DEVELOPMENT AS A PSEUDO-CONCEPT: A LOGICAL ANALYSIS FROM RUDOLF CARNAP

EL DESARROLLO COMO PSEUDOCONCEPTO: ANÁLISIS LÓGICO DESDE RUDOLF CARNAP

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Abstract

The main purpose of this writing is to show why to define human development as a pseudo-concept, for this the logical analysis of the concept is carried out from the approaches proposed by Rudolf Carnap. The paradigmatic concepts built to define human development are evaluated from Carnap's philosophical proposal. After this, the concepts of human development are built using the formal way of speaking, setting up two concepts of development that are guided by the rules of the use of language stipulated by Rudolf Carnap in his philosophical project. As a closure, the writing proposes some partial conclusions about the concept of human development and a final reflection on the philosophical project advanced by Rudolf Carnap in his works The overcoming of metaphysics through the logical analysis of language (1993), The

logical construction of the world (1988) and Philosophy and logical syntax (1998).

Keywords: Human development, logical syntax, pseudo-concept, formal mode, material mode.

Resumen

El presente escrito tiene como objeto central mostrar el porqué de definir el desarrollo humano como pseudoconcepto, para esto se realiza el análisis lógico del concepto desde los planteamientos propuestos por Rudolf Carnap. Desde la propuesta filosófica de Carnap se evalúan los conceptos paradigmáticos construidos para definir el desarrollo humano, posterior a esto se construyen los conceptos de desarrollo humano utilizando el modo formal de hablar, configurando dos conceptos de desarrollo que se guían por las reglas del uso del lenguaje estipuladas por Rudolf Carnap en su proyecto filosófico. A modo de cierre, el escrito propone unas conclusiones parciales acerca del concepto de desarrollo humano y una reflexión final sobre el proyecto filosófico adelantado por Rudolf Carnap en sus obrasLa superación de la metafísica mediante el análisis lógico del lenguaje(1993),

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La construcción lógica del mundo(1988) y Filosofía y sintaxis lógica(1998).

Palabras clave: Desarrollo humano, sintaxis lógica, pseudoconcepto, modo formal, modo material.

Human development as an economic model has provoked discussions in different academic fields; This construction of the concept of development is conditioned by the inclusion of different areas of knowledge. Thus, the influence of sciences outside economics is based on the desire to bring development as an economic model closer to non-paradigmatic positions. It is, then, the construction of a development model that allows the incursion of diverse positions whose central objective is the adaptability and constant transformation of the basic defining premises of the model, that is, the model will find a guarantee of survival through absorption and application. of the premises included by sciences other than economics. The emergence of development models amalgamated with sciences other than economics has highlighted the problem of proposing structures for evaluating and confronting the models.

The mixture of different perspectives makes it difficult to implement an evaluation structure that manages to gather and weigh the basic conditions present in each model; The permanent criticism of the evaluation mechanisms lies in the present dissonance between economic elements and non-economic elements. By building human development from positions dissimilar to the economic one, the evaluation becomes an exercise without foundation since it is not possible to

evaluate the measures from a basic economic conception. Now, this does not mean that the models proposed from the brotherhood of different sciences contain conformation defects, this only means that the construction of the model has ignored essential elements that allow its refutation. The correct use of language becomes an essential tool to identify the missing elements when building the concept of human development. The main objective of this writing is to show the reason for defining human development as a pseudo -concept, for this the logical analysis of the concept will be carried out from the approaches proposed by Rudolf Carnap.

Now, why refer to language as an essential tool to identify the missing elements in the concept of human development? By choosing a tool that does not respond to the paradigmatic guidelines for the evaluation of the development model, the aim is to carry out a review that will deliver more accurate conclusions on the problem of the construction and application of the concept of human development. Carnap's approaches developed in his works "The overcoming of metaphysics through the logical analysis of language "(1993) ,The logical construction of the world (1988) and Philosophy and logical syntax (1998) provide the necessary bases to advance a logical analysis of the language. human development. The writing that is presented below is divided into three parts: in the first part the reason why human development is a pseudo -concept will be explained, in the second part a concept of human development will be built from the logical syntax and in the last part part some partial conclusions on the application of the concept.

