Exploring the Connection between Education and Islam

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Abstract

This paper focuses on exploring the connections between the education and the Islam. Education is the most important element for the development of any country and individuals. Education supports the individuals for their personality development, social development, intellectual development, and vocational development, etc. The Individuals all together form the nation. Nations' qualities specify the qualities of a country. Nations' skills specify the economy and development of a country. This study explores the Islamic views and thoughts about education in the light of Ayaats from the Holy Quran and Hadiths (The sayings of of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him) which indicate the connection between education and Islam. This paper highlights the value research and practice in Islam, dignity of teacher, teaching methods as reflected in Quran, and objectives of education in Islam. This study provides implications for policy makers to improve the education system in the light of Islamic concepts about the Education, and develop curriculum, and prepare textbooks aligned with the Islamic concept of teaching and learning.

Keywords: Education, Islam, Connection, Explore.

Introduction

The Islam is a religion which is started with the birth of Hazrat Adam, first prophet of the Islam, its last prophet was Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him .Islam demand for the peace by surrendering of the believers before the Allah. Muslims are needed to be adhere theirselves with the Islamic faith. The Islamic term is applied to the values, beliefs, principles, laws and the worship, which are developed by Allah. The term 'Islamic' indicates an ideal faith. The Al-Quran and the Hadiths of Hazrat Muhammad (Peace be upon him) explain the Islamic doctrine. It is the Islam dotrine to convey the messages of Allah through the teaching of Allah 's messengers (Prophets) that have been devine form of education. In the modern world, Education is regarded as the process of transferring the knowledge from one generation to the other generation in order to aware the youths from the norms, skills, techniques to develop their lives on individual and national basis.

The word 'Education' is the latin word. It is derived from the word 'ducere', which means 'to lead'. Its root 'duc' means to duct, a duct is a tube like structure which facilitate the transfer of the material from one place to the other place^{1.} Similarly, education transfers the knowledge from one generation to the other generation. According to Wikipedia education is derived from a latin word 'ēducātiō' which means 'to breed', from ēducō, which means 'I

train', from 'dūcō', which means 'I conduct' or 'I lead'². The term education is derived from latin word 'educare' which means 'to bring up'³.

All above terms indicate that the education is a process to reproduce the knowledge, train the students, lead the students and bring up their own skills, abilities and qualities. Educations preserve the cultural norms. Education is the means to preserve the values and stability of the nations.

General Perspectives of the Education

Education is considered as the process of continuous development at the universal level.⁴

Education is the means of developing a sound mind in the sound body.⁵

Because of education, an individual can distinguish between true and false, bad and good, right and wrong.⁶

Education is a device which enables the man to perform skillfully with justice at every place; either it will be public, private, peace or war.⁷

Education is the process through which students acquire the skills, knowledge, values, habits and the attitudes.⁸

An education system is the system which supports the systematic way to educate the peoples by considering their age, interest, aptitude and abilities. All the nations always consider the education as an important element for their survival. Each and every religion has their own structure of education for the training of their youth, so that they become a useful human resource for the development of the country. Islam has also focused on education since the birth of Man. Evidences are presented to the people in the Holy Quran and the sayings of the Holy Prophet (Hazrat Muhammad Peace be upon him).

Islamic Perspectives of Education

Quran—e—Pak has presented the information in Arabic Language. The most famous terms for education in Arabic language are as under.⁹

Talim: It has its root from 'alima' which means 'to be aware of' 'to know', to perceive, and to learn.

Tarbiyah: It has its root from 'raba' which means 'to grow' and 'to increase'. The term Tarbiyah emphasize on the training process for enhancing the learned information.

Tadib: The term Tadib has been rooted from 'aduba' which means 'refined', 'to be cultured' and 'to be well mannered'.

