

# Why

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Nathaniel Bronner: Open your Bible this morning to the Book of the Ecclesiastes and the Seventh Chapter. Ecclesiastes, the 7th chapter, and you know life gives you a whole lot to preach about. I don't even need to ask God on many occasions on what I need to speak about. All I have to do is just talked about life, and the Bible is a book that deals with life and virtually every circumstance in your life that you will encounter. You will find that somebody else is running in that same thing and about. So, all I have to do often time is just preached about some of the things and some of the revelations that happened around me, as I travel through this journey called life.

And in Ecclesiastes, Chapter 7, Verse 25. Ecclesiastes, Chapter 7, Verse 25, and it read as follows: "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness." I will be concentrating primarily on that first half of that verse, the 25<sup>th</sup> verse of the 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Ecclesiastes. "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reasons of things."

And I want to speak to you the day from the simple subject that I got from my son. Now, my son is only 26 months old, and yet, you know, a little child who teach you a whole lot of stuff, and the other day, I was outside in my driveway, and I had just bought a new bicycle rack for my Jeep, and I had put the bicycle rack on, and I was putting the bicycle on and off adjusting the bicycle on the rack, and my little son was there looking at me, and he looked up at me, and he asked me. He said, "Daddy, daddy, why do you keep taking bicycle off?" and I looked at my little son as he sat there and asked me, "Daddy, why do you keep taking the bicycle off?"

And the other day, I pray. My wife was in the kitchen, and my wife is cutting my hair. She is in cosmetology school now. So, she is the one who is responsible for my hair, and she was cutting my hair, and my son was over in the den looking and he came in and he looked and he said, "Daddy, daddy why your hair on the floor? Daddy, why your hair on the floor?"

And then later that evening, as I went into the restroom and my little son came into the restroom while I was using the bathroom, and he walked down to me and he said, "Daddy, why, why daddy wee-wee in toilet?" And then my wife -- I don't know.

She didn't want to tell me -- tell me to tell -- he's a normal kid, anyway.

My wife was -- she was in bathroom later that day, and my little son walked into the bathroom and, as my wife she -- she stood up, my little son, he looked at himself and then he looked at my wife, and he remembered what Daddy looked like, and he looked at himself and he looked at my wife and he said, "Mama." He said, "Why, why mama broke?"

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And it was the question of a child, and I just want to speak for a few minutes today from the simple one word subject applied, "Why?" My son, as his mind begin to develop, he began to question everything around him, and he want some answers as to why, and you see the things that he asked that, frankly, up here, obvious to us, but they're not so obvious to him. Some of the things that he was asking, "Daddy, daddy. Why Daddy wee-wee in the toilet?" It didn't make sense to him because he has a diaper, and he get those for a year and where he chooses, and it's convenient, and he didn't understand why I had to go for all the trouble that he didn't have to go through.

Yet, and my daughter understand it but a child does not, and it is difficult for a dad to explain to the son why mama broke. That's not an easy concept for a little child to understand and, yet, this verse applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things."

What the writer here is simply saying? I want to know why, and if the God call us the children of God, and we have so many of the same characteristic as children, and as my son, he saw many things around him that brings that one word, all they started to ask about everything that he sees "Why," and you know many of us don't even know the reason as to why we do a whole lot of things.

All of the men in your right now that have their own child, I guarantee you. You hardly even know where are you now. They serve no purpose. As a matter of fact, not only do they not serve a positive purpose, they actually serve a negative purpose.

That's why if you check airline manual regulations, they make airlines high as now lose them the path because when you tied it up high and they're properly tied a tight knot, it served as a rope and it cuts off the blood supply going to the brain, and they can't think as well, and they don't react as fast when they have a lower tight path.

And, yet, most men wear ties and we have no concept of what to wear. They are all adjourned in the practice of wearing tie came from. It came from the time we didn't have a break, and you use this off to keep your shirt closed up. That's been going, but we still do it.

