### **ARTICLE**



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### Abstract

This article refutes the In Paris 'mw 'eurasians'-centric assertion of a universal scarcity of women's statuary across time and geography (Baugher & Jameson, 2025). Anchored in the "Restoration of Maat" conceptual framework—rooted in the declaration from the Prophecy of the low im hw Nfrti 'im Axw Neferti' that to the outside'—it challenges the premise that women have been historically underrepresented in visual and is not generalizable to societies of and Kmt(yw) 'Black People' or other classical and contemporary civilizations of Abibifoo 'Black People'. Employing a five-part comparative methodology—assessing scale, posture, placement, symbolism, and sociocultural function—this study analyzes visual and material evidence from his Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks', his Kush', the Yorùbá, Akan, Dogon, and Nyamwezi. It highlights representations of women as rulers (b.a., Sobekneferu Ra, Tiye, Amanirenas), divinities (b.a., Osun, Yemoja, Oya), and symbols of fertility and regeneration (b.a., Akuaba, Namji/Namchi, Nyamwezi mother figures). Findings confirm that societies of Abibifoo 'Black People' consistently represent women as integral to spiritual, political, and cultural order, in direct alignment with the worldview of 🖆 🕯 m³ t 'Maat'. By contrast, societies of 🔊 🔊 "mw 'eurasians'—shaped by diametric opposites, alienation, and dichotomous logic—either minimize or malign women's roles in statuary. The article concludes that what has been framed as a global phenomenon is, in fact, a parochial condition of eurasian visual culture. It argues for the urgent need to re-center the lived realities, cultural logic, and representational traditions of Abibifoo 'Black People' to correct distortions in global art historical narratives.

### 1. Introduction

In April of 2024, I was invited to contribute a chapter to the forthcoming volume *Monuments, Statues, and Commemorations of Women*: Historical Reckoning and Memory (Baugher & Jameson, 2025), but encountered epistemological gatekeeping when I directly challenged the flawed premise of the book—namely, the eurasian-centric claim of a universal scarcity of women's statuary—by presenting evidence grounded in the worldview of Kmt(yw) 'Black People'. In discussions by Kmt 'mw 'eurasians' and their progeny with regard to public statuary, particularly representations of women, it is often assumed—without critical scrutiny—that there exists a universal scarcity of monumental

depictions of women throughout history (Baugher & Jameson, 2025). This claim, however, emerges from a narrow and provincial vantage point: that of societies of he had been falsely in a historically produced by a worldview rooted in alienation, diametric opposites, and dichotomization, that has historically produced societies where women are underrepresented or absent in commemorative art. Yet, this localized phenomenon has been falsely universalized, with norms of he had been falsely universalized as if they were representative of all human experience.

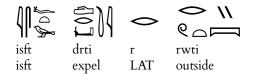
This article exposes and corrects this misrepresentation by shifting the analytic center to  $\frac{Kmt(yw)}{N}$  'Black People' of antiquity and broader civilizations of Abibifoo 'Black People' throughout space and time—those who have historically manifested the presence, power, and centrality of Black women through statuary in both public and sacred spaces. Far from being absent, women in these societies are often portrayed as rulers, diviners/healers, and divine embodiments of  $\frac{1}{N}$  'Maat'. In  $\frac{1}{N}$  Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks', as in  $\frac{1}{N}$  Kush', Yorùbá, Akan, Dogon, and Nyamwezi traditions, among many others, female figures are not marginal—they are foundational and essential.

Guided by the "Restoration of Maat" framework, anchored in the *Prophecy of White im3hw Nfrti* 'imAxw Neferti' which proclaims that:



<sup>&#</sup>x27;Maat will come to her throne',

<sup>&#</sup>x27;isft expelled to the outside'



(Golènischeff 1927, pls. 23-25; Lichtheim 1973, pp. 143-144), this study examines how statuary functions as a reflection of foundational societal values. The visual and symbolic representation of women serves as a metric of whether a society is oriented toward  $m_3$ °t 'Maat'—order, balance, reciprocity—or toward  $m_3$ °t 'wrong, wrong doing, falsehood'—disorder, imbalance, and alienation from reality. Through comparative analysis of scale, posture, placement, symbolism, and sociopolitical function, this study reveals a striking divergence between the commemorative practices of societies of  $m_3$ °t 'Mat'—order, balance, and sociopolitical function, this study reveals a striking divergence between the commemorative practices of societies of  $m_3$ °t 'Mat'—order, balance, and sociopolitical function, this study reveals a striking divergence between the commemorative practices of societies of  $m_3$ °t 'Maat'—order, balance, and alienation from reality. Through comparative analysis of scale, posture, placement, symbolism, and sociopolitical function, this study reveals a striking divergence between the commemorative practices of societies of  $m_3$ °t 'Maat'—order, balance, and  $m_3$ 0 'Mat'—order, balance, and  $m_3$ 0 'Mat'—orde

Rather than passively adopting flawed assumptions of scarcity, this work asserts the necessity of re-centering the cultural and historical realities of  $\frac{C}{2} \frac{d^2}{d^2} \frac{d^2}{d^2}$ 

### 2. Historical Context of Women's Statuary

The historical record of statuary among Abibifoo 'Black People'—especially within classical Black civilizations—reveals a long-standing tradition of honoring women in stone, wood, metal, and

<sup>1. = 4</sup> m3°t 'Maat' tends to be translated based upon the seven (7) cardinal virtues of truth, justice, righteousness/propriety, order balance, harmony, and reciprocity. F isft 'wrong, wrong doing, falsehood' is the complementary opposite of 4 m3°t 'Truth, balance, harmony, justice, righteousness/propriety, order, reciprocity' which invokes ideas from chaos to disorder.

clay. Far from being exceptions, women appear as queens, divine figures, warrior-leaders, spiritual authorities, and foundational ancestors. This reality directly contradicts the false claims of \*\*Mw\* 'eurasians' and their progeny of a universal paucity of female statuary. What is perceived as scarcity is, in fact, a reflection of specific cultural conditions rooted in the worldview of the \*\*Mw\* 'eurasians', not a global norm (Carruthers, 1972; Ani, 1994; Clarke, 1991). In \*\*Shown Kmt(yw) 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks', women were not only depicted prominently, but often monumentalized in ways equal to or greater than their male counterparts. The colossal standing statues of \*\*Imn-hnmt h3t-sps.wt 'Hatshepsut' at \*\*Imi dsr dsr dsrw 'Sacred of Sacreds', and the multiple representations of \*\*Imi hmt nswt nfrtiiti 'Wife of the Ruler, Nefertiti', \*\*Imi hmt nswt ty hmt nswt tiyi 'Wife of the Ruler, Tiye', and \*\*Imi hmt nswt mryt-Imn 'Meritamun' reveal not only physical scale but symbolic stature (Tyldesley, 1996; Robins, 1993).



