

ESSAY MOCK TEST

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt one 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 EL. Sayee Sridhar

Mobile No. [REDACTED]

Date 27/8/2017

Signature EL. Sayee Sridhar

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SECTION - A

1. Fighting corruption is not just good governance but also self-defense and patriotism.
2. Politics is the art of choosing between the disastrous and unpalatable.
3. People are sheep. TV is the shepherd.
- ✓ 4. Chanakya may have been from India, but its Indians who never followed his advice ✓

SECTION - B

1. Life teaches us many lessons, but the final lesson is, there is no final lesson.
2. A Nation can remain free, as long as it continue to be the home of brave.
3. Yesterday's score doesn't win you game today.
4. The true mystery of the world is the visible, and not the invisible.

SECTION - A

(4)

Max Mueller, the famous German scholar remarked that "There is no civilisation that gave a deep thought about the various fundamental issues of the human life, as much as the Indian civilisation". We were pioneers in philosophy, science, arts and the various dimensions of human life. While the rest of the world was still in its infancy, we were already a strong civilisation. As empires and civilisations rise and fall, so did ours too. Due to its own internal contradictions and the external influences of various kingdoms, we lost our race in the development of various fields. The biggest downfall came from the colonisation of the British. They destroyed what was left in us and brought us under their hegemony in all aspects - political, cultural, social and economic. They implemented their own political system and western ideologies and education systems. They imposed their own governance and administration systems and did not let us evolve on our own path. This led to many value contradictions and as Tagore foretold "we are still cleaning the filth of the colonial rule."

Remarks

They imposed Macaulay education and we forgot all our traditional thoughts. Even in today's world of politics, the Indian political thought occupies a corner place. One such treatise that has been long forgotten by us is Arthashastra by Chanakya.

A brief on Chanakya:

Chanakya also known, Kautilya was an important personality in the court of Chandragupta Maurya of the Mauryan Kingdom. Chanakya helped Maurya in ascending the throne and it was only with his help, Maurya successfully completed the first ever political consolidation in Indian history.

Chanakya's important work is Arthashastra. It is the best treatise on the art of statecraft/governance. It covers various aspects of human life and 8 out of 12 chapters deals with governance alone. It talks about the formation of state, the creation of king, principles of administration, corruption and the principles of human welfare and most important of all, his theory on international relations. Many of his ideas could be seen in today's theory on International Relations.

Remarks

good
introduction

His advice on achieving good governance :

(1) The ruler/king is not above law :

Though Chanakya in his theory gives that the king was created by the God, he never equated king with divine theory of rights. The king was always below the law. The duty of the king was to apply the laws and also adjudication of the laws. He should be supported by very wise ministers (Amatyas) in making the decisions and king should make sure that dharma prevails. The king should work according to Raj Dharma or he will go to hell.

Law is Raj Dharma

But in today's scenario, prestige and authority is often associated with violation of laws and rules. The recent episode in Air India flight, where the Minister slapped the air crew with his footwear for not having seats of his preference is an example. Cases like this are not an exception. People with power and money subvert the law and manage to overcome the obstacles of law. Special preferences for the political authority and bureaucracy is the norm. Impunity is an everyday affair. Laws are either bent or broken in today's world easily by the rulers, the powerful and the rich.

Company law them & more

Remarks

(ii) "The welfare of the subjects is the objective of the king, because in the welfare of the people lies his own welfare" said Chanakya. ✓

Chanakya's idea of legitimacy for a ruler is based on the happiness of his subjects. He should not be self-interested. The king should create conditions so that the citizens of his state could achieve their personal goals and objectives. His idea of goals of life was Yogshem (Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha). Only by helping his subjects achieve these goals successfully, he can keep them happy which gives the legitimacy to his rule. ✓

In today's scenario, it is the opposite of what Kautilya advocated. The politics is simply for power for the sake of aggrandisement of wealth and resources for self-interest. Corruption is largely a norm. A citizen who wants to lead a honest and straight forward life has more obstacles to face than being dishonest. In today's world leading a honest life is more costly. For example: one can either wait for the services from the public authorities beyond the stipulated time or ~~get~~ get it done by simply paying bribe. The one who is honest faces

Remarks

good argument
as
corruption is
then
and no

unordinate delays in availing services. In the lower sections especially, who are in dire need of public services surrender their dignity to make a living. Scams and scandals runs into numbers where even the number of zero is difficult to comprehend.

