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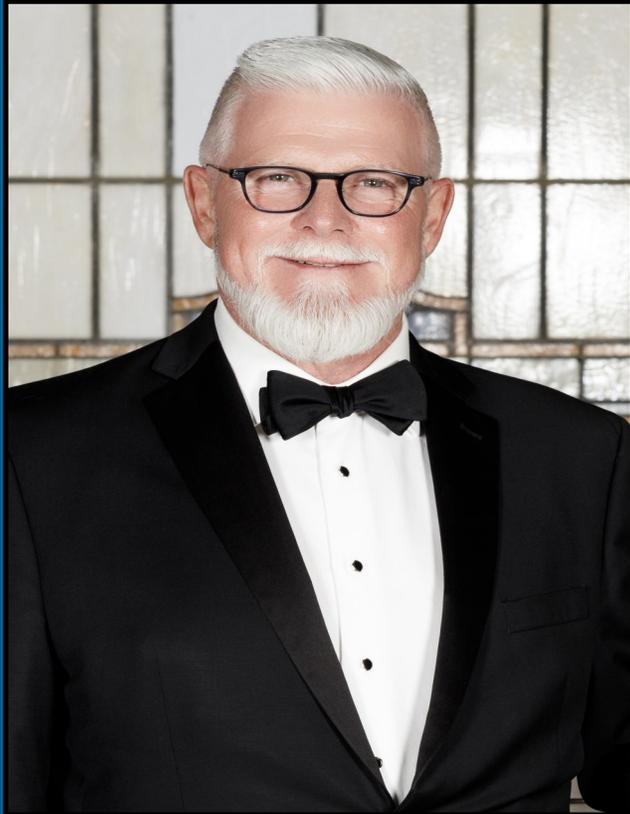
OKLAHOMA



MASON

THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE
OF OKLAHOMA

December 2025



Don Stanton

Grand Master

A Season of Change

This season brings opportunities for growth and renewal. I want to share key updates and goals for the year ahead.

Social Media and Digital Strategy

- Our new social media campaign is underway, supported by your generosity, which raised approximately \$50,000.
- We've launched a modern website and initiated campaigns on Facebook and Instagram.
- The first 60 days focus on keyword optimization, business profile development, and performance tracking.
- Starting in January, we'll implement Google keyword strategies to strengthen trust and relevance, aiming to reach the top 10 search results by April.
- King Group, our marketing partner, will lead this effort.
- Once achieved, we'll expand with targeted campaigns to reach young men (18+, Oklahoma residents) seeking a meaningful fraternal experience.



The Grand Lodge
of
OKLAHOMA

Current Performance Metrics (Past 28 Days)

- Facebook views: 40,628 (↑632%)
- Individual viewers: 10,353 (↑660%)
- Engagements: 3,309 (↑287%)
- Followers: 4,352 (50% age 44 or younger)

Membership Trends

- Current Master Masons: 14,102
- 2025 new members: 173
- Losses (death/NPD): 554
- We're losing members at a rate of 647 annually, and that rate is projected to exceed 1,000 within three years.
- Without action, membership will decline significantly. Aggressive recruitment and retention are essential to reverse this trend.