Figure 1. Note the Black features of the authentic representation of + Land limit newt nfrtiiit 'Nefertiti' carved in stone vs. the more famous fake "white" mis-representation of her made out of plaster of paris in the early 20th Century (Photo Credit left: Author; Photo Credit right: Wikimedia commons)

TELL ntrwt 'feminine divinities' like Ind ist 'Isis' and Ish hwt hr 'Hathor' were essential to cosmic, socio-political, and individual levels. These representations were integrated into state ideology, spiritual cosmology, and social memory (Obenga, 2004; Karenga, 2004).

This tradition extended well beyond have the Black Nation/Land of the Blacks' in its narrow nation-state sense. In have kši 'Kush', royal women such as Nana Amanitore and Nana Shanakdakhete were commemorated in pyramids and temple statuary, with full regalia and inscriptions affirming their independent rule (Kendall, 2002). Among the Yorùbá, carved shrine figures and courtyard sculptures depict figures such as Moremí and Yemoja, reflecting their roles in protection, fertility, and governance (Drewal & Drewal, 1983). In Akan societies, female rulers (ahemmaanom)

continue to be honored through regalia, stools, carved wooden representations, and funerary sculpture that affirm their co-leadership in political and spiritual matters (Boaten, 1992). Among the Dogon, statues of women associated with creation and ancestral continuity are housed in sacred granaries and lineage shrines (Griaule & Dieterlen, 1954). The Nyamwezi of present-day Tanzania have produced large-scale wooden female figures used in ancestral veneration, initiation rites, and community protection rituals (Nooter, 1993).

What links these societies of Abibifoo 'Black People' is not simply the presence of women in their visual culture, but the underlying orientation with regard to the foundational worldview that gives rise to such representations. Societies oriented toward  $2 - 4 m^3 c$  'Maat' manifest balance, complementarity, and harmony as cosmological imperatives. As such, the visibility of women in both public and sacred spaces is not anomalous—it is structural. Statuary in these societies functions as a material expression of interdependence and societal equilibrium, not domination or marginalization (Karenga, 2004; Obenga, 2004).

By contrast, societies of we're eurasians' have historically depicted women—when depicted at all—within restrictive frameworks: as temptresses (Eve), sources of chaos (Pandora), or objectified nudes (Venus). Their material culture reflects a worldview grounded in alienation: spirit vs. body, male vs. female, divine vs. fallen (Ani, 1994; Carruthers, 1999; Daly, 1973). As such, the absence of monumental statuary honoring women in these societies must be understood not as universal, but as particular—an artifact of their propensity towards isft 'wrong, wrong doing, falsehood', not of humanity as a whole.

Contrary to claims that critiques of the common worldview based on diametric opposites are aimed narrowly at so-called "white european perspectives," the pattern being addressed here is far more expansive. First of all, what is conventionally referred to as so-called "europe" is not, in geographical reality, a continent at all, but rather the westernmost peninsula of the larger eurasian landmass—a designation rooted in sociopolitical invention rather than physical geography (Lewis & Wigen, 1997). Indeed, the societies of the eurasian continent share more than mere geography; they are unified by deeply embedded epistemologies of fundamental alienation as manifested in diametric opposites whereby one thing is good, and its opposite is ascribed the value of bad all the time (so called "devil") in a type of axiological oppositionality. Examples of this can be found in the following manifestations of the shared worldview of """ "mw 'eurasians':

Abrahamic Religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism)
God vs. Devil (Good vs. Evil)
Allah vs. Iblis/Shaytan
Heaven vs. Hell (Reward vs. Punishment)
Spirit vs. Flesh (Divine vs. Sinful)
Man vs. Woman (Adam as ruler, Eve as the deceived)
Man vs. Nature (Dominion over Earth in Genesis)

# 2 Zoroastrianism

Ahura Mazda vs. Angra Mainyu (Good vs. Evil)

Light vs. Darkness (Holy vs. Demonic) Order (Asha) vs. Chaos (Druj)

3 Gnosticism (and Dualist Sects like Manichaeism) Spirit vs. Matter (Good vs. Corrupt) Light vs. Darkness (Knowledge vs. Ignorance) Divine Realm vs. Material World (God vs. Demiurge)

4 Hinduism

Brahman vs. Maya (Ultimate Reality vs. Illusion) Purusha vs. Prakriti (Spirit vs. Matter) Devas vs. Asuras (Gods vs. Demons) Brahmins vs. Untouchables (Religious purity vs. Pollution)

5 Buddhism

Samsara vs. Nirvana (Illusion vs. Enlightenment) Desire vs. Detachment (Suffering vs. Liberation)

6 So-called "european" Racialized Christianity (So-called "white" Supremacist Theology) "white" vs. Black (Holy vs. Evil—b.a., Medieval "Curse of Ham" justifications) So-called "europe" vs. Africa (Civilized vs. Savage) Man vs. Woman (Patriarchy as divine order) Man vs. Nature (Mastery over the Earth)

7 Modern so-called "western" capitalist Ideology (Secular but Functioning as Religious Dogma) Wealth vs. Poverty (Blessing vs. Curse) Rational vs. Irrational (Science vs. Indigenous Knowledge) So-called "west" vs. Rest (Progress vs. Backwardness) (Ani, 1994; Daly, 1973; Boyce, 1979; Escobar, 1995)