Kautilya also advocated that the administrators and person holding the public offices should be highly supportive to the king. They should be honest and highly accountable to the public funds. He said that it is impossible to taste honey when it is placed at the tip of the tongue. Likewise it is impossible to eliminate corruption since large amount of funds are handled by the public authorities. Therefore he advocated that officers should possess high integrity and should show proactiveness in helping the king to protect the weakest.

Bureaucracy today is almost oblivious to all the teachings of Kautilya. Instead of advising the political authorities on how to improve the ^{weakest} collection, there is a huge increase in collusive corruption. The political-bureaucratic nexus have formed a strong structure that exploits the people. Rather than serving the people, the administrators consider itself as doing favours to the

①
From dimension
in that of system

Remarks

people. Kautilya called for frequent transfers for bureaucrats so that they do not have sufficient opportunities to swindle the loop-holes and exploit the resources. In today's scenario though, it is actually the honest officers who are transferred most. The number of transfers is rather seen as a merit.

(ii) His idea on International Relations:

Kautilya gave a lot of emphasis on International relations. He talks about the Mandala theory and gives six fold policy (Siddhanta on Sadbhagunya). He advocated strong internal security as well as external security. He prescribes expansionist foreign policy and strictly advises the ruler to be aware of his developments of the surroundings and the developments. Max Weber, a political theorist on idea of "power", calls Kautilya as more Machiavelli than Machiavelli himself. Such was his expertise on foreign policy.

In spite of having such a treatise, India is the least Kautilyan country in terms of foreign policy. Though we had principled and idealist foreign policies we failed to adopt Chanakya's ideas even

Remarks

- could have in mind: (1) Circle of states or Raja Mandala (enemy of the enemy is friend) (2) ARTHA SHASTRA - The cardinal virtue of real politics (3) ~~Policy~~ (3) PACIFISM (opposite of Artha Shashtra) by Nehru costed the Membership at UN Security Council in 1949. (4) Now for India the need of the hour is →

②
Another dimension
of
Mandala
theory

where it mattered. This could be seen in the loss of Akshai Chen in Indo China war in 1962 and also the weakness of the Simla Agreement in 1972 where we did not gain anything significantly inspite of being in a highly advantageous position. It is true that many of his foreign policies cannot be applied today, but that does not make his prescriptions altogether irrelevant.

Left argument

Friedrich Nietzsche, called Arthashastra as a work that is better than Bible. Most of the principles advocated by Chanakya, though more than two millenniums old can be implemented and is highly relevant in our today's world. Our Prime Minister has called on the nation for a new Quit India Movement to eliminate the social ills, especially corruption in order to achieve "New India" by 2022. To achieve this goal the spirit of Kautilya's work should be made popular. His ideals of creating an ideal society should be imbibed and implemented according to the needs of today. Jawaharlal Nehruji called Kautilya as Indian Machiavelli. But I am strongly convinced that it is Machiavelli who is "Italian Chanakya", such is his importance in our today's life.

Short essay

Remarks

→ anti-dote policy, which is possible only when it truly understands the policy of its neighbour.

SECTION-B

(1) The only thing that has been constant in our lives has been the change. change is the only thing that doesn't change. We have evolved psychologically and physiologically. ~~As~~ of all the species that fell under the genus "Homo", the sapiens species to which we all belong is the only species that not only managed to survive but also thrive. The main reason behind our survival was our ability to 'communicate', socialise and develop languages. Here 'socialisation' needs to special emphasise. The main reason why the Neanderthals, the main competition of homo sapiens, did not survive is because they were a highly closed group. They did not socialise with other Neanderthals. But homo sapiens kept on 'learning' new skills and abilities to survive better. It is this socialising ability and the insensitivity to learn that makes us what we are and whom we are today. We have grown exponentially that right now we ponder the need of finding new planets to colonise and expand further.