Human Development as a Pseudo-concept

To begin with the logical analysis of the concept, we will start by identifying the elementary proposition or basic proposition², this is the simplest syntactic form from which the concept can be expressed by means of a proposition. For the concept of human development,3 the defined elementary proposition is: human development is X, in the place of X, the permissible arguments will be located that will allow the concept to be derived and retrotracted from other sentences. The subsequent analysis of the propositions constructed from the definition of human development shows that the word assumes a meaningless connotation, due to the lack of verifiability conditions4 that are evident in the propositions. The derived propositions do not express anything since the tools and procedures to evaluate and contrast what is exposed are unknown and it is not possible to define a verification method that allows us to assume if the proposition is true or false. To exemplify, the construction and derivation

Concept: human development is the process of expanding the real freedoms enjoyed by individuals.

Elementary proposition: human development is X^n Constructed propositions: (x^1) human development is a process of expansion, (x^2) human development is real freedoms, (x^3) human development is what individuals enjoy.

The derived propositions built from the elementary proposition do not allow establishing truth conditions that lead to the concept, that is, each of the propositions point to a different scenario than the one proposed by human development. For the case of the proposition x¹, the definable truth conditions to verify the proposition can be given from the economic sciences. By establishing that the concept of human development analyzed is constructed by an economist, it can be inferred that the aforementioned expansion process refers to growth conditions in economic matters; The verifiability of the proposition would lie in the confirmation of the postulate with prior application in a particular context, so proposing a purely economic verification mechanism would be arbitrary since the concept handled by Sen is not located within the classical paradigms of economics.

For propositions x^2 and x^3 , the verifiability scenario is different, due to the nature of the arguments located in the constructed proposition. The argument⁵ used in x^2 does not have an objective verification scope, the real freedoms enter the field of the prescriptive not the descriptive, which means that they do not respond to the explanation of what it is like to be something but to the explanation of how it should be something.

from the defined elementary proposition of the concept of human development worked by Sen (2000) is shown below:

¹ Schweinheim (2003) propose to conceptually differentiate the concepts of innovation, adaptation and modernization, processes that are closely related each other with the State reform but show differences in their respective contents and scopes. He also defines the concepts of creativity and auterolearning ("the ability of the administrations to learn how to learn"

² The elementary proposition derived from a concept expresses the simplest syntactic way of presenting the concept. For example, for the word mammal the elementary proposition is " X is a mammal " . (Carnap, 1993)

³ In this writing, the definitions worked by Amartya Sen and UNDP on human development will be used.

⁴Verifiability conditions express the way of experiencing and knowing the truth character of a proposition. If you have a proposition of the type "iodine has a boiling point", the verifiability conditions can be expressed in a proposition as follows: iodine changes from a solid state to a gaseous state at a temperature of 450 °C.

⁵ By argument is meant the objects or quasi-objects present in the proposition. For the proposition Uribe is an Honorable Parliamentarian, the arguments are Uribe as an object and an Honorable Parliamentarian as a quasi-object (Carnap, 1988).

The argument x³ rotates in the same orbit as x² since the enjoyment of individuals cannot be verified by means of an objective observable condition that makes explicit the general truth conditions of the argument, it falls within the prescriptive plane. With all this, it can be affirmed that the concept of human development presented by Sen becomes meaningless6 and that the propositions made from it are translated into pseudo-propositions.

Applying the logical analysis from the elementary proposition defined prior to the concept proposed by the UNDP (2020), the lack of conditions to verify what is called human development is evident. The human development proposal worked by the UNDP has conceptual similarities with Sen's, due to the inclusion of variables outside the economic field that seek to diversify and maximize the impact of the model; the construction of a development model supported by the inclusion of diverse positions makes its evaluation difficult, not only because of the quality of the defining attributes of the model, but also because of the emergence of arbitrariness when building evaluation mechanisms, for which the model attributes cannot be evaluated with clear objectivity. The above can be expressed as follows:

Elementary proposition: human development is \boldsymbol{x}^n

Constructed propositions: (x^1) human development is the creation of an environment, (x^2) human development is guaranteeing development, (x^3) human development is the needs and interests of communities.

