence and clarity.

Scattered Minds: Faith, Doubt and the Challenge of Secularism

The modern age has introduced and imposed several new-age idols upon the hearts and minds of people; secularism, liberalism, feminism, scientism, transgenderism, progressivism and the plethora of other 'isms' that permeate our era. These are the contagions of the age; spread in the classrooms of educational institutions, on the screens of phones and TVs and on the pages of popular science and self-help books.

As Muslims, how do we navigate the 'isms' of the age? How do we ensure that even while we live and engage with the modern age, we remain firmly rooted in an Islamic worldview? How do we tackle the challenge of secularism, and its various manifestations, with clarity and conviction?

This short course will provide detailed framing and answers to such questions through anchoring participants in a Quranic worldview. The course will also touch on historical factors that led to the formation of the modern mind, and outline, in contrast, the formative building blocks of a true Muslim mind.

The Sacred Covenant: Love, Marriage & Gender Relations in Islam

Marriage is as old as the story of human beings themselves. The union of man and woman in marriage is the first type of human relation to ever exist, and has ever since been the bedrock of human civilisation. However, with the rise of several new-age ideologies, most specifically in the post sexual-revolution era, this ancient human practice has been under a widespread, systematic and intensive attack; both as an idea and institution. On one extreme, where marriage is still practiced, it is reduced to partnership built largely on an elusive notion of 'chemistry' between two individuals, the mutual agreeability of their personalities and sexual interest. On the other extreme, marriage is considered an 'oppressive' and 'wretched' institution that must be completely terminated.

How do we, as Muslims aspiring to the way of Prophecy, navigate such extremes? What is the higher meaning and institutional purpose of marriage according to Islam? How do the teachings of classical Islamic law, spirituality and ethics ensure the meaningfulness and success of marriages?

This unique course on the law and spirit of marriage, blends classical Islamic Law with traditional Islamic psycho-spirituality and social anthropology, changing the way one perceives and approaches this sacred Prophetic practice.



GET IN TOUCH

For any enquiries or information, feel free to contact us by email.

Join our WhatsApp community to stay up to date with upcoming courses and new programmes.

WHATSAPP COMMUNITY



SCAN ME



info@almarifa.org.uk



www.almarifa.org.uk



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