These examples of axiological oppositionality do not merely describe difference; they encode embedded justification of domination and exclusion in perpetuity. This ill-logic extends into contemporary racialized systems wherein so-called "europe" and "whiteness" are framed as the standard of humanity, pitted against Blackness as the opposite (James, 1998; Kambon 2011; Weber, 1930). These axiological oppositions are not isolated cultural peculiarities, but systematic manifestations of a worldview founded on fundamental alienation that is both historically pervasive and structurally embedded. By contrast, the cosmologies of Abibifoo 'Black People', including the tradition of the Kmt(vw) 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks' based on worldview grounded in balance, reciprocity, and cyclical regeneration (Kambon & Songsore, 2021; Karenga, 2004; Lawal, 1996). Recognizing this broader commonality of worldwight we constructed fictive geographical labels (like "europe") and interrogate the shared cosmological foundations that underpin such constructions in the first place.

This comparative study explores these differences, shedding light on how these cultures have historically perceived and represented women through their artistic expressions. In classical Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks', statues and carvings of women were plentiful, often depicting them as Lala ntrwt 'feminine divinities', in the role of hmt nswt 'queen', and as A spswt 'noble ladies.' Lala ntrwt 'feminine divinities' like Lala ist 'Isis' and hwt hr 'Hathor' were central to the spiritual system of the Amt(yw) 'Black People', embodying aspects of motherhood, the supernatural, protection, and fertility, which were integral to the civilization's continued existence. A

Flack People', wooden statuary representations of women were common and held significant cultural and spiritual value. In societies of where one phenomenon is ascribed value while its opposite is vilified (god vs. devil, man vs. woman, man vs. nature, white vs. Black, n.k.) (Ani, 1994; Carruthers, 1999; Q. Kambon & L. Songsore, 2021). Their worldview, in turn, leads to a paucity of statuary of vilified women as compared to lionized men. However, not all representations follow this negative pattern because it is not a universal phenomenon.

For example, the modern *Agajie* warrior monument in Cotonou, Republic of Benin—depicting a female military general of the *Danxomé* army—challenges centuries of invisibilization common to eurasian societies by monumentalizing Black women not as muses or metaphors, but as capable protectors of the nation.



Figure 2. Agɔjie warrior monument in Cotonou, Republic of Benin—depicting a female military general of the Danxomε army. Author (left) standing with his mother Okuninibaa (Dr.) Mawiyah Kambon (right) in front of the Agɔjie monument (Photo Credit Author 2022)

This statue, created at the behest of President Patrice Talon and unveiled in 2022, reflects a resurgence of Abibifoo 'Black people'-centered representation, hearkening back to visual \*\* Abibifahodie 'Black Liberation' (Ndiaye, 2023). By examining these contrasting traditions, this study emphasizes the significance of worldview and cultural manifestation of said worldview in shaping the representation of women in art throughout space and time.

In sum, the abundant presence of female figures in statuary of societies of Amt(vw) 'Black People' underscores a broader and more integrated recognition of women's roles in these societies, in stark contrast to societies of non-Black Amt 'mw' 'eurasians', where such representations have been historically limited and shaped by values stemming ultimately from fundamental alienation (Carruthers, 1999).

In classical Some Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks', for example, women could own property and bequeath it to their heirs. A quote from "Stela of The Soldier Qedes From Gebelein" illustrates this point:

I acquired these in the household of my father Iti; (but) it was my mother Ibeb who acquired them for me. (Lichtheim, 1973, p. 90)

By contrast, in Greek societies like that of Athens, women were seen as property themselves.

The overall premise that there is a paucity of female statuary in the world is steeped in eurasian assumptions about the nature of reality that ignores millennia of Black female statues representing political figures, spiritual figures, Ancestors, divinities and more (Baugher & Jameson, 2025). The only way that such a fundamental premise can hold is if one exclusively looks at non-Black societies. As is typical, so-called "white" people tend to universalize their culturally unique habits and proclivities despite documented reality across space and time to the contrary that contradicts their fundamental assumptions (Ani 1994; Baugher & Jameson, 2025). According to Ani (1994, p. 511), in her chapter entitled "Universalism: The Syntax of Cultural Imperialism:"

As Europeans present their culture to the world, they do so consistently in universalistic terms. This representation takes the form of a relentless command to universalize.

In this vein,

European patterns and values can be presented as universal, while others are labelled as 'particular.' Then European ideology can be proselytized without the appearance of imposition, invasion, conquest, exploitation, or chauvinism. [...] It is the quintessential statement of European nationalism.

As I have noted above, however, this trait is not unique to the imaginary class of folks called "europeans" from the fictional so-called "continent" of europe (which fails all definitions of the word continent), but extends to their racial relatives in other parts of eurasia as well. Consequently, in this article, I will provide copious counterexamples that demonstrate why any such overarching premise with regard to a lack of female statuary is fundamentally flawed when presented as universal. Indeed, throughout human history, the artistic representation of women has served as a reflection of the values, cosmologies, and social structures of different cultures. These depictions, especially in the realm of statuary, not only highlight the role of women within societies but also underscore the underlying worldview that shapes such representations. A comparative analysis of Andrew Matter. 'Black People' and A A A Grant 'mw 'eurasians' reveals a striking divergence in how these cultures represented women, particularly in statuary. This article explores these differences, illustrating how societies rooted in 🚅 🖆 m³'t 'Maat'—the principle of cosmic balance in 🗥 🗟 Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks'—show an integrated recognition of women in alignment with complementary opposites, while societies of Is I mw 'eurasians', shaped by diametric opposites whereby one thing is subjectively "good" while its opposite is "bad", often depict women as subordinate or marginal figures (Ani, 1994; Carruthers 1999; Kamalu, 1998).