Above all terms highlight the systematic process of education, which transforms the learner into a powerful source for the development of his/her nation and country. The term 'Talim' represents that it is the process through which the students became aware of about something, perceive their meanings, learn /understand the information. The term 'Tarbiyah' specifies that after the students learn something they should be engaged practically in the implementation of the learned material, this will increase the understanding level of the learned material. The term 'Tadib' indicates that the process of

tarbiyah will refine the learned concepts and the learner, now become cultured and exhibit the well-mannered personified.

The main purpose of the Islamic Education is to develop a human being which behaves in an Islamic way on intellectual, mental and physical level. The teaching methods and the education curriculum should be derived from the Islam. Abu Salih explains the main purpose of Islamic education as "preparation for immortal and earthly life". ¹⁰

Education in the Light of Quran

Hazrat Adam was the 1st man in this universe. In Surah Baqra Allah explains that after the birth of Hazrat Adam, Allah teach him a few words and ask him to revise these word before Malaika. Hazrat Adam speaks these words as Allah teaches him. Allah Ask the Malaika that I prefer the man to all creatures in the universe because of knowledge.

"وَعَلَّمَ ءَادَمَ ٱلْأَسْمَآءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى ٱلْلَّئِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِّونِي بِأَسْمَآءِ هََوُُلَآءِ إِن كُنتُمْ صَدِقِينَ قَالُواْ سُبْحَنَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَاۤ إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَاۤ ۖ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ ٱلْعَلِيمُ ٱلْحَكِيمُ"¹¹

Allah guides and emphasizes the value of education in the Sura Tauba as:

"وَمَا كَانَ ٱلْمُؤْمِنُونَ لِيَنفِرُواْ كَآفَةً ۚ فَلَوْلَا نَفَرَ مِن كُلِّ فِرْقَةٍ مِّنْهُمْ طَآئِفَةٌ لِّيَتَفَقَّهُواْ فِي ٱلدِّينِ وَلِيُنذِرُواْ قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُوۤا إِلَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذَرُونَ"¹²

"All of the Momin should not go for the battles at once, they should be grouped, and one group should remain at the place and try for the understanding and acquiring the knowledge, so that they safeguard themselves against all kinds of evil."

سَنُقْرِئُكَ فَلَا تَنسَىَ Allah says in the Surah Al-Aala, 13

"I will teach you in this way that you can never forgot it."

Allah explains in the Surah An Nahl,

"وَٱللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُم مِّنَ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْبًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ ٱلسَّمْعَ وَٱلْأَبْصَرَ وَٱلْأَفْدَةَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ"¹⁴

"And Allah born you from your mothers hear in, you were not aware of any thing and He gives you hearing and vision senses and provide you the knowledge so that you should be grateful to Him"

In the Surah Al-e-Imran Allah says

"It is He who has sent the prophet with the Book; in it are verses which are precise - they are the foundation of the Book - and others unspecific. As for those in whose hearts is deviation, they will follow that of it which is unspecific, seeking discordance and seeking an interpretation (suitable to them). And nobody is aware of its true meaning, instead Allah. But the people

who have knowledge say, "We believe in this book. All in it is from our Allah." And no one will be reminded except those of understanding."

"لَقَدْ مَنَّ ٱللَّهُ عَلَى ٱلْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُواْ عَلَيْهِمْ ءَايَتِهِ - وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ ٱلْكِتَبَ وَٱلْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُواْ مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَلٍْ مُّبِينٍ"¹⁶

"Certainly did Allah give a great favor to the Man, as He blessed them with a messenger who was from them, recite the verses, purify them and teach the Wisdom and Book, they were the ignorant before"

In the Surah Al Mujahid Allah says,

"يَأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوۤاْ إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُواْ فِي ٱلْمَجَلِسِ فَٱفْسَحُواْ يَفْسَحِ ٱللَّهُ لَكُمْ ۖ وَإِذَا قِيلَ ٱنشُزُواْ فَآنشُزُواْ يَرْفَع ٱللَّهُ ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ مِنكُمْ وَٱلَّذِينَ أُوتُواْ ٱلْعِلْمَ دَرَجَتْ ۚ وَٱللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ"¹⁷

"Give space others in the assemblies of knowledgeful discussions, He will give you the space, when you are asked to stand up, you should be stand up, He will increase the grades of knowledgeful scholars, He knows everything."