And so many of our customs, so many of our traditions the child will look at and say, "Why daddy do you do that? Daddy, why do you cut your hair?" And then, you know, I really don't have a good answer for him except for it is stylish. I don't have a good answer for him and all. As the matter of fact, I told my wife. I said, "From now on, when you cut my hair, you got to take me out of his sight because his hair is uncut and will remain so for a good period of time because I am following with him the same pattern as I never write in the contemplated children's song, and I knew when I saw him looking at me getting my hair cut, he don't t have a question about that one day when daddy -- he want me not to cut my hair. Why do you cut yours?"

I've got to be a master of that, but one thing I know is I've got to be able to somehow set an example indeed and not necessarily in word. But a child asked the question of why just as the writer in the Ecclesiastes, and so I lied. That question will come up over and over and over again.

I have spoken at numerous funerals. They always -- whenever there is a funeral, and the person who leaves before their time, if they leave before 70 years old, there's always a question that's asked.

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Why? And in reverberates to the room, why, why, why? And many times there is no answer except it must be God's will, and we want to know like a child. When we see things that we do not understand, we want to know why.

In every sin and every sickness, we ask the question “why,” and how many of you have had things that have happened in your life just in the past two weeks? I’m not talking about way back then. I’m just talking about within the last two weeks. How many of you have had things that have happened to you that you had to sit and ask God the question, why in the world that this happened to you. Raise your hand. Have you had some just in the last two weeks that had happened to you and you have to ask God, “Why did this happen?” It’s like children that are seeking the answer to a question raised by your situation that we do not understand. Why? Why? Why? And it’s not a new question, and it is especially a question that’s prevalent when things go wrong.

You see, my child, in his innocence, he was not asking the question. I know thing is going wrong. He would simply asking the question out of curiosity. But most of the time, once we have moved from that childlike stage, when we have matured to adulthood, most of the time when we ask the question of why is because something has gone seriously wrong. It’s because something has gotten uncertain in our life. It’s because there is a better taste, and there is a better coffee we have to drink. We look up to God, and we ask God that all in question of “Why Lord have this happened to me?”

I imagined in the Book of John, Chapter 9, Verse 1, you don’t have to turn because you’ve heard it a thousand times. “And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man, which was blind from his birth, and his disciple asked him saying, “Master, who did sin, this man or his parents that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither have this man sinned nor his parents, but that’s the works of God should be made manifest in him.”

Now, that’s the glorious story, but have you ever thought what the blind man asked to all those years that he was blind. He hadn’t sinned. His mama hadn’t sinned and his daddy hadn’t sinned. All of those years that this man was born blind, standing around in the darkness, being led by others, unable to work, unable to provide for himself, having to sit in the market square and beg or suffer. Jesus said it was so that the glory of God could be made manifest. But see, when you’re blind, you can’t do that. As this man grew up all the years through his early years and through the teenage years and through the young adult years, this man had to ask that question all of his

life. “Why Lord? Why would I born blind? And I know people Lord that has twenty-twenty vision and their power of seeing. Lord, they’re heartless. They are standing out on the street selling their body for money, Lord. The, how that they can see? And I’m standing here, not sinning and I’m blind.” Don’t you know that man have a legitimate reason to ask the question why?

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He wanted to know the reason why have God let him be born as blind and, yet, people tell you the question of why. It is one that will ring in our spirit every time something goes wrong, but I want to review your mind this morning. You’ll see, I want to review your mind of asking the question of why when things go wrong. Then, maybe you should ask the question of why when things go right. You see, we always questioned God when stuff that happened is negative appearing in our lives. You asked God about that in a hot sick. “Lord, what did I do to deserve this when all folks over there we’re doing fine? Lord, what did I do to have this sickness in my body and no sin, and folk where they’re not even going to church have as much as I am here walking around in good health. Why me?”

You see, we always will ask the question when things go wrong, but when have you ever ask God “why” when things have gone right? Have you ever ask God why you are born with two good strong legs and not born crippled. Have you ever asked God, “Lord, why did you give me such a good healthy body?” Have you ever asked God that? Have you ever asked God, “Lord, why do I have eyesight and others don’t? What did I do, Lord, to deserve to be able to see? For those that in the choir, have you ever asked God why was I blessed with such a melodious voice and others can’t even carry tone?

