

Roll No. 4974

ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt an essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

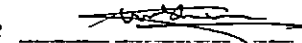
(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/ her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).

Remarks

Name SHOBHAM SINGH

Mobile No. _____

Date 10-10-16

Signature 

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. Health is not valued till sickness comes.
2. Everything is funny, as long as it is happening to somebody else. ✓
3. Where words fail, music speaks.
4. Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them.

SECTION - B

1. The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me.
2. Achieving life is not the equivalent of avoiding death. ✓
3. The ladder of success is best climbed by stepping on the rungs of opportunity.
4. Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake.

Remarks

Everything is funny, as long as it is happening to somebody else

A thinker, living during the times of Hitler's Germany has poignantly noted

"They came for the Muslims, and I did not say anything, because I was not a Muslim. Then they came for the Greeks, and I did not say anything, because I was not a Greek. Then they came for Slavs, and I again remained silent, because I was not a Slav. Finally they came for ~~the Jews~~ ^{me}, and there was no one ~~left~~ to oppose."

The deep misery in the words, point towards a malaise, that has plagued the world, since its inception. Searching for an identity group, human has perpetually arranged itself into groups, in a manner that forces it to remain cooped up in the group ideology, its mind closed to entreaties from outside. This has led to intense individualism and ingrained selfishness, sitting at the very root of communitarian ideals, that fertilise the modern democracy. Thus, instead of adopting a holistic outlook, while strategising itself to counter a problem, humans tend to think self selfishly in terms of country, state, religion, family etc. What this does, is creates a vacuum of appropriate approach and thus an inadequate response, leading

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to inordinate amounts of misery for all.

~~Such unnecessary crisis can be averted, if~~
~~humans~~

Gandhi ji has famously quipped - "Open the windows and let the air come in, but I refuse to be swept off my feet". The basic idea behind this assertion is a request to broaden the outlook. Persistence of a narrow outlook, signified by a zealous adherence to a particular set of norms, ideals, like the ~~is~~ Nazalite menace, is problematic. It forces individuals to resist initiatives to allow development of their ideas, with the progressing world.

A steadfast adherence, of one's archaic and anachronistic ideas, further leads to intense individualism, where one refuses to acknowledge the existence of any alternate approach. He then proceeds to direct his actions, unmindful of the surrounding society and the impacts on it. The consumerist ideology, that has seeped deep in our minds, is the best example of this individualism. We are happy to splurge 1000s on non-sensical theories of ageing horses, but would not spare a dime, for a hungry child outside

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the mall.

The individualism takes an ugly morph when one decides that any ideology that does not satisfy his bent of mind, sits starkly opposed, to the survival of his ideology. This develops an instant revulsion, an ingrained hatred and a maniacal rage, in otherwise ordinary human beings. We start taking pleasure, in inordinate harm and misery to others, just to satisfy our sadistic self. The most striking display of this distortion, is the ugly face of communalism in India. You just have to read the comments section of any news article, and you will be astonished to see the range of innuendoes, the morbidity of actions desired, that individuals, hurl across religious lines.

This artificial creation of me v you, has been at full display in India, during the incessant series of communal riots, right from our independence. Even an occasion as auspicious and cherished, as the independence, has been muddied, by the blemishes of ghastly communalism.

What this binary does, has been the bane for smooth progression of our society. Instead of utilising the ~~to~~ ~~be~~ highest

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quality of sensory system, gifted to us by the creator, to further the progress, by collaborative, share of knowledge, we seek to suppress or deny the other side

Not long ago, we were made aware of the attacks on the office of Charlie Hebdo, a French satirical publication, that is known for its crude sense of humor, bordering on vulgarity. A group of devout Muslims, enraged by shoddy depiction of Prophet Muhammad, sprayed the office of magazine, with bullets, leaving the chief designer dead. There was a widespread condemnation for the action, a warranted step, since violence cannot be condoned. However, it is pertinent to note that the medal of satire, was not as widely condemned.

This particular incident shows the double standards that are adopted by people, in their actions, Had it been the depiction of gods of other religion, the outcry would have been equivocal. Furthermore, what this binary thought process does, is develop a feeling of resentment in the members of the targeted

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group, in this case Muslims. This results into a rage, feeding into the growing ranks of racial organisations, reverse attacks and therefore a vicious circle and global growth of Islamophobia - a danger for any ethnic society.

Not just religions, even something as uncontested as development and growth has also created binaries. Of those living in the safe and secure environs of lush colonies, in their air-conditioned rooms, deride the hapless tribals in Bostons for Norwalkite ore. They are happy to profit on the progress wrought by thermal power, but would not spare a thought for the loss of home, his people, his land of the poor tribal. ~~Instead they~~ they forget that the effects of climate change and loss of biodiversity would affect them also.

Similarly, the daily evening spectacle of bombastic news anchors, shouting at the top of their voices, distorting the ethical notion of journalism, are a problem source. People relish, when individuals from the opposite camp is being nailed on by anchors, unconsciously forgetting the huge dis-service is being done to the concept of media. When news is expected to be objective, helping us make our opinion,

by providing unbiased information, and thus help question those in power, we see a slowly partisan media. The momentary glee in witnessing bashing of an opponent, is not worth the longtime risks to democracy.

Recently, there was a stand-up comedy show, by the writer of acclaimed movie *Masaan*, wherein he satirically noted, that no one would object to sexist jokes, but would be up-in arms, if religion is touched. The subtle yet deep insight into the human psyche is should help us open our eyes.

While something as real and ~~ever~~-intensely important, as women empowerment, is conveniently glossed over, the virtual and archaic conception of gods, is zealously preserved. The binary camps created thus, who prefer to subjugate women in the name of religion, ~~that~~ are as dangerous as individuals, who peddle Islamophobia.

The division of people into small, disaggregate camps, belie the ideals of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", that was seen as imperative, by the great ancient sages.