رَبّ هَبْ لِي حُكْمًا وَأَلْجِقْني بٱلصَّلِحِينَ In the Surah Al-Shua'ara he says, 18

"And he requested, granted me an authority and assist me with righteous". Allah says in the surah Al-Anbya,

"And we gave to Lutt, wisdom and knowledge, and saved him from the city, whom peoples were indulged in bad deeds. Indeed those people were disobedient."

Allah highlights the value of education in Surah Taha as

"فَتَعَلَى ٱللَّهُ ٱلْمِلْكُ ٱلْحَقُّ وَلَا تَعْجَلْ بِٱلْقُرْءَانِ مِن قَبْلِ أَن يُقْضَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَحْيُهُ وَقُل رَّبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا" "Allah is high to all, the king, the truth, not read the quran in haste until its revelation is completed to you, and asks "My Allah increase/advance my knowledge."

Allah says in the Surah Al-Youssef

"قُلُ هَذِهِ سَبِيلِىٓ أَدْعُواْ إِلَى ٱللَّهِ عَلَىٰ بَصِيرَةٍ أَنَا وَمَنِ ٱتَّبَعَنِى وَسُبْحَنَ ٱللَّهِ وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ ٱلْمُشْرِكِينَ" "Say (O Muhammad): I am on the way of inviting unto Allah with true knowledge, me and my followers. And Exalted and Glorified be Allah. And I am not from the Mushrikun."

All above verses show the relationship of education with Islam, these verses highlights that the basic aim of education is to safeguard of oneself from the evils, and the way to protect our self from the evil is to get the knowledge about truth and facts and after acquiring the knowledge try to understand it, and always pray to Allah for the refining and getting of knowledge. Above verses also emphasized the value of a book for the transferring of knowledge. These verses also highlight the value of a teacher for the in-depth understanding of the knowledge written in a book.

Education in the Light of Hadiths

The hadiths of Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him also show the affirm connection of the education with the Islam. A recognized book of Ahadees, Al-Tirmidhi provides a very good detail on the education as:²²

When Allah wills well for a person, He grants him a proper understanding of the religion.

The believer will never have enough of listening to good things (seeking knowledge) until he reaches in the paradise. "Whoever follows a path to seek knowledge, Allah will make easy for him the path to Paradise. The angels beat their wings in approval of the seeker of knowledge, and those who are in the heavens and on the earth, pray for forgiveness of the scholars, even the fish in the water and Ant in the hill. The superiority of the scholar over the worshipper is like the superiority of the moon over all other heavenly bodies. The scholars are the heirs of the Prophets, for the Prophets did not leave behind dinars or dirhams, rather they left behind the knowledge, so whoever gains the, knowledge has gained great good fortune.

Following Ahadees also indicates the relationship of the education with the Islam:

"Seeking knowledge is obligatory for each of the Muslim". 23

"Who travel for the search of the knowledge, his way to paradise will be made easy".²⁴

"On the day of the Judgment, One will be judged, about his knowledge and how he had been used it, about the ways of acquiring his wealth, about his activities how he spend his time and about use of his body". ²⁵

"If no benefits are derived from the knowledge, it seems to be as a useless treasure, from which nothing is used to obey the Allah". 26

The One who communicate and guide about the useful knowledge are prayed by Allah, Angeles and all the living things on this Earth and Heavens, even Fish in the water and Ant in their hills.²⁷

Made efforts for the acquiring of the knowledge and try to impart this Knowledge to the others.²⁸

When One try to travel for the seek of Knowledge, Allah move him to the path of Parades. Angels move their wings with great pleasure for the people who are seeking for knowledge. The all creatures of the Allah pray for forgiveness of learner. The knowledge seeker is superior over the stars and the moon. The learners are like the beneficiaries of the prophet.²⁹

The above cited sayings of the Holy Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) demonstrate the importance of Education, prestige of the individual who seeks knowledge, and seeking knowledge as obligation of the followers of Islam. These Hadiths also reflect the thorough connection of Islam with education.