Visual evidence from various Black cultures and historical periods attests to the prominent roles of women as rulers, divinities, and archetypes of fertility (and, therefore, by extension, of life itself) and motherhood. In classical And Kmt(yw) 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks', Sbk-nfrw-r' 'Sobek-neferu Ra', the first undisputed outright female ruler known in history is depicted in statues adorned with traditional regalia, signifying her ultimate authority (Robins, 1993). Queen Will 'Tiye', another notable figure, was portrayed in statues at the same scale as her husband, imn-htp 'Amenhotep III', a symbol of her political importance (Fletcher, 2013).



Figure 3. Author at the foot of the monumental statue depicting \( \mathbb{M} \times \) tiyi 'Tiye' and \( \overline{\text{LE}} \) imn-\( \http \) 'Amenhotep III' at the same scale (Photo Credit Author 2016)

The wooden statue of Queen Www tiyi 'Tiye' in the Ägyptisches Museum in Berlin serves as a powerful example of her regal stature and influence (Fletcher, 2013). Kambon & Songsore (2021, pp. 131-133) provide a partial list of female rulers of classical Spani Kmt(yw) 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks'

Table 1. Partial List of Female Rulers and Regents of so-called "Dynastic" ් විම Kmt 2 who are attested from their statues and carved inscriptions. (O Kambon & L. Songsore, 2021, pp. 131-133)

Position	Name	Date(s)	Predecessor	Successor
Regent	IS mrt nit 'Merneith'	c. 2950 BCE	<u> </u>	<b>⋒</b>
Regent	i♠͡௺͡╗ ni-m³ˤt-ḥp 'Nimaathap'	c. 2686 BCE	S3-nht 'Sanakht' or	n <u>t</u> ri- <u>h</u> t 'Netjerykhet (Djoser)'
Regent	'Ankhesenpepi II'	c. 2288 BCE	'Nemtyemsaf I'	ppi 'Pepi II'
Substantive Ruler <sup>3</sup>	`````````````````````````````````````	c. 2152 BCE -2150 BCE	`Nemtyemsaf II'	mn-k3-r <sup>c</sup> 'Menkara'
Substantive Ruler	(Sobek-neferu Ra'	c. 1806 BCE -1802 BCE	'Amenemhat IV'	'Amenemhat Sobekhotep I'
Regent	் i'ḥ-ḥtp 'Ahhotep I'	c. 1560 BCE - 1530 BCE	(基际制) k3-ms(w)  'Kamose'	i'h-msi(w) 'Ahmose l'
Regent	িন্দার i <sup>c</sup> ḥ-ms nfr-tri 'Ahmose Nefertari'	c. 1526 BCE	i <sup>c</sup> h-msi(w) 'Ahmose I'	'Amenhotep I'
Regent/ Substantive Ruler	imn- <u>h</u> nmt h³t-šps.wt 'Hatshepsut'	c. 1478 BCE -1458 BCE	全角) <u>d</u> ḥwti-msi(w) 'Djehewty-mes III'	②神) dḥwti-msi(w) 'Djehewty-mes IV'
Substantive Ruler	imn-hnmt  3ht-n-h(i).s 'Neferneferuaten'	c. 1334 BCE -1332 BCE	(Amenhotep IV)	smnḫ-k3-r <sup>c</sup> dsr-ḥprw 'Smenkhkara'
Regent/ Substantive Ruler	ে <u>মার্থ</u> ে t3-wsrt 'Tausret'	c. 1191 BCE -1189 BCE	作Ramessu Siptah'	'Setnakht(e), merer Amun-Ra'

<sup>2.</sup> Honorable mention for \( \mathfrak{\text{M}} \) tipi 'Tiye', an influential queen who was the first to appear on records of official acts and carried on diplomatic correspondence even after the death of her husband, \( \overline{\text{M}} \) imn-htp \( \hbar{h}k\)3-w\( \text{St} \) 'Amenhotep III.' She and other highly influential \( \frac{1}{2} \overline{\text{M}} \) \( \hbar{h}mt \) nswt who wielded great power during so-called Dynastic times, but who were not known to have ruled as regents or substantive rulers are not included in this partial list.

<sup>3.</sup> Historicity of this ruler is disputed.

Similarly, Amnirense qore li kdwe li, the 53.73 kdke of hwa kši 'Kush', who famously resisted Roman forces, is depicted in full warrior regalia in statues from Meroë, signifying her leadership and military prowess (Ajani, 2022). Black scholars also highlight the roles of other female rulers of hwa kši 'Kush', such as Amanitore (ca. 1 BCE – 20 CE) and Amanishakheto (ca. 10 BCE – 1 CE), in statues found across Sudan and Egypt, emphasizing their power as co-regents with kings or as sole rulers (Van Sertima, 1984).

Among the Yorùbá, òrìṣà like Ọṣun, Yemoja, and Ọya feature prominently in spiritual iconography, with statues representing their divinity, power, and fertility. These figures are often depicted in traditional shrines, such as the Ọṣun-Ọṣogbo Sacred Grove, where their importance in Yorùbá cosmology is affirmed (Oladeji, Osanyinleye, & Lawal, 2021). Yorùbá scholars such as Clara Odugbesan (2013) emphasize the Yorùbá focus on the divine feminine, particularly through depictions of Ọṣun as the mother of rivers and fertility, connecting women's bodies with the earth's nurturing powers. Odugbesan (2013) writes that Yorùbá women are often portrayed in visual culture as embodiments of spiritual and earthly power, particularly through statues and carvings on shrines and in other sacred spaces.

In what is now modern-day Ghana, the Akan people's use of *Akuaba* carvings, some of which can be life-sized, symbolizes women's role in fertility and motherhood.



Figure 4. Life-sized Akuaba carving at the Aburi Craft Village (Photo Credit Author 2024)

These figures, with their distinct head shape, are used in fertility rituals, serving as visual metaphors for the continuity of lineage (Cole et al., 1977). Kushiator et al. (2020) notes that Akuaba carvings are more than mere representations; they are imbued with spiritual significance, representing the hopes and desires of Akan women for fertility, healthy offspring, and societal stability.