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Inimical to Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, is the inability of the world to agree on a plan for de-nuclearisation. The heinous impacts of lingering radiation in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, that still causes deformity in new-borns, should be a reminder for the world to immediately destroy the nuclear stockpiles. But, the narrow selfish aims of certain dysfunctional countries, has prevented development of a global consensus on the issue.

When the perils of narrow outlook are so drastic, then the question arises, on why do people resist broadening their outlook? Why do they not realise the wisdom behind the thinker during the Hitler Germany.

One of the prime reasons that comes to mind is the deep psychological yearn for a group identity. Man has always been a social being, to make up for its physical disadvantage, by increasing his numbers. The ancient tribes, village republic, and modern nation states are examples of such communitarianism. Man has found refuge in common characteristics like race, ideology, religion, food habits, to pad up his members.

Now, since the group provides him with love, affection,

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security, it is only natural for him to strive to protect the group from external dangers.

Another plausible reason could be the scarcity of resources. Since ~~the~~ demand and supply mismatch, persists, due to poor information or poor technology, the claimants try to capture resources using physical power, thus ranging one group against the other.

Or, if we do not wish to assume that man is a prisoner of his circumstances, we can simply assert that man is selfish, since he likes it. He relishes in individualism, since it frees him of the shackles to constrain his action. He enjoys being tunnel-minded, since it gives him a sense of superiority, like a frog in a well. One can bracket the various communal contestations, in this category.

However, we must realise, that if we progress further down this path, the destruction of humanity, as we know is imminent. We have already witnessed 2 disastrous world wars, for the simple

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reason that few countries tried to assert their superiority over others.

We must immediately take steps to curb this process of natural decline. There is utmost need to instill in the people, a basic ethos of humanism. People must understand, that if despite all the bloody wars, that took place over the centuries, if we have been able to survive, then, the only reason for that is the yearning for some claustrous individuals, to live and let others live.

This basic ideal underpins all the teachings laid down in all the holy books and by all the gods. We simply have to curb the urge for self promotion at the cost of others, and let others progress well.

The very basic way to do such a thing is to re-orient the meaning of success that we have today. Young children are taught to get marks, by hook or by crook, while conveniently forgetting that being a good human being, one who is emotionally ~~sen~~ prudent, and has an empathetic outlook, is more important.

The institutions of religion, school, family, society

must take a pledge that they will not let the future of humanity, be defined by individualism.

It is not as if efforts in this direction are not being made... Right thinking individuals in all societies, are doing their bit, to reform humanity. ~~There~~ Even amidst all the enmity between India and Pakistan, certain organisations on both sides, are taking efforts to arrange visits by school children, to bridge the deep suspicion and distrust between people.

Such efforts, provide a hope for the future. One is relieved that, we are not walking down the path of our ancestors, and have realised from their mistakes. We are and must always take efforts to be as collaborative and cooperative in our outlook, as possible. Any slight indications of individualism, must be resisted, if we wish to ensure happy, prosperous and inclusive society.

Remarks

Achieving life is not the equivalent of averding death

A beloved character in a beloved movie has observed.

"Life should not be long, it should be large"

Often we witness around us, the spectacle of vehicles lined up at traffic stops, and groups of children, with small wares, like magazines, brooms, in their hand, knocking on the transparent glass windows of cars, pleading with the occupants to buy their stuff. ~~and~~ This knocking is coupled with an amusing frequent hop; ~~on~~ which seems almost like dance. Yet ~~on~~ when one pans the eyesight to their feet, the amusement gives way to shame and self-disgust. The hop was not because of some childish playfulness, but to avoid the hot tarmac, burning at 48°C in scorching June, and with no protective cover of slippers. One feels instant revulsion at the inequality witnessed, the contrast between ice-cream slurping ~~and~~ ^{children} inside the AC car and the pugnantly hopping children outside, both of same age. Yet; as the signal turns green, the cars speed off and the momentary anguish gives way to relief ~~of~~ seeing the green light.

This ~~is~~ heart-rending tale is not a the tale of one or two, but characterises almost all of us.

Remarks

The inherent ^{moral} compass inside us makes us look in the right direction, but certain physical infirmities and psychological disinclination, restricts us from acting further.

The question then arises, why do not we act as per our conscience. Among others, we can surmise that, we do not fully appreciate the bounty of sense ^{& emotion} bestowed on us by the creator. We were endowed by such gifts, for the precise reason, that we use them to help our fellow beings, and not just help ourselves.

It could also be because of relative ease in mediocrity. Being successful, requires effort and furthermore sharing the fruits of success, requires even more effort, but all these hassles can be obviated, if one just refuses to be socially cognizant, or to make a contribution in development of society.

~~Thus~~, It is very important to understand that the purpose of life should not be restricted to negotiating the daily travails of life, but instead having a longterm vision of society and plan for

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one's contribution. We can only imagine the state of India, had Gandhiji resembled himself to his relatively affluent life as a Barrister in England, or BR Ambedkar, with his employment as lawyer under the aegis of Baroda. These great visionary men had better conceptions of society and future, than daily problems, took an effort to realise it and changed the lives of millions of Indians in the process.

If not inspired by the ideals of such great men, one should only look at it from point of view of economics. The women labour force participation rate languishes at 33%, and one of the primary reasons, for it is the debilitating patriarchy. Women are restricted from working outside home, made to drop out of service, to take care of family or ~~simply~~ harassed by testosterone maniacs at work-place.

What this does, is for everyone to see. Despite boasting of the huge demographic dividend, our ranking in HDR index is 132 out of 190 countries. How can we expect our nation to prosper, when 50% of the population is subjugated?

~~It is unproven~~

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It is thus imperative for every individual to contribute his bit in empowering women, if one wishes of prosperous and happy India. ~~an effort~~

Furthermore, an effort to move beyond narrow daily vision, should be made, if there is a desire to see India, with a prominent place on global stage. For this we must look no further, than our Japanese friends, as recently as 150 years back, Japan was a feudal nation, but a surprise siege by American navy, made the rulers of Japan cognisant of their backwardness and they took immediate steps, to reform the society and polity of Japan. There was an overhaul of society, within 10 years, backed by popular acceptance for the need to be modernised. The effect was drastic, by 1905, Japan was among the league of world leaders.