Value of Research and practice in Islam

Surely there are several virtues and blessings of the teaching and the learning system. Therefore, the Islam also alerts its followers from the fake information or rumors, knowledge to show off or teachings without self-practice. Almighty Allah in the Holy Quran says, 'O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful. ³⁰ In the mentioned verse Almighty Allah is guiding Muslims towards research and investigation so that they may acquire the core knowledge and forbidding the believers to react at once on any news or rumor. Moreover, there are the several verses in the Holy Quran related to 'Tafakkur' and 'Tadabbur'. The Arabic root the word 'Fakkara' (to think) with its derived forms occurs 18 times in the Holy Quran.

Another warning is related to the acquisition of the knowledge is to show off rather than to serve the humanity. As the Prophet (peace be upon him) says, 'He who lets the people hear of his good deeds intentionally, to win their praise, Allah will let the people to know his real intention (on the Day of Resurrection), and he who does good things in the public to show off and win the praise of the people, Allah will disclose his real intention (and humiliate him). ³¹Similarly acquisition of the knowledge is to impart in others without the self-practice is also insignificant in the Islam. As the Almighty Allah says, 'do you command people to virtuous conduct, and forget yourselves, even though you read the Scripture? Do you not understand? ³² Similarly in another verse Almighty Allah says, 'O you who believe! Why do you say what you do not do? It is most hateful to God that you say what you do not do.

These Verses and Hadiths indicate the significance of research and practice. The followers of Islam have obligation to investigate and justify information/knowledge (laws of nature) and then practice in their lives. This indicates the significance of searching knowledge and applying for the development of individuals as well as community.

7. Teaching and the Learning system in Islam

There is a very comprehensive system of the teaching and the learning in Islam. The very first teacher of the human beings was not anyone else but the Creator Himself was the teacher who taught the first man ³⁴ in order to make him vicegerent on earth. The system of the prophecy from Adam (peace be upon him) to Muhammad (peace be upon him) designed by Almighty Allah is also a part of the teaching and the learning system. However, it is the distinction of the Islam that after the completion of the Prophet hood, the Almighty Allah assigned the task of Prophets to the scholars of Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) Ummah by saying 'You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah. ³⁵

One of the most remarkable examples of the importance of the teaching and the learning system in Islam is associated with the battle of Badar. After the victory of Badar the Prophet (peace be upon him) gave the prisoners a choice, to accept Islam and thus win their freedom, or they could be freed if they teach ten of the Muslims how to read and write instated of their ransom.³⁶

In the era of the Last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), the Mosque of Prophet (Masjid-e- Nabvi) remaind as the institution of learning; and this model of education flourished as a system of education with the passage of time. The systems of education have significant contribution in field of science, technology, and other fields of social sciences and natural sciences.

Teachers' Dignity in Islam

Almighty Allah has assigned a higher rank to the teachers by saying, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?"³⁷ The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also declared himself as a teacher. ³⁸In this way teachers have the most honorable position in the Islamic society. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) once said, '...the learned are the heirs of the Prophets, and the Prophets leave neither dinar nor dirham, leaving only knowledge, and he who takes it takes an abundant portion.³⁹ The power of the teaching and the learning system can be judge through this saying of the Prophet (peace be upon him), 'if ten scholars of the Jews would follow me, no Jew would be left upon the surface of the earth who would not embrace Islam.