Remarks

u. good
introduction

Our lives are like technology. First came the transistors, computers, floppy disks, cassettes, CD's, Pen drives and now we are contemplating our own DNA as a storage mechanism. We have also tried to continuously evolve ourselves and learn new things. One of the earliest such quest of human life has been to find out the "absolute truth". The sages of Hinduism, Buddha, Mahavira, Sufis, Prophet have all tried their own ways of achieving truth. The sages of ~~Buddhism~~ Hinduism advocated ascetic life to know absolute truth. Buddha advocated the path of middle mean. Sufis advocated extreme love towards God and singing and dancing in the name of God to achieve contention. They advocated all these ideas based on the various lessons that they learnt in their life.

The same idea can be applied in the field of science. It was J.J. Thompson who first proposed the structure of an atom. Then came Rutherford who came up with a completely different model of atom. This was followed by Neil Bohr. Before even the idea of atom having basic particles as electron, neutron, proton could reach all the text books, we have now found the particles like neutrinos, bosons, muons and so on. We keep

Continuous
Learning
and
update

Remarks

discovering and learning different things day in and day out. What started as a picture tube is now LED today. What started as a mere steam engine is bullet trains today. What began as the mere desire to fly are supersonic jets today.

In political sphere the same idea can be applied. What began as an inspiration to achieve good life evolved into various concepts like justice, democracy, equality, rights, liberty, fraternity and so on. What we have now as an idea of democracy is a reflection of the human beings journey in the past 800 years since the beginning of Magna Carta. These ideas have evolved and will still continue to evolve.

This idea of continuous learning can be seen in the personal sphere too. Gandhi's whole idea of life was a journey to understand truth. One has to keep learning various ideas of truth and strive for continuous betterment of oneself. He believed that "Truth is God". His political strategies of Satyagraha, Ahimsa are all the continuous learning and his efforts to keep improving from his early days in South Africa.

Ideas evolve

①

Very good dimension in learning lessons

Remarks

The idea of continuous learning from lessons of life applies in our own lives even at the basic level. When we were kids, we always believed that school was boredom. We did not want to study. We wanted to finish off our schooling, get a degree and end up with a job so that we became independent. But we realise now that we had all the independence only as kids and not as adults. We strive every day to earn a living and for material comfort. Sooner we may learn that it all does not matter so much as we considered it to be. We keep learning from our relationships, friends, colleagues, so on and so forth. But inspite of what we learn, we do not tend to stop. We keep moving forward hoping for new opportunities, new avenues, new faces and new beginnings. We do not stop our learning process.

We live our lives like the sportsmen. Virat Kohli is not what he is today five years ago. He has learnt and evolved. His skills have improved, his abilities and talents have honed. This is all because he was ready to learn from his mistakes and his ability to improvise and improve on the lessons that life taught him. Even personally, as an UPSC aspirant, life is

well argued

(2)

dimension
of
continuous
learning

Remarks

not the same as it was years ago. When I feel a lesson has been learnt, the new one is already on its way, either academically or personally.

Throughout ^{our} continuous involvement many sages, scholars, thinkers, scientists, leaders have professed various ideas. Many of them even claimed that it was absolute truth. One of such thinkers is Karl Marx. He claimed that the idea of communism and

the stateless society will happen and there is no scope for further development. The main reason behind

the failure of communism to sustain was due to this closed system. When a person claims that he has found out the absolute truth, he sets himself on the path of

decline. On the other hand the whole idea of liberalism being able to sustain was due to its openness.

It was ready to accommodate various aspects of human life to evolve itself into a better system. This idea applies at all levels. Though India has so much

of diversity and variety, we sustain as a nation due to our syncretic nature. We did not profess any idea

as absolute. The whole idea of India is fluid and we sustain because of our ability to learn continuously.

Remarks

Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism and many other co-exist because nothing claims itself to be the absolute truth. Each individual is allowed to practise according to his conscience and decide what is true for himself. Even when someone understands that a religion is true he should keep on evolving and improving and may be one day we all may realise that God is one. Therefore to remain as a successful race and to live prosperously we have to realise one absolute truth, that is there is no absolute truth.