The people of Japan, believed in a long-term vision of the society and Japan. They were ready to sacrifice their personal position, personal pleasure and personal wealth, too to see a modern Japan. Such level of contention and dedication is needed in India, as well.

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A step further from short-termism and tunnel vision is needed since India suffers from social as well as economic quality - with the ~~latter~~ groups at the receiving end of the inequality, being the same, thereby accentuating their misery.

The Maratha agitation, currently underway in Maharashtra, and its anti-Dalit tone, must rouse every right-thinking citizen. The very meagre right that the Constitution provides for socially disadvantaged groups, are being ~~stated~~ tried to snatch away by force, for a minor inconvenience, or the superiority of advantaged classes. The pangs for such caste-motivated actions are always rumbling in the underbelly of Indian society, and have the effect of distorting and debilitating further, the already ugliness of Indian society.

It is not enough for one to just watch the humungous rally on TV and make concerned comments. We must raise our voice ~~or~~ via various platforms, to denounce the anti-Dalit stance. We cannot expect a prosperous and progressive, ~~and~~ inclusive society, if we seek to subjugate a section of people, or be a complacent, by not raising our voice, when witnessing someone doing so. There must be a desire to right the wrongs of history. There must be individual mobilisation, galvanising into a social revolution.

Remarks

A descent into insensitivity and indifference to the ills of our government, must also make us wake upright to perils of descending into a comfortable state of individualism. We witness around us an unholy nexus between the politician - corporate - bureaucrat - criminal - media. These institutions together hold enough power between them to change the character of the state from democracy to oligarchy, for from communitarianism to majoritarianism. These institutions gain power at the cost of ordinary citizens, and with their enhanced powers, permit the ~~under~~ freedom of citizens. The recent case in SC where it struck down section 66A of IT Act is classic example of our descent into oligarchy. The section sought to penalise the most innocuous comments about on the flimsiest grounds of danger to society.

Such efforts by elite are common to all the countries, and it is only by alert guard of public opinion, that such efforts can be subdued. It is very important for us to guard our freedom from being curbed by certain powerful people, who might get inconvenienced by our objective observations.

Remarks

Enumerating the dangers of sedentary citizenship must make one demand answers to how to ~~not~~ not fall into such a trap. Such a pang must come from all concerned citizens of India.

Among others, the basic desire of harmonious society is imperative. There must be a voice inside us that must shame us into taking appropriate action, when we witness something deeply individualistic and selfish. Such an effort, must not be postponed, and the action must be immediate and quick. In our case of the little children, at the traffic stop, if nothing else, we can buy as much wares from them as we can, so that they get enough money for their food, and do not have to scurry around on the burning road.

However, such efforts, should not be restricted to one-time philanthropy, instead, a visit next day to the home of the children, inquiring about their education, encouraging their parents to send them to school, or contacting an NGO, to inform them of their plight.

It is plausible that these efforts, might not have a visible success immediately, and one might again see those children at the traffic stop. Nonetheless,

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there must be no disheartening, and renewed must be made, with greater vigour.

It is also important to educate the ice-cream sucking children inside the AC car, of their fortune and how they must always have an attitude of benevolence towards the less advantaged. A starting point could be to encourage them to share their ice-cream, with the children.

Furthermore, the diesel gurgling cars induces climate change, which impacts the poor more than the rich. Thus, for a true citizen of a concerned society, environmental awareness is important. There must be an effort to reduce the carbon footprint. Maybe this could help in reducing the temperature, that forced the children to hop.

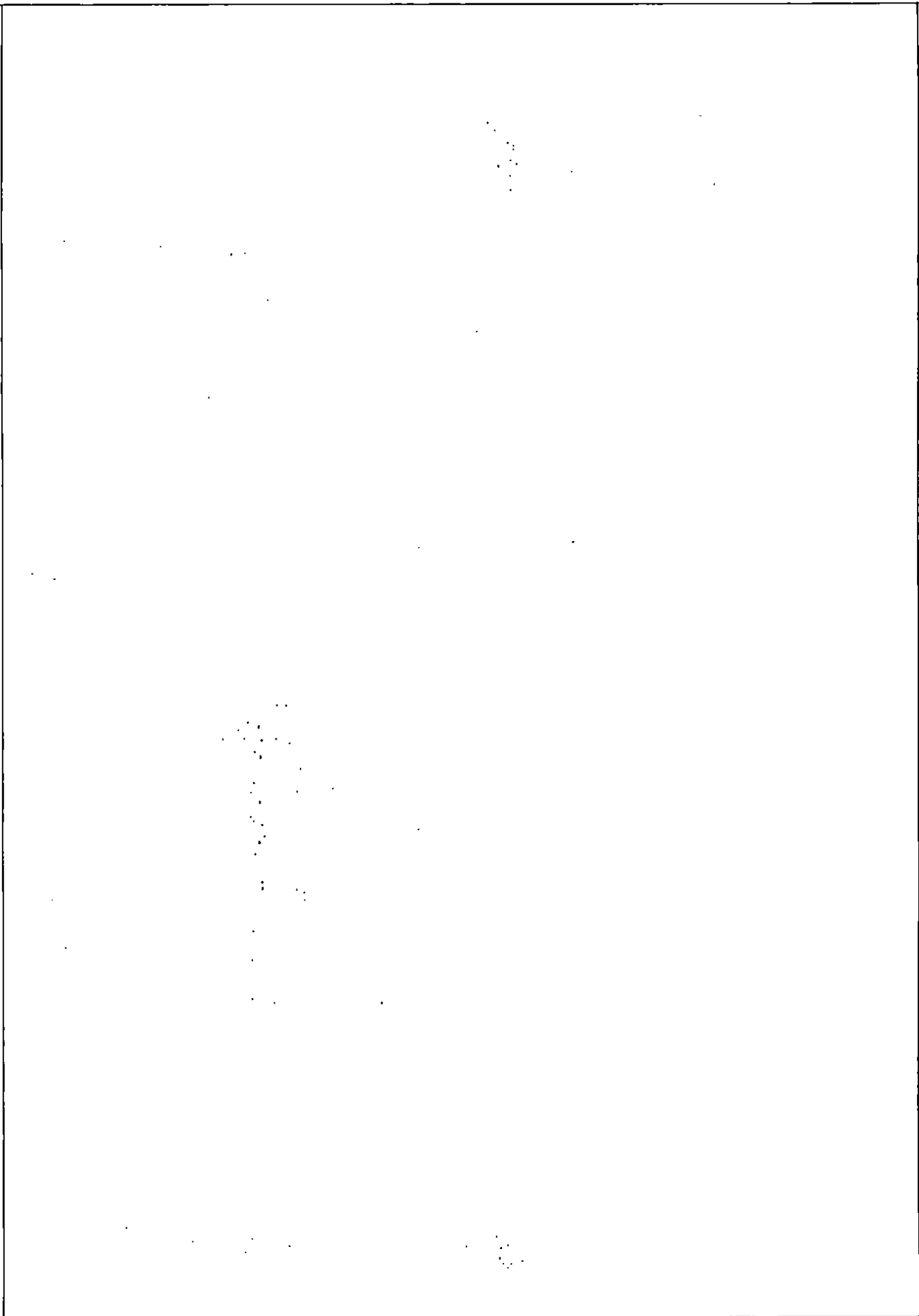
There must also be a realisation of the fallacy of the disdain, with which the cars speed off, as the lights turned green. What can be more important than trying to rectify the future of India, by helping the small children? Such moral compass, must be engrained in us by our school, family, society, religion,