Have we ever stopped to ask God why about the good things instead of the bad and, you know, I don’t care what kind of shape you’re in. If you stop to itemize your good thing versus your bad thing, you got a whole lot more good thing than bad thing, but the world gives us and it gives us the focus on the news, and we kept through watching the news, “Lord, why are all these children running wild? Lord, every teenager is running around on a game. Every teenager is throwing a gun and on drugs.”

By the time we get through listen to the report of man, we have a serious question as to why about all the negative stuff in life. But, have you ever stop to ask God about why all of the good things that happened in your life? Do you know the stuff that couldn't see, I did it years ago because I realized in life, as I looked around, and I saw that I was blessed, and I have to ask God one day, "Lord, why did you choose to bless me? I mean, you blessed me with good hands. You blessed me with good health. You blessed me with the sound mind. You blessed me to keep angels around me to keep disastrous things from happening to me. Why, Lord, did you choose to shower down all those blessings upon me? Why?"

Have we ever thought to ask God the why all the good than the bad? Why? If you just stop and just wrote down some of the things that God has blessed you, some of you will start taking on a different view of life, and when you start looking around through the eyes of a child, and when you start seeing so many of the glorious, wondrous thing and gift God. Why that you're going to have to start asking yourself why. Why in the world did God choose to grant me all of this?

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Now, you're going to always find, first of all, someone else that appears to have more granted in them than you do and, often times, we will ask ourselves you know, "Why -- why are they getting married? Why? Why brother I didn't get married and I can't find me a wife?" Some people are going to ask that it's your win, brother. They don't want to know why in the world there's love. "I'm going to church just like brother, and I'm being nice to them, brother. I used to know, brother. I mean when. I used to know, brother. I don't know what he want me saving, and I've been in church all this time, and then look at my brother who even got this pretty wife. And look at me, I can't get nobody."

Somebody is going to say that at your winning, brother. I mean, I can guarantee you. And as your wife walks down the aisle, there's going to be some women out of that audience, and they're going to look at their wife and they're going to say, "She does have a good man, a sinned man, a minister of music," and then all of them, "a good looking and strong and nice, and here I am

I've been praising the Lord all the years and, at night, I got to go home all by myself. I've been praying. I've been reading my Bible, and I know I'm reading my Bible more than she is. Lord, have mercy. I'm going to church four times a week. I'm tired of doing all of this, and I'm sitting up here until when I get old. The clock is clocking. Lord, I've given you all of this. Why?"

We can sometimes see the other person and will focus on all of the things that are negative that someone else hasn't, and we don't have and will ask ourselves, "Why Lord did you give them that and you haven't given it to me? Why? What did I do that I don't deserve it and what did they do to deserve it?" And that question win so much in our mind over and over and over and over again. And some of you all even are looking to get a husband and a wife.

You know, sometimes there's a situation where you have a good looking man and a not too good-looking woman. And some of you all are looking that -- you know, I have a neutral tone, just sitting and here I am. And you're sitting and you're wondering. You say, "What in the world? Huh!" Do you know what I'm saying? Yes, you do. I know you do it because I've done it. And sometimes, you look at some unions and you wonder how in the world and you say, "Here I am. I look much better than she does. Why?" And then that question reads over and over and over and over and over in our spirit, as we look upon the things of the world, why?

But people, I want you to understand that it is by the grace of God that so many of us have been blessed with so much, and when we start focusing on that, which is negative, for there will always be something negative in your life. I don't care who you are. I don't care what you have. I don't care who your mama was. I don't care who your daddy was. I don't care who your brother was. I don't care how much you come to church. I don't care how much you praise God. I don't care how much you sing. I don't care how much you read your Bible. I don't care how much you stay on your knees. There will always be some adversity that will come in your life, and often it will have no explanation at all. None.