Analyzing the derived propositions, the following can be affirmed (in relation to their verifiability conditions): for x¹ it can be admitted that the truth condition of the proposition is given by the implementation of economic tools, limiting the truth condition to the nature and object of the author of the proposition, that is, determining which part of an economic scenario. In x2 it is evident that the possible verifiability condition for the proposition would be given from the application of economic instruments associated with economic development. For x³, verifiability conditions cannot be determined due to the ethical nuance⁷ present in the proposition. The identification of the needs and interests of a community is part of a prescriptive task, which makes it difficult to explain the descriptive conditions that allow the proposition to be validated. Taking as a reference that the construction of the concept starts from an amalgamation of knowledge, it could be ensured that the concept of development becomes significant, but this would obviate the conditions of verifiability of the concept; if no verifiability conditions are established for the concept in general, it falls into the category of meaningless. It

Concept: human development is the creation of an environment that guarantees the development of the needs and interests of communities.

⁶ A concept becomes meaningless when the verification method has not been clearly assigned (Carnap, 1993).

⁷ The definition used in this text is based on Carnap's (1998) conception of ethics:

The word "ethics" is used in two different senses; In the second sense, as a philosophy of moral values or moral norms, ethics is fundamentally different; we can call it normative ethics; this does not refer to an investigation of the facts but to an alleged investigation of what is good and what is bad, what is right to do and what is wrong. (p.15)

is stated that the concept of human development proposed by UNDP is meaningless and that the propositions made with it are translated into pseudo -propositions⁸.

Continuing with the proposal of analysis from the language, it is necessary to establish the observational propositions9, with this the affirmations made about the concepts of human development will be clarified and supported. For Sen's definition, an observational proposition is defined that brings together the basic components of the concept, trying to bring what is said by the author closer to a language that allows establishing a condition of verifiability; The same treatment is applied to the definition exposed by UNDP, explaining the basic conditions of the concept and translating its structure into a scenario that allows identifying the way to verify the proposition. It is necessary to clarify that the translation made into a language that allows the identification of verifiability conditions is based on the need to guarantee that the derived propositions, in this case the observational ones, provide the necessary tools to verify what is exposed from empirical science. The exercise in question yields the following:

UNDP concept: human development is the creation of an environment that guarantees the development of the needs and interests of communities (bⁿ)

Observational propositions

If the real freedoms of individuals are expanded, the level of development increases (a1)

If the needs and interests of a community are met, the necessary conditions for development are generated (b²)

Applying the method of indirect verification¹⁰, it is concluded that the two observational propositions constructed for the concept of development lack identifiable conditions of verifiability. In the proposition derived from Sen's concept (a1), the expansion of the real freedoms of individuals is identified as a verification mechanism, the level of development that is directly linked to the expansion of certain conditions of individuals and a problem becomes evident of verification when identifying which are the tools applicable to the proposition from empirical science; These individual freedoms are agreements made between individuals that are based on particular assumptions, which means that they refer to situations or images of a reality that is far from the observable reality from empirical science. The verification of the expansion of individual liberties cannot refer to an objective verification based on the empirical, individual liberties refer to an imaginary of how the world should be for individuals, they do not expose an objective relationship of how the world is.

Amartya Sen concept: human development is the process of expanding the real freedoms enjoyed by individuals (aⁿ)

⁸ are called propositions made with insignificant concepts and propositions made with syntactic errors

⁹ An observational proposition is a proposition deduced from the initial proposition that allows us to verify what is expressed in the initial proposition. For the proposition that oil is a hydrocarbon, the derivable observational proposition would be expressed as follows: when burned with oxygen, hydrocarbons produce carbon dioxide (chemical property of hydrocarbons that can be attributed to oil). It is necessary to highlight that observational propositions can be built from verified propositions (laws of science) or from the observation of the object to be verified in the proposition.

¹⁰ Indirect verification is used when the verification does not pray on the actual; when you have objects that cannot be verified by current perception, that is, you must make inferences about the nature of the object.

In the proposition (b2) derived from the UNDP concept, it can be concluded after the analysis that there are no verifiability conditions that allow us to assign it the name of meaningful proposition. The needs and interests of a community are defined from agreements between individuals who seek to satisfy particular ideals and there is no comparison parameter that allows measuring the level of satisfaction of needs without resorting to the particular imaginary of an individual; When we talk about a need or an interest, we are talking about the feelings and images of an individual associated with a particular topic. Identifying verifiability conditions in a proposition that does not talk about how the world is, but rather talks about how the world should be for a particular individual, makes it impossible for the instruments of empirical science to enter and provide some proof of the truth of what is stated.