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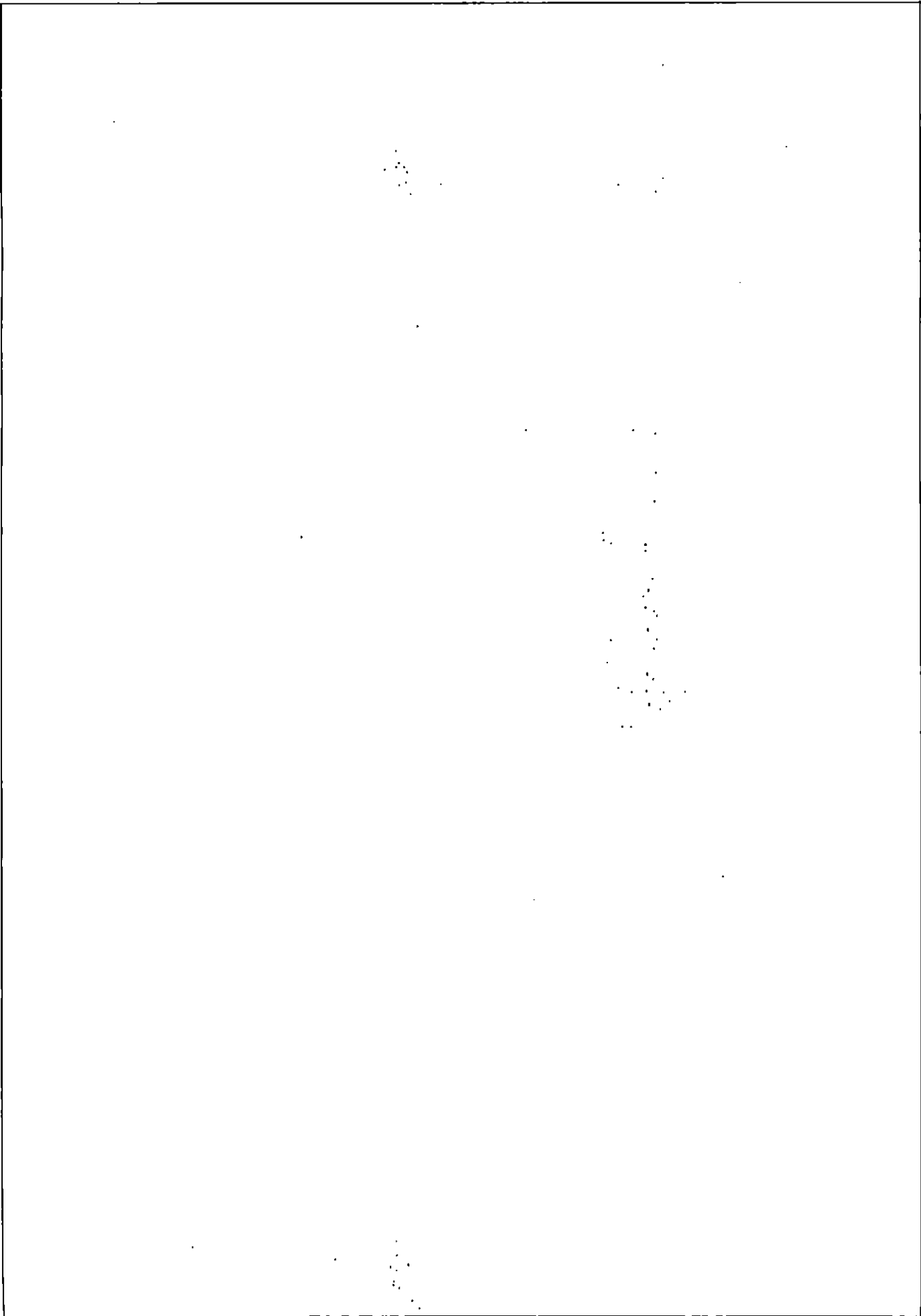
Our presence in this world, should not be reduced to private pursuit of excellence, and instead, it should have a redistributive aspect as well. The bounty of being born in an socially and economically advantageous group, should be seen as a blessing, a gift from god, to help make right the distortions in the society. As long as we do not adopt such outlook, our lives are meaningless.