Retention and Relevance

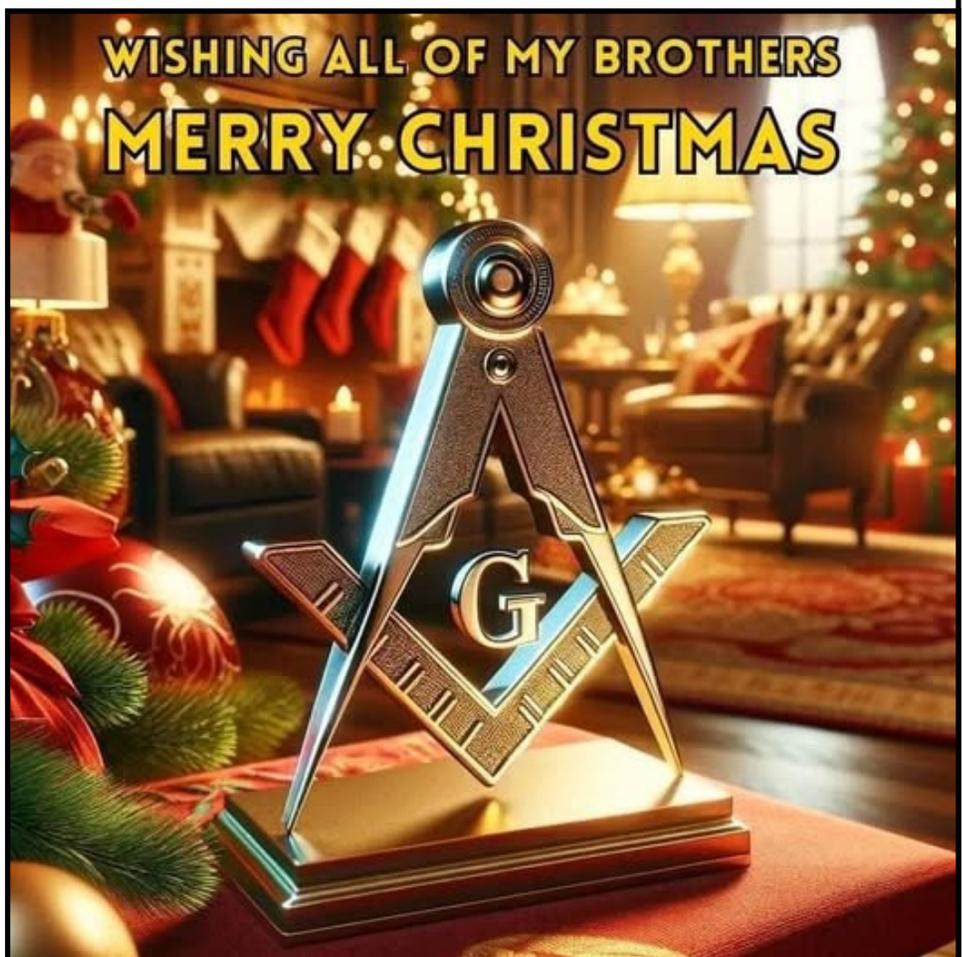
Mentorship must improve, and internal conflicts must not drive members away. We need to ensure our fraternity remains relevant and impactful.

Goals for 2026

- New Master Masons: 300 (vs. 173 in 2025)
- Non-Payment of Dues: 50 (vs. 133 in 2025)
- Facebook followers: 8,000 (vs. 4,352 in 2025)

These targets are achievable with collective effort. Are you ready to do your part?

Iron Sharpens Iron



Christmas Help



**Mustang Lodge #407
&
Uriah Lodge #227**



**Myrtle
Lodge
#145**



Words from the DGM

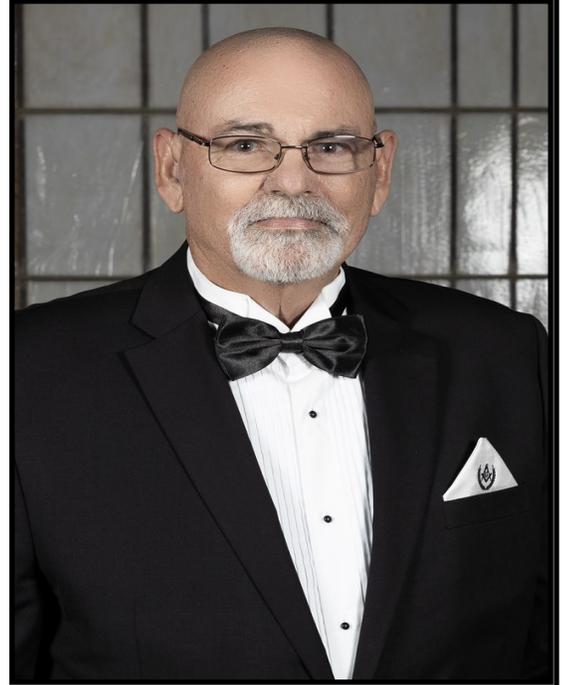
A Message to the Craft of Oklahoma

Brethren, as another Masonic year in Oklahoma has closed, I extend my warmest fraternal greetings to each of you. This past year has been marked by progress, renewed commitment, and a strengthening of the bonds that unite our lodges across the state. It is with deep gratitude and sincere optimism that I offer this reflection on our accomplishments and the path ahead.