God will not tell you why, and you sit in the midst of the world when wondering what in the world did you do just as that blind man. That, throughout all of his life in a world of darkness and

did not know why. He didn't even know that it was for the glory of God because he didn't even know that he received his fight. So, he stayed all of those years in ignorance, but I'm sure that question never stop running through his mind of why. And, sometimes, I wish God to just reveal to His people the whole picture.

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It's like my son can't understand the whole picture, and he can't understand some things that adults will do that to a child seems right in his own eyes, and a child will always go the way of least resistance. And if you ever watched a child, she only gets to fall real fast. They want everything that they see, and even when it is dangerous and you try to take it from them, they're going to hide it when you put it out of their hand.

There are sometimes God would have to come in with some circumstances and put some of us in some circumstance to take some dangerous things out of our hands. So, that we don't end up killing ourselves, but the child never understands it. The child doesn't understand why he is not supposed to play with a knife. To him, it's a toy. It's a shiny thing, and it makes no sense as to why mama or why daddy will take it from them.

My son likes to go up and down the basement stairs. He loves to go downstairs, and he doesn't understand that we have to keep the door locked. So, he won't open the door and go downstairs by himself because if we looked at him, he go downstairs and upstairs and downstairs and upstairs all day long, but he's a child, and he doesn't understand the danger of falling downstairs.

And many times God has to lead the children of God like your children with friends of correction and the direction and the circumstances coming, we understand it not. And the greatest story in the Bible, even of where a man was put through seemingly negative circumstances was Joe, and all of that stuff happened to Joe. Joe had his money taken away. Joe had his tools been taken away, and Joe had his health taken away, and Joe was asking the question, "Why Lord? I've been a faithful man under you. Why have you let this happen to me?" Joe didn't understand it, not any of Joe's friends understood it either. And, sometimes, when stuff happens to you, no one

around you can even understand why it has happened. And, often times, they will think that it is because of some evil that you have done that has brought this upon you, and they know not why. Yet, it comes in our life. I don't care who. I don't care what you do. Sooner or later, it will come, and you will be tempted to ask the question of why.

Again, over the Ecclesiastes, second chapter, and I'll begin with verse number 11. Why? I want you to remember this word and have it blazed in your mind, so the next time something good happens to you. And do you know when the next time something good is going to happen to you? Yes, ma'm.

I mean, if you could take their breath without pain. Do you know that's something because you see, you don't understand that until you visit someone in the hospital that has emphysema, who can't catch that breath like that. You don't appreciate stuff until you lose it. You don't understand what a blessing that is just to be able to take a breath of sweet fresh air and breath it out without pain until you go to the hospital and you see somebody with tubes running this way and tubes running that way, tubes running down here and gasping for every single breath of air. Then, you understand that every breath that you take without pain and without struggle is a blessing. And yet, some of you have been smoking cigarettes for a long, long time. You've been smoking cigarettes, drinking liquor, stuff that should've torn up, destroyed your body, and yet you're still walking around with a reasonable degree of health --

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Still walking around, breathing clearly. And other folks that have not even smoked have died of lung-related disease, and if you're that person, you need to ask, "Lord, why have you given me so much grace?" And you see when I ask God that question years ago, God answered me, and he told me why. But you see, that's my answer, that's not yours. Well, I'm not going to tell what the answer was because everyone may have a different answer in terms of why.

Some have been blessed and protected because you have a job to do, and some have been a lousy goat through the fire and to almost go through a living hell because you have a job to do. Sometimes, both of you got the same job or very similar type of

job, but God will send you to different paths because different people needs different strokes to different folks. Some people can have a stroke where the stroke is a pat on the back, while other folk need a stroke where the stroke is a slap in the face. It takes different strokes for different folks, and for your mission and what God has for you to do, he may have to send you on a different path than someone else, and while you travel that path that has thorns and bushes and cuts and bruises along the way, you're going to ask that question of why. And, often times, you will not get an immediate answer.