In Tanzania, the Nyamwezi people create fertility statues used in rituals that celebrate childbirth and honor ancestors. These statues, characterized by pronounced physical features, symbolize the fertility and maternal importance of women within the Nyamwezi society (Hartwig, 1968). Similarly, the Dogon people of Mali produce statues of women that emphasize fertility and motherhood, often represented with nurturing poses. Nna Chukwunyere Kamalu (1998) underscores the symbolic connection between Black women's fertility and the earth, suggesting that in societies across Abibiman 'The land of Black people', women are seen as embodiments of the life-giving forces inherent within nature itself.

In classical As Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks,' the depictions of women in statuary, especially as Pala ntrwt 'feminine divinities' or those in the role of hmt nswt 'queen', were central to both the spiritual and political realms. This concept comes through most clearly in the form of M't 'Maat', often depicted in statue form, as articulated by Tata Théophile Obenga (2004, pp. 191-192):

The concept of Maat is complex, multi-layered. To understand it, we need to examine

it on three levels:

- 1 On the universal level, the concept of Maat "expresses the harmony of the elements as clearly established, each in its right place." This is the concept of the ordered Whole, the cosmos.
- 3 On the political level, the concept of Maat works against injustice. It is in the name of Maat that the pharaoh subjugates rebels and dominates foreign lands.
- 3 On the individual level, "Maat embraces specific rules for living in concert with moral principles." Whoever lives according to these rules and principles achieves universal order in his or her own life, in practical terms, and lives in harmony with the ordered Whole.

Through these examples—just a few of many—we see how societies of  $\frac{2}{2} \frac{1}{11} \frac{1}{1} \frac{Kmt(yw)}{W}$  'Black People', both historically and contemporarily, have celebrated women as central to the community's spiritual, political, and physical sustenance. This is reflected in statues and artistic representations that persist as visual reminders of women's foundational roles. In the word  $\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{M}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{$ 

It is noted that the power, Ptah, usually stands on a pedestal of this shape [...] Maat is associated with the foundation of the creation of which this pedestal is a symbol. Afterall, in the Papyrus of Nesi Amsu's account of the creation it is said: "I laid a foundation in Maa and I made every attribute." [meaning] that maat or maa is a principle according to which the universe is organised. (Kamalu, 1998, p. 93)

As such,  $\stackrel{\sim}{=} \stackrel{\checkmark}{=} M^3t$  'Maat' can be understood not only as the foundation of the thought of  $\stackrel{Kmt(yw)}{=}$  'Black people', but of the entire universe. This is the profundity with which statues of  $\stackrel{\sim}{=} \stackrel{\checkmark}{=} M^3t$  'Maat' were regarded.

These statues, alongside representations of substantive rulers like ( imn-hnmt h3t-sps.wt 'Hatshepsut' reveal a culture that placed high value on the contributions of women, both earthly and divine. These representations offer a window into a worldview where the feminine principle was not only complementary to the masculine but essential for cosmic harmony and societal order.



### 3. Comparative Framework & Analysis

In order to analyze women's statuary comparatively, this section applies a five-part framework derived from the underlying worldview of  $2^{-1}M^{2}t$  'Maat'—the foundational principle of societal order, reciprocity, and balance found in the thought, articulation, and practice of  $2^{-1}M^{2}Kmt(yw)$  'Black People' throughout space and time. This framework draws from the Prophecy of  $3^{-1}M^{2}M^{2}W^{2}M^{2}W^{2}W^{2}$  'Maat will come to her throne" and "isft will be expelled to the outside," articulating a vision in which material and visual culture are aligned with cosmic and social harmony (Obenga, 2004; Karenga, 2004).

This comparative framework examines the following dimensions across societies:

### 1 Scale and Material

Large-scale statues of women in stone, bronze, and wood are common in Abibifoo societies, especially in harmony in The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks, have have in Kush', and among the Yorùbá and Akan, among many others. These societies utilized durable and monumental materials to mark women's significance across generations (Tyldesley, 1996; Kendall, 2002). By contrast, societies of the harmony eurasians' often relegated women to smaller, ornamental objects in marble or terracotta, reflecting diminished social roles and temporal visibility (Robins, 1993; Nead, 1992).

### 2 Posture and Iconography

In classical As Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks,' women are portrayed standing, seated, or enthroned—often in commanding poses with regalia, staffs, and crowns. For example, the statues of Aist imn-hnmt hāt-šps.wt 'Hatshepsut' emphasize her role as ruler, not subordinate (Tyldesley, 1996). Among the Yorùbá, carved representations of powerful women often show them in symmetrical, upright stances associated with spiritual stability and elder authority (Drewal & Drewal, 1983). In contrast, statuary of Air mw 'eurasians' throughout history frequently shows women in reclined, passive, or eroticized postures—rarely with emblems of rule or autonomy (Nead, 1992).

### 3 Placement and Spatial Prominence

Societies of Abibifoo 'Black People' historically position female statuary in public temples, central shrines, and key ancestral spaces. For instance, the enclosures of low ist 'Isis' and low hwt hr Harhor, in low Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks,' or the courtyard sculptures of Yorùbá sacred groves, assert women's visible presence in public sacred life (Karenga, 2004; Drewal, 1989). On the other hand, female representations by low low 'eurasians' and their progeny are often relegated to decorative or hidden contexts—domestic interiors, funerary niches, or museum cabinets—rather than prominent civic or religious spaces (Nead, 1992).

# 4 Symbolism and Thematic Function Statuary of Abibifoo 'Black People' encodes themes of governance, cosmogenesis, protection, and intergenerational continuity. Women are depicted as rulers (Kandake Amanitore, hmt nswt nfrtiiti 'Nefertiti', hmt nswt ty 'Wife of the Ruler, Tiye'), divine mothers ( low ist 'Isis', low Mit 'Maat', and hwt hr Hathor), and spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Conversely, traditions of hwt him 'mathematical spiritual mathematical spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Conversely, traditions of hwt him 'mathematical spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual spiritual conduits (ahemaa, Moremí) (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual conduits (Boaten, 1992; Obenga, 2004). Redomestical spiritual c

# 5 Social and Ritual Function

In traditions of Abibifoo 'Black People', statuary plays active roles in ritual, governance, and ancestral veneration. Nyamwezi female figures, for example, serve as mediators in healing and protection rites (Nooter, 1993). Yorùbá Gelede masks and shrines celebrate women's spiritual power to uphold social balance (Drewal & Drewal, 1983). \*\* "mw 'eurasians' statuary, in contrast, is often disengaged from living rituals and oriented toward aesthetic display or abstraction (Clarke, 1991; Nead, 1992).