According to the previous analysis, it can be affirmed that human development is a pseudo -concept and the propositions derived from it become pseudo -propositions. The derivation made from the elementary proposition did not allow defining verifiability conditions that would facilitate their retrogression to the concept of human development. It was observed that the only derived propositions that allowed for retrogression were those that were limited to elements of an economic nature, propositions that are related to the concept discussed but that leave aside essential elements proposed for human development. When delving into the analysis through the observational propositions in order to guarantee and weigh the possible verifiability conditions that can be attributed to the concept of human development, it was observed that there are no empirical verification conditions for the concept of human development, due to the implication ethics immersed in the application of the model.

Human Development from Logical Syntax

When analyzing the concept from Carnap's logical analysis proposal, it seems unlikely to free human development from the name of pseudo -concept. Making an assertion like the above would denote a lack of knowledge of the depth and relevance of logical analysis when it comes to clarifying the expressions of science; Carnap's proposal not only has as its essential objective to analyze and validate the approaches made from the sciences that support its contents from the empirical, but also has as its primary task to clarify the non-empirical contents of the propositions and with this identify the conditions to validate what voiced. This is why the task of logical analysis goes beyond establishing the meaning of the propositions, it not only consists of identifying what is wrong, but also provides the tools to strengthen and support the propositions made from empirical science and reformulate the pseudo -propositions and thereby free them from their non-empirical nuance.

Consequently, by applying the positive result of the logical analysis, it is possible to arrive at the construction of a concept of human development that can be supported in conditions of empirically demonstrable verifiability. The task lies in reconstructing

the concept from the bases provided by the analysis of the elementary proposition and the observational propositions, taking the usable elements as a starting point and from them explaining the new concept of human development. The conceptual tools taken from Carnap will support the relevance of the construction of a new concept, thus it is necessary to validate the postulate of human development since with this it would be possible to resolve the question on how to evaluate the model in its entirety. The human development built from the logical syntax¹¹ will have the necessary bases to support any rigorous analysis from any empirical science, the reconstruction of the concept is not a reformulation of the sense but of the form of the proposition.

Sticking to the use of the use of the formal mode¹², the concept of human development will undergo profound changes in the structure of the proposition and in the use of the terms that make it up, the meaning of the words used will be kept and the only thing that will change will be the form in which they are used in the proposition. It is necessary to explain that for the concept proposed from the formal mode, only the terms that are directly related to the economy will be used, this not in order to change the meaning of the proposition but in order to ensu-

- (z^1) Human development is a set of economic options that individuals have to increase per capita income and employment .
- (y¹) Human development is a set of economic characteristics that increase the purchasing power of groups united by political and economic agreements.

The concept (z1) built from Amartya Sen's proposal becomes significant by freeing it from the ethical burden and wrapping it only with economic characteristics. The verifiability conditions of the proposition can be more clearly identified by following the common thread of economic reasoning; thus, the application and evaluation of the model from the new proposal will leave no room for doubts of a methodological or technical nature. The verification of the concept can start firstly from the identification of the elementary proposition and secondly from the verification through the observational propositions. The derivation and verification of the new concept validates the use

re verifiability conditions. The change in the form of the proposition is the essential tool from which the defense of the new concept will begin, the postulate of human development will receive elements from which to support its method, the radical change does not revolve around the object of the model, but which revolves around the way in which the model is presented through language. Now, the concept of human development constructed from the formal mode can be expressed as follows:

¹¹ Syntactic method worked by Carnap in his work Philosophy and logical syntax (1998).

¹² Carnap (1998) calls the formal mode "the considerations or assertions that refer to the linguistic expression without any reference to the meaning or meaning that it might have. A formal investigation of a given sentence does not refer to the sense of the sentence or the meaning of each word, but exclusively to the gender of the words and the order in which they follow one another." (p. 23)

of the formal mode and also ensures the relevance of the construction carried out, this can be exemplified as follows:

Concept: human development is a set of economic options that individuals have to increase per capita income and employment (z^1) .