Teachers play a very important role in the wellbeing of a society. However, in the view of a researcher parents are mainly responsible for students' education who take credit for their probity and bear the burden of their errors, while teachers are only sharing part of this responsibility. ⁴¹

Basic Aim of Education in Islam

The basic aim of Islamic Education has been derived from the Al-Quran and the Hadiths of the Hazrat Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him. ⁴²The values which are embedded in the Quran-e-Pak and Hadiths are unchangeable. Al-Quran provides the instructions for living as a social animal and the acts of Hazrat Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him presents the practical implications of those instructions. Islamic education reveals the value of scientific education by providing the evidences about the creation of the universe. ⁴³The main source of Islamic Education is the Allah while His Prophets were the interpreter of that knowledge. ⁴⁴ Allah says in His Book Al-Quran, inform the Man about the Author of the Al-Quran. ⁴⁵

Islamic Education guides to balanced growth of a Man and development of the personality in all aspects because it focuses:

The training of the spirits of the learner

The raining of the self

The training of the intellects

The training of the feelings

The training of the senses

In short aim of the Islamic education is to make the learner all-rounder in the terms of imagination, scientific thoughts, spirits, linguistics, and physical aspects. The ultimate aim is the obeying of Allah's will. 46 The political, financial and social results of the globalization are numerous , but they honestly show attempt as human beings define and recognize our vicinity in the world. As regions and cultures come closer to each other, it is very difficult for human beings to understand the parallel thoughts, establishments and values in different social structures. It is a great deal simpler for understanding the differences and to assume that they represent the between them. Despite tendencies towards international interdependences, variations continue to be underlined among the areas and groups. The Islamic society can be used as a signifier, in ordinary speech they may be used to alien standards. The Al-Ouran and all Islamic laws guide the human activities in the form of beliefs, Aqida, Ibaadat and Ilm. Ilm means the embracing knowledge for Aqida and Ibadat. The Al-Quran provokes a great range of thoughts in many universal fields.⁴⁷

Islamic Educational Institutions

Literally the Islamic Education refers the efforts made by the Muslim Community for the education of their young's for the transferring of the Islamic heritage and knowledge. Al-Quaran and Sunnah of Hazrat Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) are the primary sources of education. The education of Muslims might take place in mosques, as in the U.S., adults, boys, girls, females and males are served in this way. 48 The teaching in mosque includes, recitation, Islamic practices, Islamic beliefs, Arabic language to understand the actual meaning in Al-Quran. ⁴⁹Religious and worldly education, therefore, are introduced collectively inside the Islamic educational institutions for glorifying and understandings the author of Al-Quran. Efforts in Islamic education are made for the search of information and its beneficial use for the welfare of the society. This transfer of knowledge is continued for the stability of the cultured and civilized society. The word 'Deen' is an Arabic word, which has a strong association with the civilized and the intellectual life. Deen represents a state of 'being'. The term 'Deen' has its root in Arabic language'd-y-n, which means to highlight the integration of intellectual, spiritual and civilized life. Basically the Deen generates the meaning to obligate one creator of this universe. 50 The Quranic verses which were sent by Allah through the Angel Jabrael to Hazrat Mohammad (Peace are upon Him) are "read by the name of Allah, who created the man from a congealed blood' clot, and the Allah is most blissful, He taught through the pen, taught the things which were unknown to you".51

Thus, the educational institutions in Islam are not delimited to only the study of Quran and Hadith but there is clear invitation for exploring world resources and gaining power through research and its application in real life.

Learning Techniques as reflected in Ouran

There are several verses in Holy Quran which divert learner's attention towards the techniques to learn in a better way. These techniques have been highlighted in underlying sections.

11.1 Gratitude

The holy Quran starts with the words, '[All] praise is [due] to Allah'⁵² These words show loving appreciation and gratitude to Almighty Allah. Clarifying us that whether anybody says thanks to Him or not, all appreciation and gratefulness belongs to Him. Therefore, learners have to recall the principal, if Allah has given them the time, wellbeing, resources of thought and chance to be in school then they must show gratefulness and appreciation.⁵³ Moreover, Almighty Allah also says in Holy Quran, 'And [remember] when your Lord proclaimed, 'If you are grateful, I will surely increase you [in favor]'. ⁵⁴

11.2 Dedication

Learning may be directly proportional with the learners devotion and efforts. As Almighty Allah speaks very clearly in a verse 'that man can have nothing But what he strives for⁵⁵-

The mentioned verse is very fruitful in the cases where learners surrender and quit learning by saying they cannot do this job and also in the cases of dropout from the institutions. No matter who much difficult a task is, the more a person strives for the more is the chance of his/her success.