Yet, the prognosis is actually quite heartening. We see around us a litany of NGOs, CSOs, selflessly fighting for a social cause, with the sole desire of a better society. It is further delight to see that majority of the membership of such groups is youngsters, below 30. The desire for better India, is what propels these individuals and their actions. India, is safe if such, people are around.

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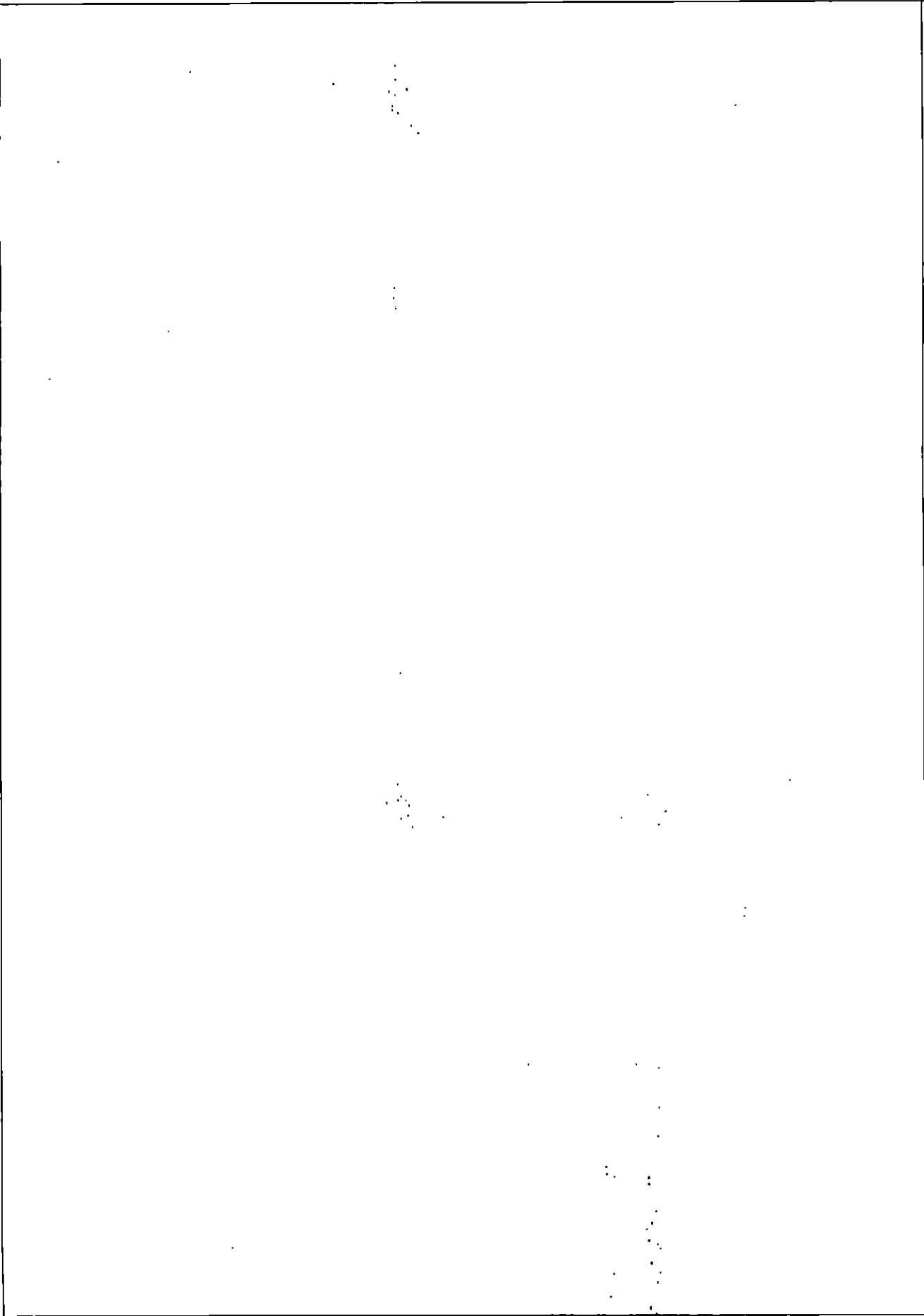