Taken together, these dimensions reveal stark philosophical contrasts. Amt(yw) 'Black People' and broader Abibifoo societies create statuary rooted in the ethos of M't 'Maat', where women's presence affirms social equilibrium 'Black People' and cosmic alignment. Whit' 'mw' 'eurasians' societies, governed by fundamental alienation and axiological oppositionality, often exclude or distort women's roles in visual culture. This comparative analysis therefore not only refutes the supposed universality of female statuary scarcity, but also re-centers Abibifoo 'Black People' traditions as benchmarks for wholeness and representational integrity.

### 4. Comparative Worldviews: A Study of Cosmology and its Impact on Material Culture

A closer examination of the representation of women in statuary reveals that the differing worldviews manifested in societies of hand (w) 'Black People' and w) 'Black People' and 'Black People' and 'Black People' and 'Black People' state principle of hand (at the foundation of the worldview of hand (black People') 'Black People' is the principle of hand (Aketema & Kambon, 2021; Aketema & Kambon, 2023; Amen, 2012; Beatty, 1997; Kambon, Songsore, & Asare, 2020; Karenga, 2003; Martin, 2008; Obenga, 2004). In contrast, the societies of 'Black People' mw 'eurasians' tend to emphasize axiological oppositions, leading to systems of thought, word, and deed where women were often marginalized.

 alongside kings in statuary also underscores their importance in ensuring the continuity of rule  $\triangle \&$  Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks.' This holistic understanding of life and the cosmos in  $\triangle \&$  Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks' contrasts sharply with the worldview based on fundamental alienation seen in  $\triangle \&$  "mw 'eurasians' societies—where there actually was and has been a paucity of women's statues.

Prometheus, against the will of Zeus, used trickery in an attempt to improve man's lot. Prometheus asserted:

I took from man expectancy of death ... (and) conferred the gift of fire (so that man could) master many arts thereby. (Aeschylus, p. 42)

As punishment, Zeus created woman, Pandora, who was given:

A face like an immortal goddess ... the lovely figure of a virgin girl, sly manners and the morals of a bitch ... (Hesiod, p. 61).

Lies were "put in her breast" and she was given "persuasive words and cunning ways." So equipped, she became the "ruin of mankind" (p. 61). She opened up the box "and scattered pains and evils among men" (p. 62).

Mankind is thus doomed to misery because they "love this ruin in their hearts" (p. 61). Women, who are indispensable to man's enjoyment, can never be trusted. Hesiod warns, "Don't let a woman, wiggling her behind and flattering and coaxing take you in ... woman is just a cheat" (p. 70). The theme of divine discord, which emphasizes the conflict between the male and female divinities, is inherent in human life.

The cyclical conception of time is similarly found in the following Bakongo proverb:

1. Ma'kwenda! Ma'kwiza! matter'go! matter'come

'What goes on (now), will come back (later)' (Fu-Kiau, 1994: 33).

A parallel proverb is found among the Akan:

2. Abirekyie se: "DeE E-bE-ba goat says: REL 3SG.INAN-FUT-come a-ba dada." PERF-come already

'The goat says "That which will come has already come." (Appiah, Appiah, and Agyeman-Duah 2001: 47)

Similarly, a Yorùbá poem says:

3. Àkókò ń lo, akoko ń bò. time PROG go, time PROG come 'Time is going, time is coming.' (Schleicher, 1998: 7)

While in proverbial form, the non-linear nature of time is stated in the following maxim:

4. Ìgbà kìí tò lo bìí oréré. time NEG.HAB set go like horizon

'Time is unlike a straight line.' (Ayoade, 1984: 17)

This is in stark contrast with the archetypal Eurasian concept of space (i.e. the world) as flat and the contemporary Eurasian model which still views time as flat. The persistence of this archaic Eurasian notion is still readily observed via terms such as "timelines," "storylines," etc., as well as in other linguistic and conceptual baggage attached to this prototypically Eurasian mode of thinking. (Kambon, 2017, pp. 30-31)

This linear worldview is reflected in the way women were represented—or not represented—in art and statuary of hard eurasians.' As Ani (1994) and Carruthers (1999) highlight, the axiological oppositionality that governs the thought of hard eurasians' creates a social structure in which women are often relegated to the margins, while men are positioned as the primary agents of history, politics, and spirituality (b.a. male supreme god).

In fine, the comparative worldviews of http://www.black.people.and http://www.eurasians.societies have had a profound impact on how women were represented in their material culture. In classical http://www.ft.characterize.char

The impact of worldview on artistic representation is thus profound. In health Kmt(yw) 'Black People' society, the representation of women as co-creators of order and stability reflected a worldview of balance and integration, where the feminine was seen as complementary to the masculine (Aketema & Kambon, 2021; Aketema & Kambon, 2023; Kamalu, 1998). In health 'mw' 'eurasians' societies, the depiction of women in art was shaped by a worldview of diametric opposition and dichotomization, resulting in a marginalization of women's roles in both the cosmic and socio-political orders. This contrast in representation highlights the importance of worldview in shaping not only artistic expression but also the broader cultural and social dynamics of a society.

### 5. Symbolism and Gender Representation

Statuary reflects more than physical likeness; it encodes deep symbolic messages that reveal how a society conceives of power, gender, divinity, and order. In the case of classical Kmt(yw) 'Black People' and other Abibifoo 'Black People' civilizations, women's statuary functions within a worldview grounded in M't 'Maat'—order, reciprocity, complementarity. In contrast, among worldview grounded in societies, visual representations of women frequently reflect a worldview of first 'wrong, wrong doing, falsehood'—grounded in alienation, fragmentation, and perpetually hostile opposition between spirit and matter, male and female.