Ecclesiastes Chapter 2 beginning at verse 11. I'm reading the NIV version. "Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun." Then, I turned my thoughts to consider wisdom and also madness and folly. What more can the King's successor do than what has already been done? I saw with wisdom is better than folly, just as light as better than darkness.

The wise man has eyes in his head while the fool walks in the darkness, but I came to realize that the same saint overtakes the most. Then, I thought in my heart, the faith of the fool will overtake me also. "What then do I gain by being wise?" I said in my heart. This too is meaningless. For the wise man, like the fool, will not be long remembered in days to come, both will be forgotten. Like the fool, the wise man too must die, and this man was trying to figure out why. Look like what he was saying was the wise and the fool is the same thing happened to both of them in the end of this modern life, both of them died, and it goes on to say that even the righteous and the wicked, both have some bad and drifting happened to them and, often times, we'll ask that question when we see wicked people prospering, and we see wicked people with much, and we see wicked people with the appearance of joy and the appearance of happiness and the appearance to have it all. We'll ask the question. Good grace. I'm looking at the people of God struggling, and then I'm looking at these wicked folks looking like they're doing well and looks like in the end, all of them get old and die, and this man was trying to understand and figure out why.

It's a question that will still constantly come up in our spirit and our mind. Why? Why Lord? Why? But the longer you live and the more that you walk in the grace of God, the more confidence

you have in the parent, and when you have confidence in the father, your questions of why were to diminish. The more you see the power of God as it moves and it orchestrates in your life and you know that as you serve God, everything will turn out for the good, and God didn't say you wouldn't go through some things, just that everything will turn out for the good.

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And when you understand that, the more you understand that. When a calamity appears to happen in your life, you will be able to look in the midst of all that wreckage, and you'll be able to see in the midst of it, a blessing. In the middle of any wreckage, you'll be able to find the blessing in the middle of it because, when you know you walk with God, you know that everything that is done is for your good, though some of it may not be pleasant. It's for your good, and we'll start to ask not why of a negative where Lord said that you choose me. So, He knew you're from your mother's womb. Why did you choose me to be so blessed? Why did God even choose you right in there if you're sitting here in the middle of this? Aren't you're blessed? Why did he choose you to be so blessed, be so on God?

And I want you to turn now to Philippians Chapter Four, the final verse that I want to leave you with. Philippians Chapter Four: "Why" is a question. It is a pondering thing that we think upon, and in Philippians Chapter Four, Verse number -- Philippians Chapter Four, Verse number Eight: Finally, brother -- finally, brother and -- finally, brother and, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are a good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things."

If you have to ask the question of why, ask the question of why about the good stuff. Don't focus on the bad. Ask the question of why and you'll see, when you start focusing on the good stuff instead of focusing on the bad stuff, it will change your whole outlook on life. When you start looking at all of the blessings and the joy and all of the good stuff God has given you and let your question marks be about your good stuff, not about your bad, about your triumphs, not about your trials. When we think on the good things, you know, that's really the only difference between a real joyous and a happy person and a person that's

sad and depressed. That's the only real difference. The difference is not even their religion. The difference is in what they think on, and you'll find that a happy, a joyous person is always thinking about the good stuff, and a depressed, sad person is always thinking about the negative stuff, and it's in everyone's life.

I don't know anybody that does not have some negative, but I do know some people that don't think about the negative because I'm one of them and that's something my mother will verify about that. Whenever anybody mentions something to me about something negative, the word could've been worse than that. You know, that's a good line whenever you have a real problem to use. It could've been a whole lot worse than that. I mean, when you really stop to think about the situation, it's very rare that you have a situation that it just can't get any worse. And I give you permission right now to really be depressed and to really be worried if you got a situation that absolutely cannot get any worse. You've got my permission to do that. If you got something that's just absolute can't get any worse, then you have your pastor's permission to be depressed, but I don't know any situation like that. The only situation like that that I know of is if you're dead and on your way to hell.