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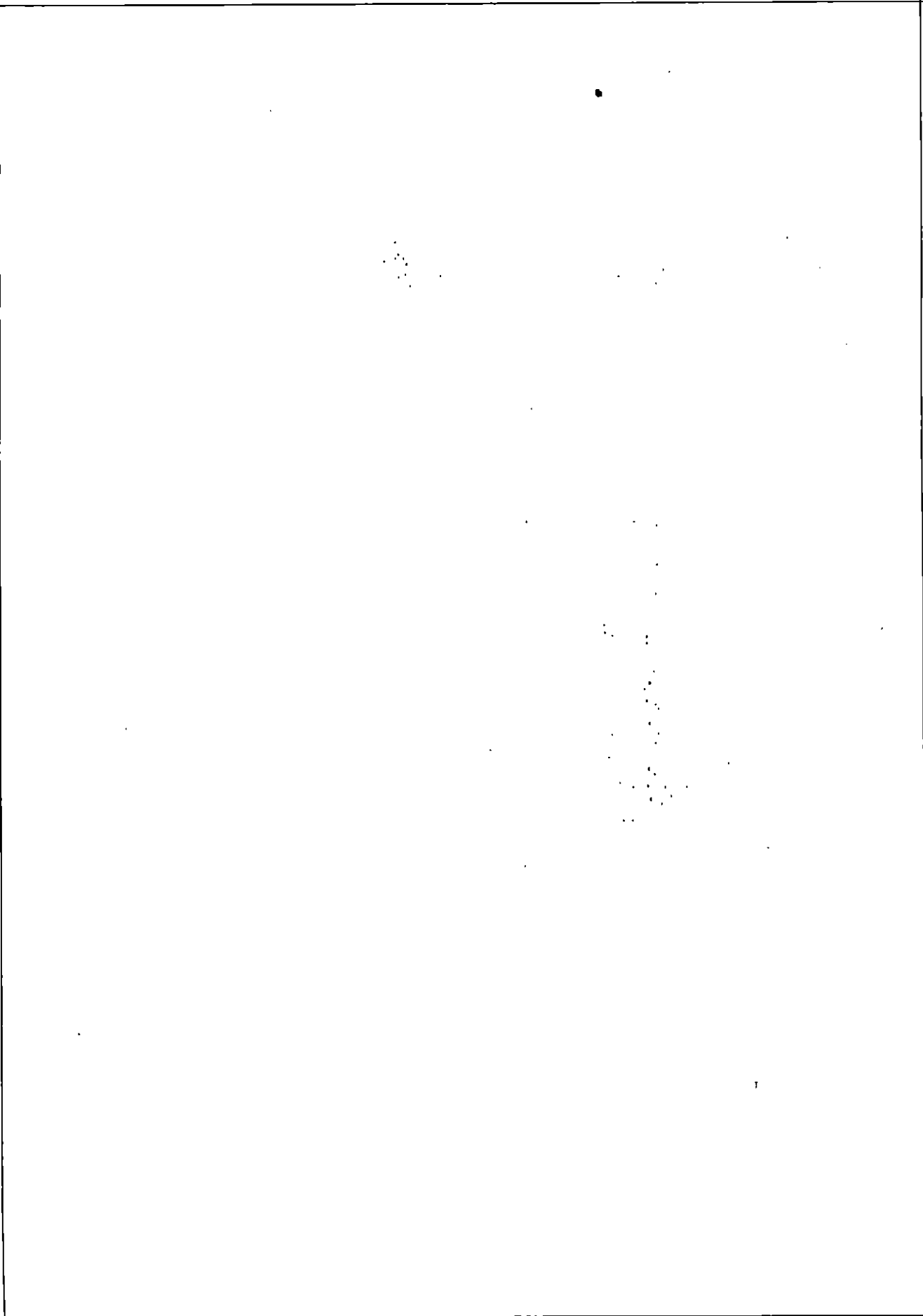
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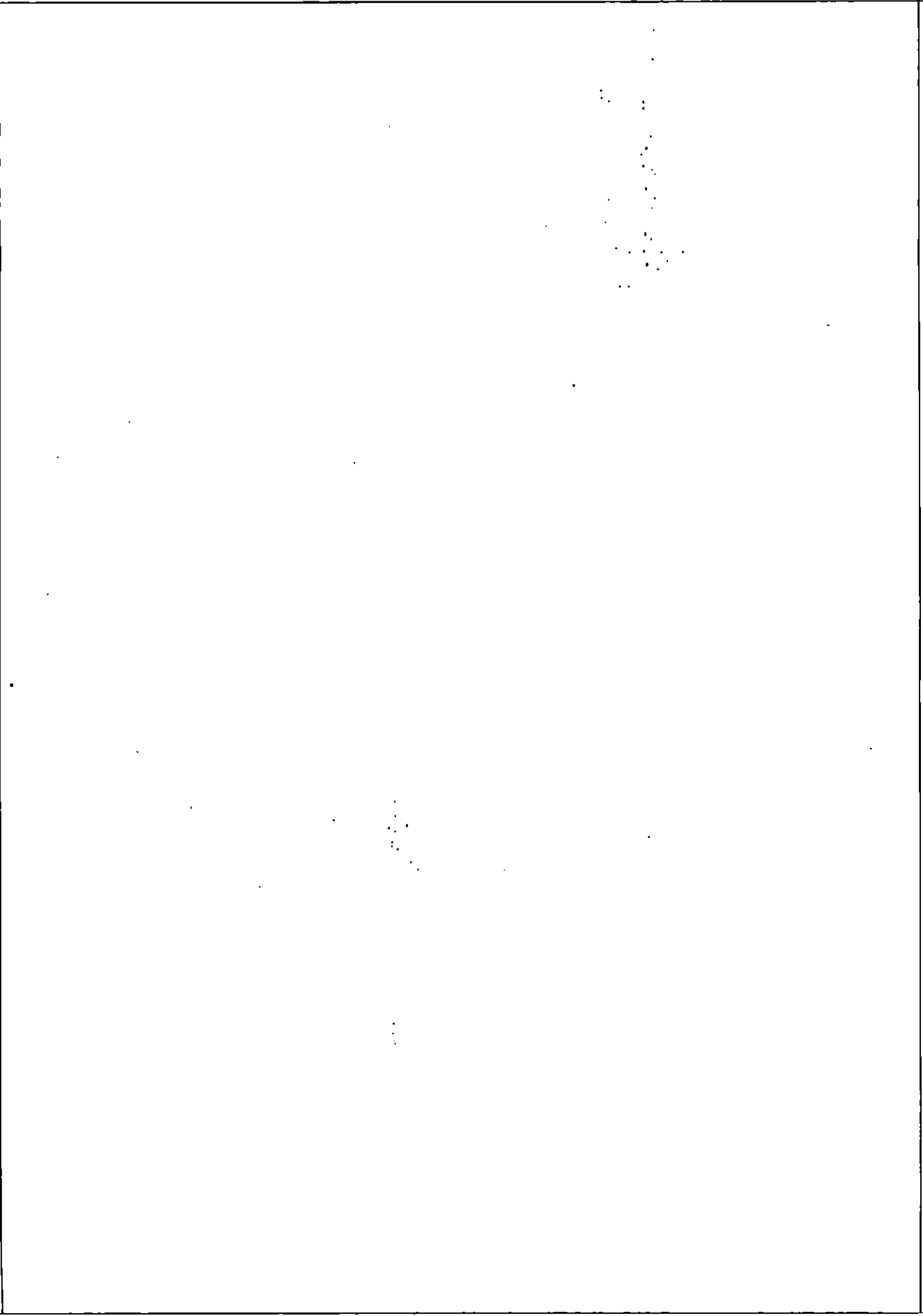
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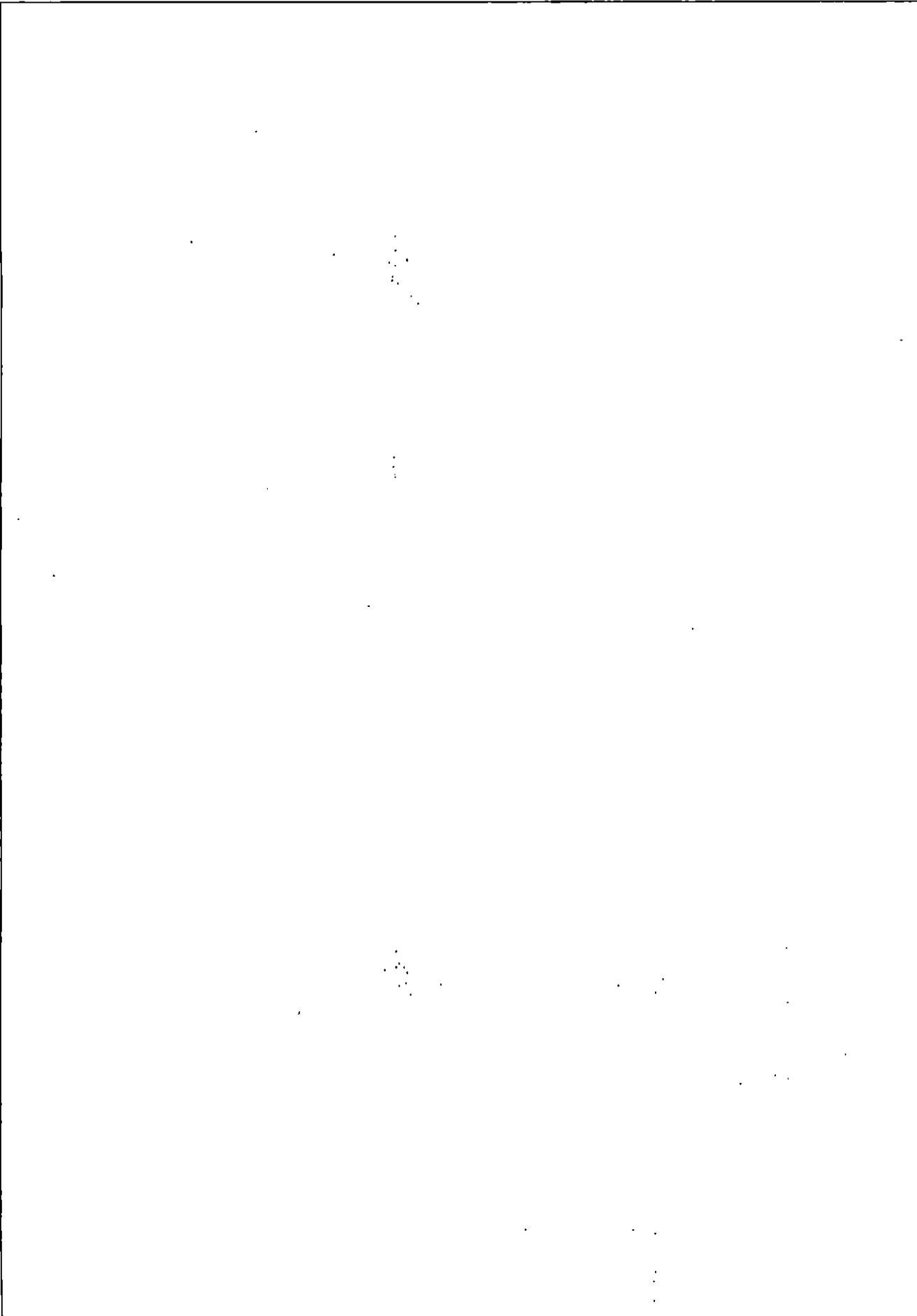
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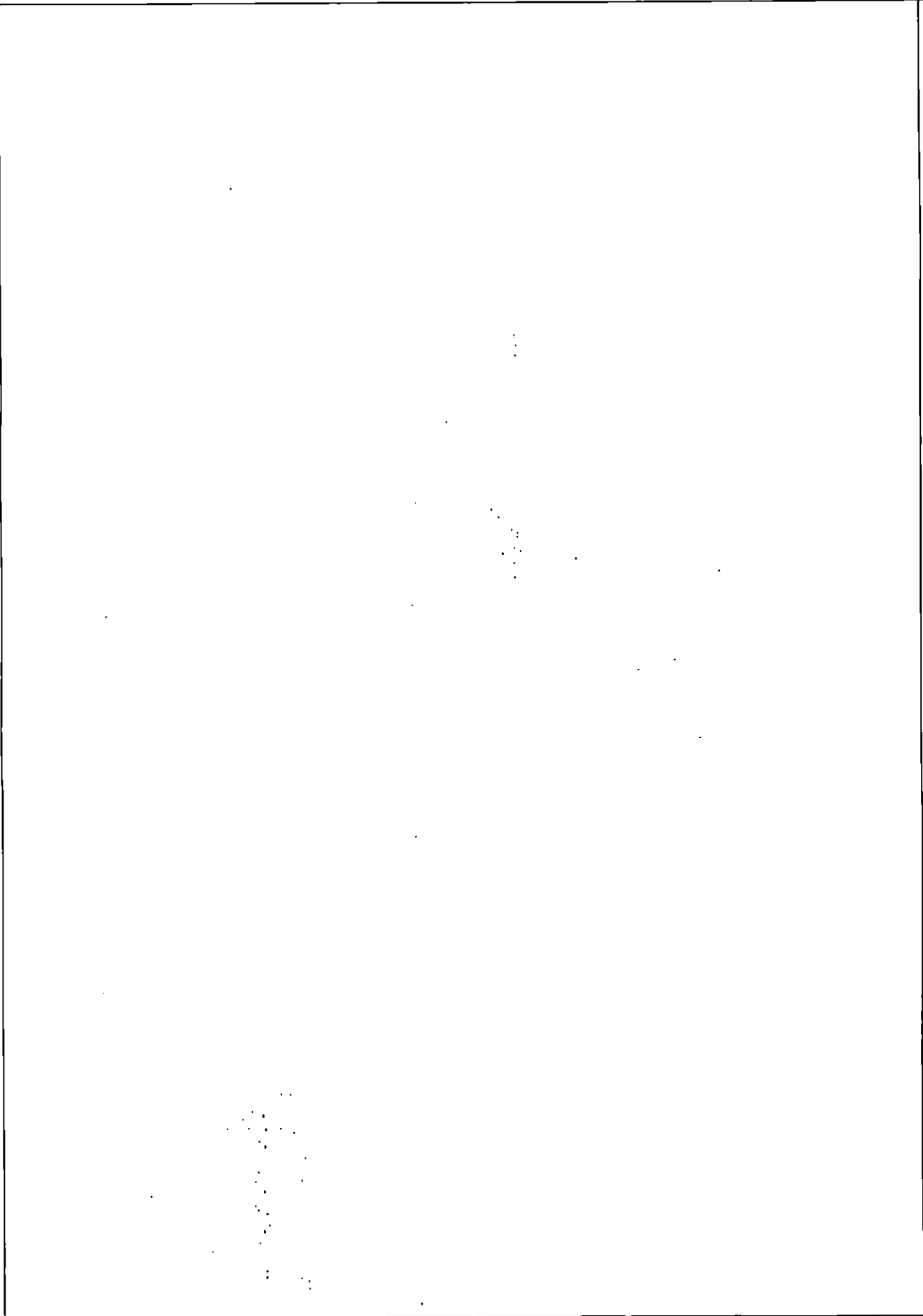