First and foremost, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to MW James Roderick for his leadership during the past Masonic year. His guidance, thoughtful decision-making, and steadfast devotion to our principles have benefited the Craft. His dedication to unity, transparency, and brotherly love has left a positive influence on Oklahoma Masonry. I thank him personally, and on behalf of the Craft, for his faithful service and the example he continues to set. MW Don Stanton has assumed leadership and has already opened projects for the Grand Lodge Trustees to focus on to further improve Oklahoma Freemasonry.

This year brought notable improvements to our Grand Lodge's financial stability. Through responsible stewardship, strengthened oversight, and a renewed focus on long-term planning, we have fortified the economic foundation upon which our Fraternity relies. I applaud RW Craig Simon, Grand Treasurer, for his financial expertise and planning; MW Mike Dixon, Grand Secretary, for his exemplary expense management; and the lodges across our jurisdiction for embracing accountability and supporting efforts to secure our future. These advancements enable us to invest more confidently in education, leadership development, and charitable endeavors that reflect our Masonic principles. The stock market has been kind to the Grand Lodge investment funds over the past year, and those assets have grown. The Masonic Charity Foundation has continued its financial support of the charitable and educational programs of our lodges.

We have also made meaningful strides in public relations and community engagement. Okla-



James Oates III
Deputy Grand Master

homa Masonry has become increasingly visible in our communities through charitable initiatives, civic involvement, and strengthened partnerships. MW Stanton has already rolled out the new Grand Lodge website...please take a look at it if you have not yet done so. Our lodges continue to show the public that Freemasons are dedicated to service, integrity, and the improvement of society. These efforts not only enhance our reputation—they reaffirm the relevance and enduring value of the Craft.

RW Charley Babb, Grand Lecturer, is in the process of bringing forth some excellent programs to enhance our ritual expertise and our lodge certifications. RW Michael Ray, Senior Grand Warden, is polishing our existing Mentorship Program, which is forthcoming. Please be on the lookout for these and enroll and participate in them.

As I look toward the coming Masonic year, I do so with great optimism and an earnest commitment to continue building upon the progress we have made. I welcome RW Jim Taylor to the Grand Lodge Trustees as the Junior Grand Warden. His dedication and passion for the Craft will serve Oklahoma Masonry well. I look forward to laboring alongside him as we strengthen our Grand Lodge's vision and mission.

My focus in the year ahead will center on continued financial stewardship, enhanced lodge

support, and a deeper emphasis on unity across the jurisdiction. I am committed to ensuring that every Brother and Sister feels valued, engaged, and inspired to contribute to the work of Masonry.

I thank you for your trust, your labor, and your commitment to the sacred principles of our Craft. As we enter a new Masonic year together, may we remain united in purpose, dedicated in our service, and steadfast in our obligations as Free and Accepted Masons.



Outreach



**Anchor-Crescent Lodge #104
at the Christmas Parade**



**Yukon Lodge #90
Annual Chili
Competition**

Greetings from the Grand West



Michael Ray

Senior Grand Warden

First, let me say what an honor it is to have been elected by you, the Craft, and to serve as your Senior Grand Warden for 2026. This last year, YOUR Grand Lodge has been working diligently to ensure we are doing everything possible for the Craft. I genuinely believe we are entering into a new Renaissance where you will be seeing new changes within the Grand Lodge concerning how we conduct business and continue to operate “IN THE BLACK” with our finances and continue to serve the Craft to the best of our abilities. Our goal is to find new avenues to continue increasing our membership while guarding the West Gate.

So now it’s time to go to work.

The Grand Lodge has a new, more user-friendly website.

We are adding new things daily to ensure our new potential prospects are pleased with what they see and might want to become one of us. More to come!

My thoughts for this article are Membership/Retention, so stay with me on this.

If we, the Craft, think that because we continue to do the things we do because it’s “normal” for us, or “it is what it is around here”, or the norm is just easier, things will never change.

My brothers, “NORMAL” is just a setting on the clothes dryer. We must choose to change our environment, our outlook toward the future, and reprioritize our thinking and goals. We must be forward-thinking enough to SEE the goal in a different light, not just at arm’s length, but in our distant future.