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Now, that's the only situation that I know of where you just absolutely cannot get any worse if you're dead and on your way to hell, but as long as you have breath and life in your body, you're never in a situation where it can't get worse. And when you look at it and you just used those terminologies, your life is not what it is. It's how your mind is there to look at it, and when your mind is there to look at the good stuff in life, and when your prize is focused on the good and not the bad, you'll find that your heart and your whole spirit and mind is going to be filled with joy and peace and happiness. And before this, we can. Most of your energy are going to be faced with a situation of where you don't want to ask the question why did this had to happen to me.

Good example, you know, we get pulled over by the police for speeding. Do you know the first immediate reaction that happened that I had to train my spirit to deal with this? You know, what the first immediate reaction that happened? Oh, we

got mad at the police. We're mad at the whole government system. At first, we were speeding number one, but we got mad at the whole system, and I had to say to myself -- when it happened to me, I had to say never again, but I'll allow my spirit to get upset because I got a speeding ticket, and do you know the next time it happened? Do you know what I did? I thought about the good part about it. I got a speeding ticket. Yes, I did. And I had to ask myself, how could this be worst? I say, "Well, I had my insurance in the car because I could've got a ticket for speeding and no windshield. I had my insurance in the car. Second, I had the money to pay for the speeding ticket. That's the other thing about it. At least, I didn't have to worry about going down to the court and not having a \$35.00 to pay for it, and my insurance went up because of it. But, at least, I was blessed with the money to pay the increased insurance premium.

Well, you see, it's not so much, and when I got that ticket, I told the officer -- I told the officer. I looked him dead in the eyes, and I said, "Officer, may God bless you and watch over as you do your job." That's what I told the man and see it brought him peace because you know most of them, we would bless the officer, but not in that man. And see, when you bless the officer in the way that the normal flesh will choose to bless it, it puts a curse on him because that's what you do is cursed him. You curse him and you curse yourself. But when you bless the officer, it left my spirit feeling good and at peace, and it sent him on his way feeling good and protected and in peace. You see, even a situation that appears to be negative and say God may have to sell a speeding ticket to slow you down because, how do you know the next day, you're speeding along and you ran into somebody, kill yourself or put yourself in a critical hospital position all because you were speeding, but now that you've gotten a speeding ticket, slow down.

But when you understand sometimes how God will orchestrate life to bring us where we need to be, we accomplish our mission to change our why. Now understand. Why? Why? Why? Is a question that you will continually ask, but we need to move our question to the good side of why. Understand the why's of all of our blessings, not the why's of all of our trials.

Bow your heads. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you. We thank you for being able to go through all of the things that

we've been through and some of us have been through some things, dear father. And we just thank you for the strength --

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Because many of us have gone through the same things that we have gone through and have not made it because they didn't have the strength to make it. They didn't have the strength of body, the strength of mind or the strength of spirit. And yet, you strengthen us to be able to make it through, and we don't even know why you strengthened us and not another. We thank you dear father for all of the why's that we have not asked of the blessings that you have bestowed upon us, and we praise your name, and we decide on this day to think upon the good things, the good why's. In every situation that you'll calm our way, we shall see your hand in the midst of it, and we'll see the blessing and not the trial. Thank you, dear father. Thank you, dear father. And though I know not why, I thank you anyway. I know not why you chosen to bless me, but I thank you. I thank you for every scratch and every scar and every wound that I have, I thank you because every scratch and every scar and every wound that I have has had a stab and has healed over, I thank you for your healing. I thank you for your healing. I thank you for your healing. And thy son, Jesus name. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Dark lights have been opened, the door of the church. For anyone that likes to come for salvation who's been in life and have had so many things and you just question God sometimes, frankly. Sometimes, we can get in such a dark place and such a dark situation, and it doesn't look like there is any light at the end of the tunnel, and sometimes when we do see light at the end of the tunnel and we get to the light at the end of the tunnel, we find that's the headlight of a train coming our way. Sometimes, we can't understand all of the stuff that is happening, and we will say why unto God so many trials, but when you're God's child, he'll bring you through, and when you get to the other side just as Joe did, you'll be able to look back on it and understand the why. When you get to cite the story, you'll be a testimony to other men and other women of the glory of God.

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