11.3. Learning Conditions

The best way to learn is to select proper timing and place for learning. In the Holy Quran Almighty Allah says to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) to spend some or more time in the night for recitation of Holy Quran. The verses are as follows:

'O thou folded in garments! Stand (to prayer) by night, But not all night, Half of it, Or a little less, Or a little more; And recite the Quran in slow, measured rhythmic tones. ⁵⁶

Although it seems a difficult one to learn during night but it is the time that is considered as the most peaceful time.

11.4. Focus on Listening

Knowledge increases rapidly by listing as compare to by speaking that's why the more the person listens the more he learns. Listening can also improve the pronunciation of difficult words while it seems difficult to know exact pronunciation by reading a word. Almighty Allah directs the Prophet (peace be upon him) by saying, 'And when we have recited it to you [O Muhammad through Jibrael (Gabriel)], then follow you its (the Qur'an's) recital.⁵⁷

11.5. Group Study

Almighty Allah in Holy Quran commands His servants to work collectively in the words, 'And cooperate with one another in virtuous conduct and conscience, and do not cooperate with one another in sin and hostility. ⁵⁸

In the mentioned verse Almighty Allah is commanding people to cooperate in the positive work, in educational perspective it may be learning in groups or teaching other classmates. In addition to this Almighty Allah is also forbidding people to cooperate in the sinful or negative tasks, cheating in examination can be considered as its good example

Conclusion

All above narrative data reflected from the Quran-e-Pak and Hadiths demonstrates that teaching and learning process is deeply rooted in the Islam. The process of Education was initiated with the birth of 1st Man, Hazrat Adam (A.S.) and Islam also has its root in the birth of 1st Man Hazrat Adam (A.S.). So there is a profound connection between the education and the Islam. The teachings of Islam (teaching by the Allah' Messengers, Prophet) are eternal and guide for a sustainable system of education. As Islam is true representative of nature, a system of education may continue its progress in development with progress of human societies, new explorations and inventions. Even with the passage of time the knowledge given by Allah was saved in the form of books. The Islamic Holy Books again shows a real linkage of the current education system with the Islam. The Muslims who live anywhere are assumed to apply same rational thinking as guided in Islam for gaining knowledge and applying it for maintaining his visrenity on the earth.

The verses from Al-Quran and Hadits of Hazrat Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him also highlights the relationship of the education with the Islam, Quranic verses and the Hadiths prefer the knowledge seeker over all creatures, even the verse from Al-Baqra, 31-33 represents that the man are called superior creatures just because of their nature of acquiring the knowledge and information.

Islamic education enhanced the educational experiences by providing the skills and the knowledge about the world affairs. Concept of the education in the Islam focuses on the development of the attitudes and caring of the values. Because it has emphasis on the transfer and acquiring of the knowledge in the light of the Allah messages, which has been sent by His messengers. Islamic Education also favors the brother-hood on general basis without considering the religion, cast, cultures, language, etc. Islam also gives importance to the educational research. As the research results in the generation of new knowledge, not only this but it provides the up to date knowledge. Research is also the source of solutions for the problems and issues which may arise in our daily routine activities.

Education is transferred through the teachers, Islam always emphasize on the respect of the teachers. All the prophets (PBUH) sent by Allah were assign the task of teaching the people; and prophets are regarded as the most superior to all the human beings in this world. Transfer of knowledge is a brilliant task, Islam prefers the teaching-learning process over all professions. It seems to be a very great and Nobel profession in the Islam. Hence, in Islam, teaching-

learning (education) process is the fundamental doctrine. Thus the learner, teacher and learning process have been given a significant importance in *Islam*.

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