Here is my challenge to you: join me on this journey and make Masonry better than ever. Join me in finding new ways to increase our membership and retain our current (new and sea-

soned) members while protecting our WEST GATE.

I am aware of all the hard work our lodges are doing and the many great ideas they have envisioned that are working. NOW is the time for us to come together, share those ideas, and unite our efforts for the common goal.

I challenge every Lodge to come together and send me 2-3 things your Lodge is doing that are helping increase your membership and retention. I will compile the information and send it back to our lodges so new, innovative ideas can be found and given a try.

My email is fireboss911@cox.net

In the subject line, put "membership," your Lodge name, and number. Let's all start by getting on the "CRAFT TRAIN" so we are all going in the same direction, pulling the same load at the same time, and working together for a common goal. We can watch our lodges grow in ways we have only dreamed of.



New EAs



Altus Lodge #62



**Bixby Lodge
#359**



**Britton Lodge
#434**



Collinsville Lodge #165

Mount Scott Lodge #540



Greetings Brethren

Please accept my sincere appreciation for the honor of being elected to serve as your Junior Grand Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma. This trust is humbling, and it reflects the strength, unity, and dedication of Oklahoma Freemasonry.

Our work in the coming years is a shared endeavor. I look forward to serving you over the next four years with a commitment rooted in our values and guided by the needs of the Craft. My focus will remain on supporting the lodges, officers, and members who carry Masonry forward through their daily efforts and quiet acts of service.

I am eager to work closely with Most Worshipful Stanton and the Grand Lodge trustees, whose experience and steady guidance strengthen our fraternity. Together, we will continue advancing the mission of our Grand Lodge in a thoughtful, collaborative, and responsive manner to you, the Brethren.

One of the greatest privileges of this office will be the opportunity to visit your lodges, meet with you, hear your concerns, learn about your successes, and engage in open discussion about the issues that matter most. These conversations are vital, and they will help shape the progress of Freemasonry throughout Oklahoma.

To the Masons of Oklahoma, thank you for your confidence, for your commitment to our shared principles, and for the work each of you does within your communities and lodges. It is an honor to serve you, and I look forward to the journey ahead.



James Taylor Jr.

Junior Grand Warden

Newly Raised



Jenks Lodge #497

Yukon Lodge #90



From the Grand Secretary

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Craft for re-electing me to serve another year as your Grand Secretary. It is truly an honor to continue in this role, and I sincerely appreciate the trust you have placed in me.

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Communication. Your participation was instrumental in making the meeting a success. Together, we adopted a new budget and set the course for the year ahead. As many of you know, the Grand Lodge budget remains very lean, and the Grand Secretary's office works diligently to reduce expenses wherever possible. We strive to be responsible stewards of your resources.

Our Grand Treasurer, Craig Simon, has been invaluable in improving our accounting and reporting processes, ensuring the Trustees receive accurate and timely information each month. The Deputy Grand Master's Fundraiser continues to play a critical role in balancing the budget, as investment returns in recent years have not met expectations. Craig works closely with our investment managers to maximize returns on both operating and perpetual funds, and his efforts have been commendable. Though, as many of you with retirement accounts know, market conditions have been challenging.

Membership continues to decline, primarily due to member deaths. As we approach the time when Lodges review unpaid dues and consider suspensions for non-payment, I encourage each of us to reach out to these Brothers. If they need assistance or qualify for inclusion on the Unable to Pay report, let us ensure their dues are remitted. As Master Masons, we pledged to care for one another.

By the time you read this, there will have been a few changes in the Grand Lodge office. Karen will transition to part-time, continuing to handle accounting and other tasks as needed. We plan to hire another part-time staff member to cover the remaining hours. The Trustees are actively planning next year's Wardens Retreat sessions. We will add sessions and rotate locations throughout the state, with most sessions held in new venues. Details will be shared soon.



Mike Dixon
Grand Secretary

We also hope to offer Secretary/Treasurer workshops to complement the Wardens' Retreats. These sessions will provide in-depth guidance on the duties of Secretaries and Treasurers, as well as detailed training on Grandview. More information will follow as plans are finalized.

Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to our fraternity. Together, we can overcome challenges and strengthen the bonds that unite us. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or ideas—we value your input and commitment.

I look forward to working with each of you in the year ahead.



Years of Service



Pilgrim-Rock Lodge #522



Uriah Lodge #227

Practice Makes Perfect



Charlie Babb
Grand Lecturer

My Brethren, as we enter a new year, we are reminded of a few of the provisions of our Law related to our Ritual. Constitution and Code U501 reminds us that it is the **duty** of the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens to prepare themselves for and confer the degrees of Masonry; Section 403 informs us that each District **shall be required** to hold at least one (1) District School annually; and U318 states that each lodge **should** have a school of instruction at least once a year.

Brethren, your Board of Grand Lecturers is ready and anxious to assist you, your lodge, and your District in meeting these requirements. We have another excellent team this year, comprising of: MW Glen Chaney, MW Ronnie Coppedge, Mike Dill, Ryan Frederick, Roland Morales, Steve Peters, Bill Potts, Karl Rivers, Tim Self, Artie Staggs, Delbert Wilson, and Don Wray. Assistant Deputy Grand Lecturers this year are Zachary Browsers, Jason El-

sasser, Chris Smith, and Quentin Smith. Please get to know these fine brethren and try to stump them with your Ritual questions.

Have you ever picked up on the fact that a lodge cannot open, close, or confer a degree efficiently without knowledgeable Senior and Junior Deacons? Mark your calendars now for upcoming Deacon Schools on January 10th at OKC #36, January 17th at Oklahoma Lodge #4 (Atoka), and January 31st at Jenks #497. I encourage all new Deacons and wannabe Deacons to attend one (or more) of these schools.

Coming near you again this year are the Board of Grand Lecturers Regional Schools. These schools bring together several of the Deputy Grand Lecturers to share their knowledge of our Ritual with you. The 2026 line-up is:

Cornerstone Academy, Lawton #183, January 10th

Bill Crissler Iron Man, Yukon #90, February 14th

Master Builder, Broken Arrow #243, April 25th

Grand Pillars, Composite #107 (Shawnee), June 13th

Way Out West, St. Alban #192, (Arnet), July 11th

Tough School, Oklahoma #4 (Atoka), August 8th

Cowboy Bootcamp, Sand Springs #475, September 12th

Join us for fun and fellowship.

On a more somber note, we have 120 Certificate Lecturers throughout the state, and 12 districts do not have a Certificate Lecturer. I encourage the newly installed Stewards to earn their C Certificate Lecturer, as Categorical Lecturers are part of your duties. I encourage those brethren who have a Certificate to teach your replacement.

Finally, I appreciate the opportunity to serve you as your Grand Lecturer and look forward to seeing you on the road.