In So Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks,' the statuary of its imn-hnmt hist-sps.wt 'Hatshepsut' articulates her rule as a confirmation of cosmic legitimacy. Her images range from those showing feminine beauty to those wearing full male regalia, including the false beard and headdress. Rather than creating contradiction, these visual expressions signal the flexibility of power within Mit 'Maat': leadership is not inherently masculine but is contingent upon one's alignment with divine order (Reid, 1996; Lesko, 1999). The temple complex of Imn-hnmt hist-sps.wt 'Hatshepsut' located at Sir dsrw 'Sacred of Sacreds' (e.k.a. 'Deir el-Bahari') demonstrates a fully integrated iconography that places her among the Sacreds' (e.k.a. 'feminine divinities' and aligns her rule with harmony, regeneration, and continuity.

Among the Yorùbá, statuary of female Òrìsà such as Òṣun and Yemoja signals spiritual authority rather than sensual subordination. These figures are often depicted upright, symmetrical, and elaborately adorned, reflecting their association with wisdom, fertility, and justice. Their statuary forms are not just religious icons but public affirmations of balance within the seen and unseen realms (Oduyoye, 1995; Lawal, 1996). The presence of women's imagery in these contexts reflects ontologies that embrace duality as complement rather than conflict.

In contrast, www 'eurasians' mythological statuary offers symbolic narratives in which women serve as the root of disorder. The aforementioned Pandora, in the Hellenic tradition, is often depicted in sculpture as the bearer of calamity—her curiosity unleashing all the world's ills. Eve, as rendered in countless ecclesiastical sculptures, is visualized at the moment of transgression, eternally fixed in the act of disobedience. These representations, replicated in marble and stained glass, embed symbolic codes of danger, fallibility, and seduction (Warner, 1985; Miles, 1989). Rather than representing societal balance, these figures function to affirm the dominance of www.'eurasians' males and the necessity of their spiritual authority.

In societies of Abibifoo 'Black People', even in contemporary manifestations, statuary continues to affirm women's active agency. The aforementioned statue of a massive bronze statue of an Agojie warrior woman in the Republic of Benin, for example, signals a representational continuity with historical traditions that celebrated women as defenders of the nation. The Agojie, elite women soldiers of the Danxom's 'Kingdom of Dahomey', were central to military strategy and societal protection. Their modern commemoration in monumental form reasserts their legacy as symbolic of power, strength, and cultural memory (Ndiaye, 2023; Edgerton, 2000).

The symbolic contrast is therefore not merely a matter of artistic style, but of worldview. In

societies of Abibifoo 'Black People', female statuary encodes legitimacy, cosmic resonance, and spiritual accountability. In societies of the harmonic 'mw' 'eurasians', female statuary frequently encodes moral suspicion, eroticization, or functional absence. These opposing symbolic systems reflect two contrasting visions of the human being and society: one rooted in the complementarity of har' 'Maat', and the other in the perpetually hostile opposition of sisft 'wrong, wrong doing, falsehood'.

### 6. Conclusion: The Broader Implications for Understanding Representation

The broader implications of this comparative analysis demand a shift in how we think, teach, and commemorate. First, there is an urgent need to de-universalize art historical frameworks of head of the point of the point of the point of the point of the visual epistemologies of Black civilizations. As recent critiques of eurasian-centric art historiography have shown, such frameworks erase original traditions of representation that predate and surpass the narrow confines of greco-roman, "isftslamic" or "christ-insanity" iconography (Elkins, 2007; Preziosi, 1998).

Second, the findings here affirm that societies of  $\frac{d^2}{d^2} \frac{d^2}{d^2} \frac$ 

Third, this work opens the door for []\* (Studies of Black People'. The inclusion of statuary of []\* (Kmt/yw) 'Black People'—as well as that of []\* (Kush', Yorùbá, Akan, and others—into art history, museum studies, and gender studies programs should not be an optional footnote but a structural corrective. Scholars such as Oguibe (2004) and Duro (2001) have long argued that without fundamental reconfiguration of the canon, the epistemological gatekeeping by which my chapter from Baugher & Jameson (2025) was summarily excluded remains unchecked.

These findings have significant implications for public commemoration and cultural heritage policy. Statues do not merely reflect history—they shape collective memory and power. As evidenced by new works such as the Agojie monument in Benin, Black societies continue to assert visual \*\*Abibifahodie 'Black Liberation' through the monumentalization of women who embody collective strength and cultural continuity (Savage, 2009; Njoh, 2017). These practices represent a continuation

of a tradition with  $\stackrel{>}{\sim}$   $\stackrel{\checkmark}{\sim}$   $M^3t$  'Maat' as the foundation in which visibility, reverence, and truth are inseparable.

The restoration of  $2^{-1}M''$  'Maar' is not an abstract proposition (Aketema & Kambon, 2023; Amen, 2012). It requires re-centering the visual, cosmological, and spiritual systems of Kmt(yw) 'Black People'—past, present, and future—against the backdrop of  $4^{-1}M$  is isft 'wrong, wrong doing, falsehood' that has dominated much of global representation. This study is one step toward that larger imperative.

The comparative analysis of the representation of women in statuary across Amt (yw) 'Black People' and Am' 'gmw' 'eurasians' societies sheds light on the profound differences in worldview and cultural orientation that shaped these artistic expressions. In Amt (yw) 'Black People' society, the principle of Am' 'Maat'—rooted in balance, harmony, and complementarity—allowed for a more integrated and holistic representation of women. Women were not merely passive figures relegated to the background but active participants in the individual, social, political, and spiritual life of the civilization. Whether depicted as Amt nswt 'Wife of the Ruler' Amt my 'feminine divinities', or Am spswt 'noble ladies', women in the statuary of classical Am Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks' were portrayed as co-creators of the cosmic, social, and individual order.