Elementary Proposition: Human Development is ZXⁿ

Constructed propositions: (zx1) human development is a set of economic operations, (zx2) human development is what individuals have to increase per capita income and employment.

For the proposition (z1) the following verifiability conditions can be defined framed in the postulates of the economic sciences: the proposition (zx1) allows going back to the concept of human development, framing the going back in the economic character of the proposition and the Application of the human development model implies the implementation of a series of economic operations that can be verified empirically, micro and macroeconomic operations. In the case of the proposition (zx2), the verifiability condition occurs in the same previous economic scenario, and the application of the model leads to an increase in per capita income and employment, elements that can be expressed and evaluated from the economic point of view. By removing the ethical nuance of the initial pseudo -proposition, the essential meaning of the model proposed by Sen is not lost, the economic options proposed by human development remain intact and the increase in per capita income and employment can translate into the expansion of real freedoms that individuals enjoy.

Likewise, when carrying out the same construction in the formal mode of the model exposed by UNDP, similar results can be reached. The ethical connotation attached to the concept made it difficult to identify verifiability conditions; Translating the proposition into economic terms facilitates the verification of what has been exposed and the treatment from the formal mode quarantees the permanence of the primordial meaning of the proposed model. The verifiability condition of (y1) is also present in the economic field and the derived propositions enter into the same reasoning. In the proposition (yx1) the verifiability is given from the implementation of characters assignable to the models of economic development and for (yx2) the conditions are developed in the economic sphere represented in elements of supply and demand. The proposition built from the formal way of speaking keeps the main meaning which aims to guarantee the satisfaction of the needs and interests of individuals in a community, since the mechanisms to reach that end are made explicit. The above analysis can be expressed as follows:

Concept: Human development is a set of economic characteristics that increase the purchasing power of groups united by political and economic agreements (y1).

Elementary proposition: human development is YX^n

Constructed propositions: (yx^1) human development is economic characteristics, (yx^2) human development is the increase in purchasing power of groups united by political and economic agreements.

To support on a solid basis the analysis from the propositions built with the formal mode, it is necessary to build the observational propositions. The proposals built for human development, keeping the close relationship between the concept and the economic postulates, must be verified from basic precepts of the economy previously verified: macroeconomic and microeconomic measures and analysis rates are the elements that allow verifying the proposition from what has already been verified, that is, these components present in any economic model are applicable and measurable from the human development proposal. The observational propositions built from the economic point of view support the model by guaranteeing its verification, with this it is possible to reach the conclusion that the concept became insignificant due to the use of the material way of speaking. The above can be expressed as follows:

Concept: Human development is a set of economic characteristics that increase the purchasing power of groups united by political and economic agreements (y1).

Elementary proposition: human development is YXⁿ

Constructed propositions: (yx¹) human development is economic characteristics, (yx²) human development is the increase in purchasing power of groups united by political and economic agreements.

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Amartya Sen concept formal mode: Human development is a set of economic options that individuals have to increase per capita income and employment (aⁿ)

UNDP concept formal mode: Human development is a set of economic characteristics that increase the purchasing power of groups united by political and economic agreements (bⁿ)

Observational propositions:

The increase in per capita income and employment condition the supply and demand of goods and services (a1)

Macroeconomic measures condition the increase in GDP per capita (a²).

Employment rates can be altered by micro-economic measures (a³).

Managing inflation conditions the supply and demand for goods and services (b 1).

The CPI determines the purchasing power of individuals (b²).

The trade balance expresses the situation of imports and exports of a nation (b³).

From the previous analysis it can be inferred that the verifiability conditions of the concept are identifiable from the construction in the formal mode, in addition to this it can also be inferred that there are more verification conditions expressible in observational propositions, this is due to the fact that economic sciences have assumptions additional to those mentioned that allow the verification of the model. A critical argument to the concept proposed from the formal way can be rooted in the alleged loss of the social and cultural nuance of the model proposed by both Sen and UNDP; This argument can be answered as follows: human development as an economic model contains unavoidable elements of the economic sciences, elements that have already been made explicit in the concept, and the social and cultural elements can only be measurable if they are found in the field of the empirical. For this reason these arguments are eliminated from the proposition, but this does not mean that the meaning of the model changes. All the measures made explicit through the observational propositions point to the increase in economic conditions that favor the individual and society. For the case of (a¹) the increase in the consumption of goods and services can translate into an improvement in the living conditions of individuals and in the case (b³) the strengthening of the means of production enables an improvement in the distribution of the resources.