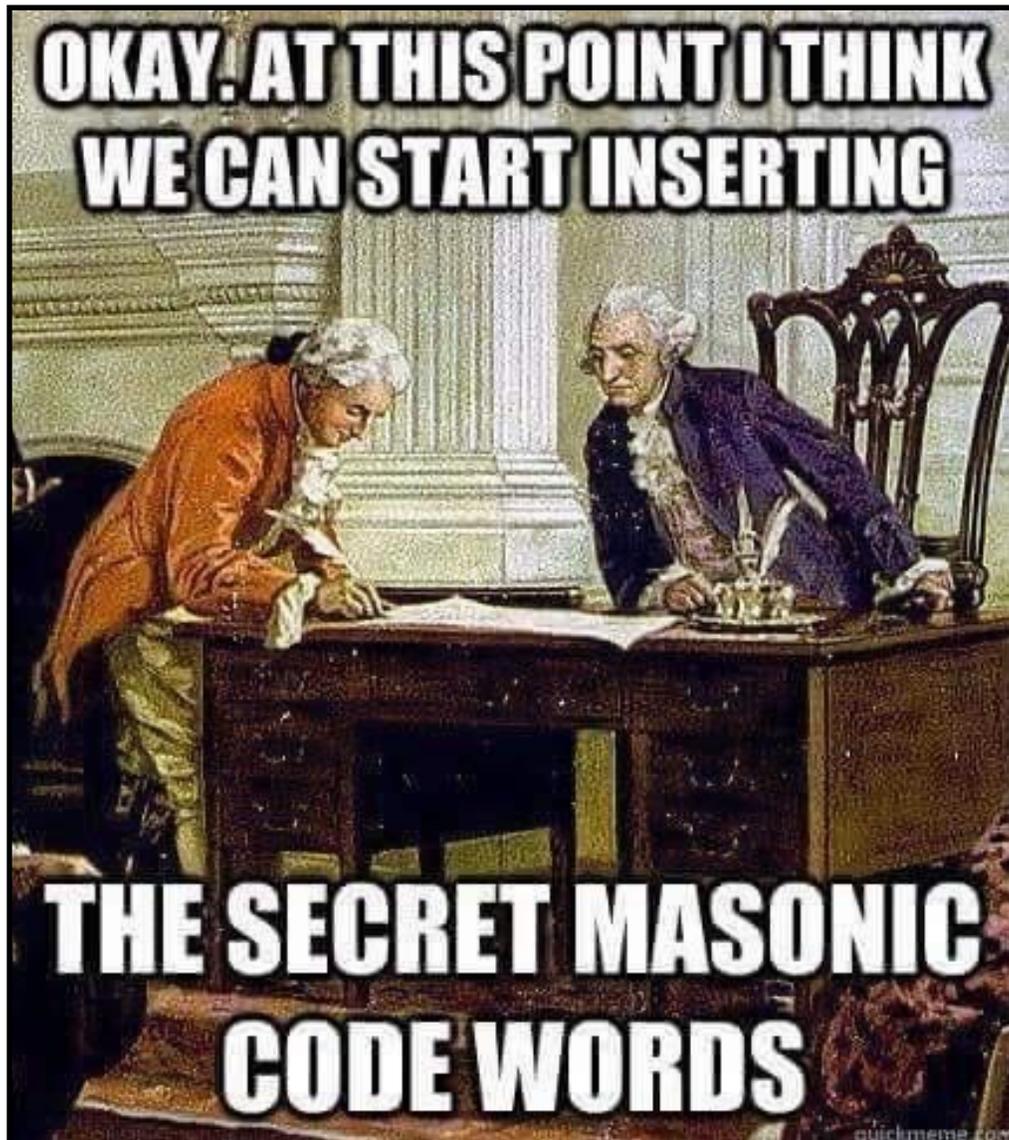


A Note from the Editor

Brethren, you no doubt have noticed that pictures from select Lodges are shown in each issue of the newsletter, time and time again. There is a reason for that—they are all that I can find. If you would like to see the photographic evidence of the accomplishments of your Lodge included in this newsletter, then please send it to me at okmasonmail@gmail.com

Not only will I include as much as the boss allows, but I am also starting a photographic section in the Sunday edition of the OKMasonMail that will provide links to the photographs you send me.

We should celebrate our accomplishments in photos and share them with our Brethren.



Masonry is Giving



**Chandler Lodge #58
Giving to a family
In need**



**Watonga Lodge #176
Raising funds for county
Food bank**



**Yukon Lodge #90
Provides warm coats and clothing
In support of our veterans**

Masonry is Caring



**Mustang Lodge #407
&
Uriah Lodge #227
Support
MHS Swim Team**

**Mustang Lodge #407
&
Uriah Lodge #227
Support
Mustang FFA**

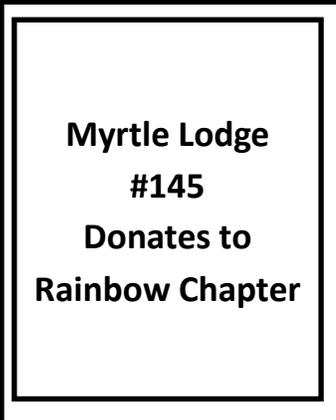


**Mustang Lodge #407 &
Uriah Lodge #227
Support
Rainbow Chapter**

Masonry is Compassion



**Myrtle Lodge #145
Gives to
Bethany Children's
Health Center**



**Myrtle Lodge
#145
Donates to
Rainbow Chapter**



**Myrtle Lodge #145
Gives to
WestMoore
Field & Track
Team**



The Grand Lodge *of* OKLAHOMA



The Oklahoma Mason is a publication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma.

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