The statues of Tell ntrwt 'feminine divinities' like Anti-Maat,' Ist 'Isis' and hwt hr 'Hathor', as well as substantive rulers like Anti-Minim hat-Sps.wt 'Hatshepsut', Anti-M

In contrast, the worldview of the societies of harmonic forms whereby one alienation and a tendency to dichotomize human experience into diametric opposites whereby one thing is ascribed goodness while its opposite is viewed as bad and the two are forever in conflict, resulted in a far more limited representation of women. In these cultures, the diametric axiological opposition between male vs. female, good vs. evil, light vs. dark, god vs. devil, mind vs. body, n.k., often led to the devaluation of women in both art and life. Women in the societies of harmonic feurasians' were frequently depicted as either objects (property) or as dangerous figures, symbolizing temptation and chaos. The scarcity of statues depicting women as autonomous political or spiritual figures reflects this broader cultural tendency to marginalize and objectify the feminine.



Figure 6. eurasian proclivities to exclude women from their statuary are clearly NOT universal (image credit @rastarelly\_415)

The broader implications of these differing approaches to representation extend beyond the realm of art and into the social and political structures of each society. In  $\frac{d^2}{dt^2}$  Kmt(yw) 'Black People' society, the representation of women in statues and other forms of material culture mirrored their real-world roles as co-rulers, spiritual leaders, and the very embodiment of  $\frac{dt}{dt}$  'Maat.' The prevalence of female statues in sacred spaces, tombs, and public spaces reinforced the idea that women were essential to the functioning of individual, political, and cosmic orders (which mirrored each other). This complementary approach to sex, where men and women were seen as complementary forces, allowed for a more natural understanding of power and authority.

In however, the representation of women in art reflected their marginalized status within the social and political hierarchies. The scarcity of female statues, and the objectification of women in those that did exist, mirrored the broader societal norms that placed women in subordinate roles as the property of how 'eurasians' males to be disposed of how they saw fit. The worldview of fundamental alienation and diametric opposites, which emphasized opposition and competition, left little room for the integration of women into the political and spiritual life of the society. As a result, female figures were often reduced to their objectified value as property of males (Zeus on the cosmic scale, Caesar on the political scale, husband on the individual/familial scale), with little recognition of their potential for leadership or autonomy. As such, the same way that, for him Kmt(yw) 'Black People'  $M^3t$  'Maar' operates on the multi-layered cosmic, socio-political, and individual levels, for  $M^3t$  'Maar' operates on the multi-layered cosmic, socio-political, and individual levels, for  $M^3t$  'Maar' operates on the multi-layered cosmic, socio-political, multi-layered.

Moreover, the implications of these differing worldviews extend into contemporary times. The legacy of fundamental alienation, with its anti-women roles and general devaluation of women, can still be seen in many contemporary societies of head of the head of

In contrast, the complementarity-based worldview of harmonious 'Black People', with its emphasis on balance, reciprocity, and interdependence, offers a model for a more harmonious society in alignment with har 'Maat' as a lived practice rather than simply as an abstract ideal (Aketema Kambon, 2023; Amen, 2012). The representation of women in harmonious 'Black People' statuary as co-creators of order and stability reflects a worldview that values the contributions of both men and women in maintaining the cosmic and social order. This holistic approach to sex, power, and authority provides valuable insights for contemporary discussions on complementarity and the representation of women in art, politics, and society.

In conclusion, the representation of women in the statuary of hardward 'Black People' and hardward 'societies reveals profound differences in worldview, with significant implications for both past and present understandings of sex, power, and art. In Kmt 'The Black Nation/Land of the Blacks', women were depicted as central to the cosmic, social, and individual order, reflecting a worldview of balance and integration, while in hardward 'eurasians' societies, the devaluation of women in both art and life mirrored a worldview of diametric opposition and fundamental alienation (Ani 1994; Carruthers 1999). These differing approaches to the representation of women offer important lessons for understanding the relationship between art, worldview, and society, both in the ancient world and today. They also provide a warning to those who would wish to universalize have 'eurasians' worldview and concomitant cultural practice as manifested in their material culture—particularly when it comes to women's statuary—in the face of clear evidence and counterexamples to the contrary (Baugher & Jameson, 2025).

### **Author's Biography**

"Obenfo" Obádélé Bakari Kambon, Nana Kwame Pebi Date I, helps Black people repatriate and get Ghanaian citizenship at RepatriateToGhana.com. He is a world-renowned master linguist, multiaward-winning scholar and the architect of Abibitumi the oldest and largest Black social education network on the planet. He completed his PhD in Linguistics at the University of Ghana in 2012, winning the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's award for the Best PhD Thesis in the Humanities. He also won the 2016 and 2024 Provost's Publications Awards for best published work in the UG College of Humanities. In 2019 he was the recipient of the [Nana] Marcus Mosiah Garvey Foundation award for excellence in Afrikan Studies and Education. Obenfo Obádélé Kambon was awarded the 2020/2021 University of Lagos (UNILAG) Lagos Area Cluster Centre (LACC) Fellowship where he contributed significantly to the work of "reconfiguring" Afrikan Studies. In 2025, he was awarded the Kwame Nkrumah Award for Pan-African Leadership by the Pan-African Leadership Institute (PALI). He is an Associate Professor and served as Head of the Language, Literature and Drama Section of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana and also served as Editor-in-Chief of the Ghana Journal of Linguistics (2016-2023). He served as Secretary of the African Studies Association of Africa from 2015-2020. He also played an instrumental role in 34 Abibifoo 'Black People' of the Diaspora receiving Ghanaian citizenship in 2016 and many more receiving citizenship in 2019, 2022, and 2024. Having contributed to the Government of Ghana's official Diaspora Engagement Policy, he now assists others interested in repatriation via RepatriateToGhana.com, which has been endorsed by the Government of Ghana (Diaspora Affairs, Office of the President). His multidisciplinary research interests include Serial Verb Construction Nominalization, Historical Linguistics, U★Ŋヰヰ sb3yt nt Kmtyw 'Studies of Black People', & Abibifahodie 'Black Liberation'.

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