In order to continue reinforcing the construction of the new concept, it is necessary to focus the analysis on the propositional function¹³ and the explanation of the sphere of objects that can be14 attributed to human development. Taking the elementary proposition "human development is a set of economic options " and eliminating the objects and quasi-objects, it is established that the propositional function is X is a set of Y; thus, the sphere of objects that can be permissible arguments for this function The propositional function must be directly related to the economic sciences and verification from the empirical. The construction of the new concept allows to precisely delimit the permissible arguments for the propositional function derived from the concept of development, in this way if it is intended to

¹³ The propositional functions are constituted as the skeleton of the proposition, in them the relationships and properties of the objects and quasi-objects that can be located in the places of arguments are determined. For example, the proposition AK 47 is a Russian rifle, has as its propositional function X is a rifle and, as object, AK 47 as a Russian quasi-object. In the initial proposition a relationship between a rifle and the country of manufacture is expressed, the possible arguments for the argument places have to have the same relationship, namely, TAVOR and Israeli can be located; the resulting proposition would be TAVOR is an Israeli rifle.

¹⁴ The sphere of objects refers to objects and quasi-objects that are related to each other and that are arguments applicable to the propositional function. For the example above TAVOR and AK 47 keep the same dial, Russian and Israeli keep the same dial.

assign new arguments to the concept these, they must be from the same sphere of objects assignable to the model. The above can be exemplified as follows:

- Elementary proposition: human development is a set of economic options.
- Propositional function: X is a set of Y.
- Permissible object sphere: economic or related to the economic and verifiable (for X economic growth and sustainable development; for Y political options and cultural options).

On the other hand, the identification of the sphere of objects and the permissible arguments in the proposition guarantees derivation and verification by means of other propositions; This identification avoids confusion when choosing the arguments that can be used in the proposition to talk about the economic sciences, arguments from the sphere of said science should be used: the possible arguments for a given propositional function must describe a verifiable objective relationship, this means that concepts related to the freedoms of individuals can be attributed to human development only if these can be verified from empirical science. The transformation to the formal mode facilitates the identification of the possible arguments that manage to collect the ethical nuance assigned to the concept; the freedoms of individuals transformed into formal language can be expressed as follows:

- Material mode: freedoms of individuals.
- Formal mode: set of acquired guarantees expressed in social and political agreements.

From the above, it can be inferred that the concept of human development can be assigned characters that are foreign to the economy, supporting the inclusion of the characters from the formal way of speaking. For the analysis in question, elements unrelated to the economic sciences were not included in the new proposal, this is because the original approach of the proposed model is based on economic precepts; The primary task was to free the concept from ethical nuance, reformulate the way in which it was presented, and finally identify the conditions of verifiability. The purpose of exposing the sphere of objects and the propositional function seeks to strengthen the validity of the analysis from Carnap's postulate, thus demonstrating that the construction of the propositions of science must follow a rigorous analysis of language, with this it is possible to clarify the content and avoid falling into superfluous discussions that can be overcome from the correct use of language.

Conclusions

By means of the above, it can be concluded that logical analysis is a method that facilitates the elucidation of the contents expressed in the propositions of empirical science. The application of the model proposed by Carnap allows revealing the conditions of verifiability present in the propositions of empirical science and allows establishing the syntactic errors present due to an inappropriate use of language. The logical analysis proposal allowed the construction of a concept of human development in which it is easy to identify the conditions of verifiability, the conditions that define the model were made explicit and the new concept was supported from demonstrable empirical evidence from the economic sciences.

The exclusion of the ethical component and its subsequent explanation was supported by the fact of guaranteeing elements of verification, but it did not mean that the central object of the human development model was forgotten. The application of the concept of human development built from the logical analysis can have too many impediments since the exclusion of elements of ethical connotation supposes a forgetfulness of the individual. The distinction made by Carnap and applied in this text to the concept of ethics makes it difficult to define a development model that evaluates and weighs the actions of its mechanisms, so to enter into the discussion of what is good and what is bad would be to move away from logical analysis, but it would mean approaching the central object of human development.

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