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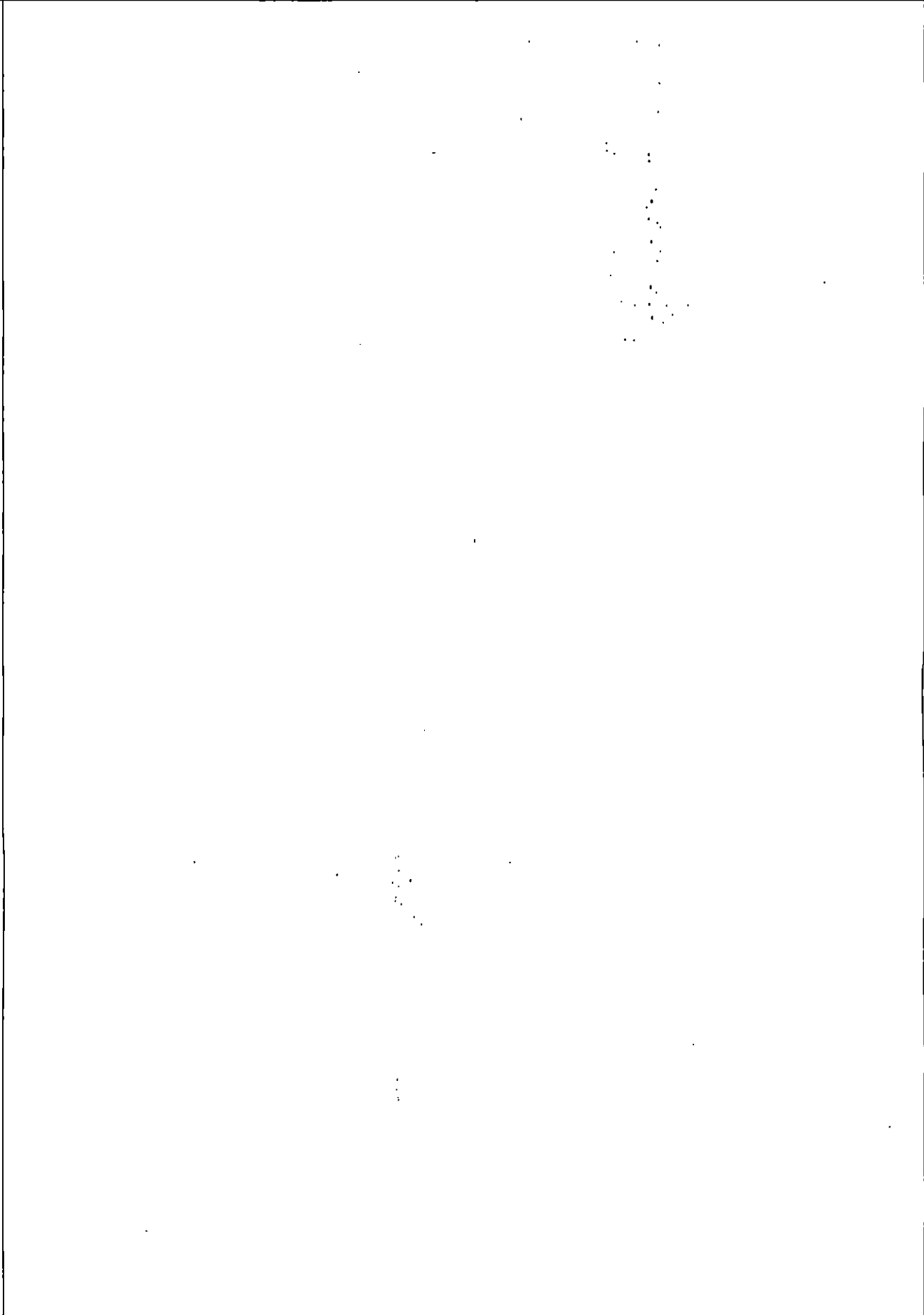
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Problems

100 Problem - narrow outlook, ~~selfish~~, individualism, ego problem
200 why problem

300 effects - countries, political ideology, media, AAP, communalism

200 what to do. development (coming), ~~policy action~~, Kashmir, Heido, jokes

400 Why do people think eff? - selfishness, content with mediocrity, no information

inequality - Problems:

insensitive
selfish
stagnant

why should we think like this
what to do 300

likes effort
600
helpers
share

Remarks