~~not right~~
 co. not well
 conceived

SS

write: there is no final lesson as there are no many lessons still left to be learned
 what are the lessons taught by life:

- ① Development must be sustainable
- ② Business be ethical - otherwise → Kingfisher in SAHARA
- ③ Society must be equitable and just
- ④ Polity must be equitable and just
- ⑤ at individual level - honesty, integrity, sympathy etc. To live a meaningful life

Remarks

→ Personalities like Gandhiji and Ambedkar continued to learn new lessons and came out with new principles throughout their life

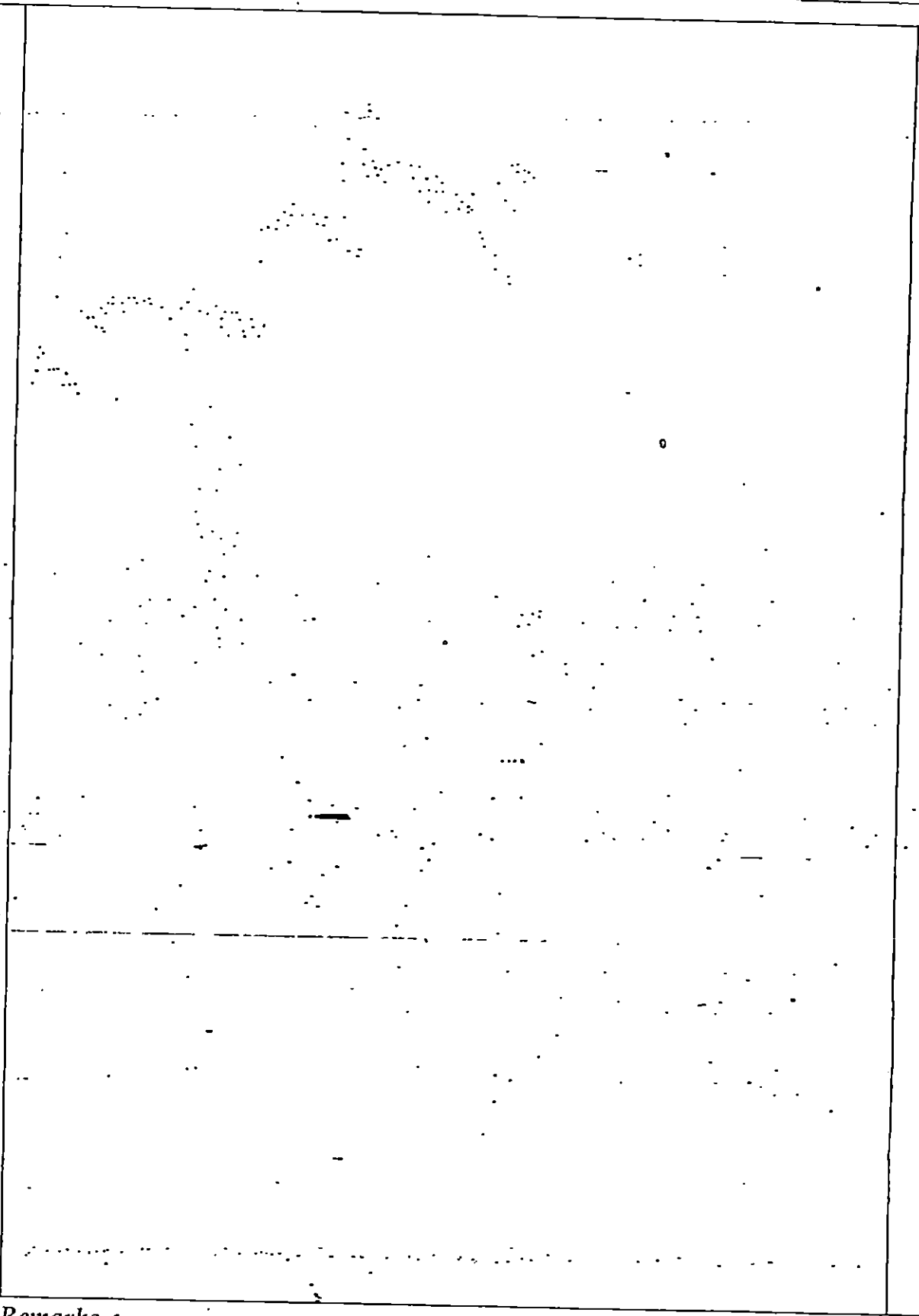
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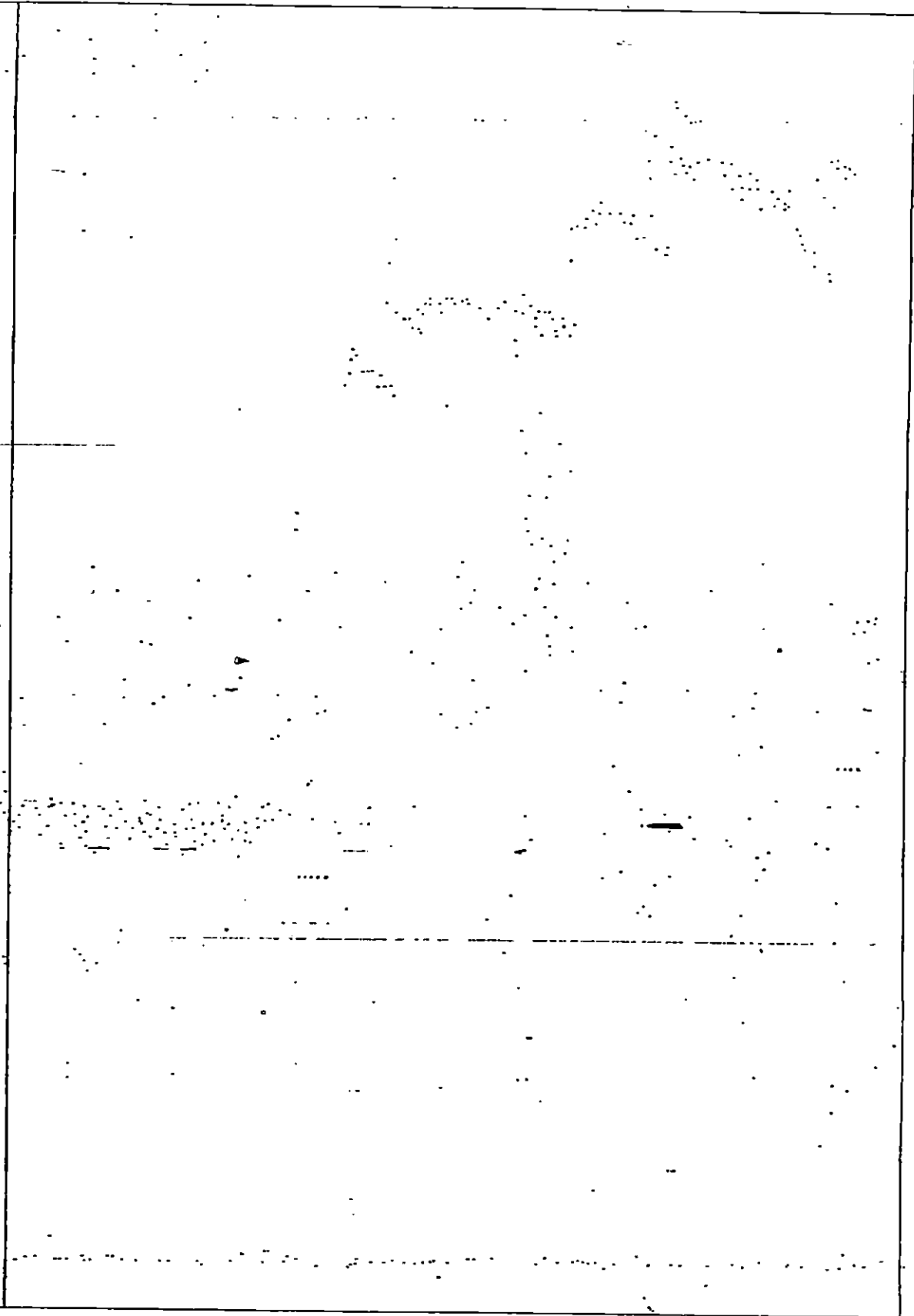


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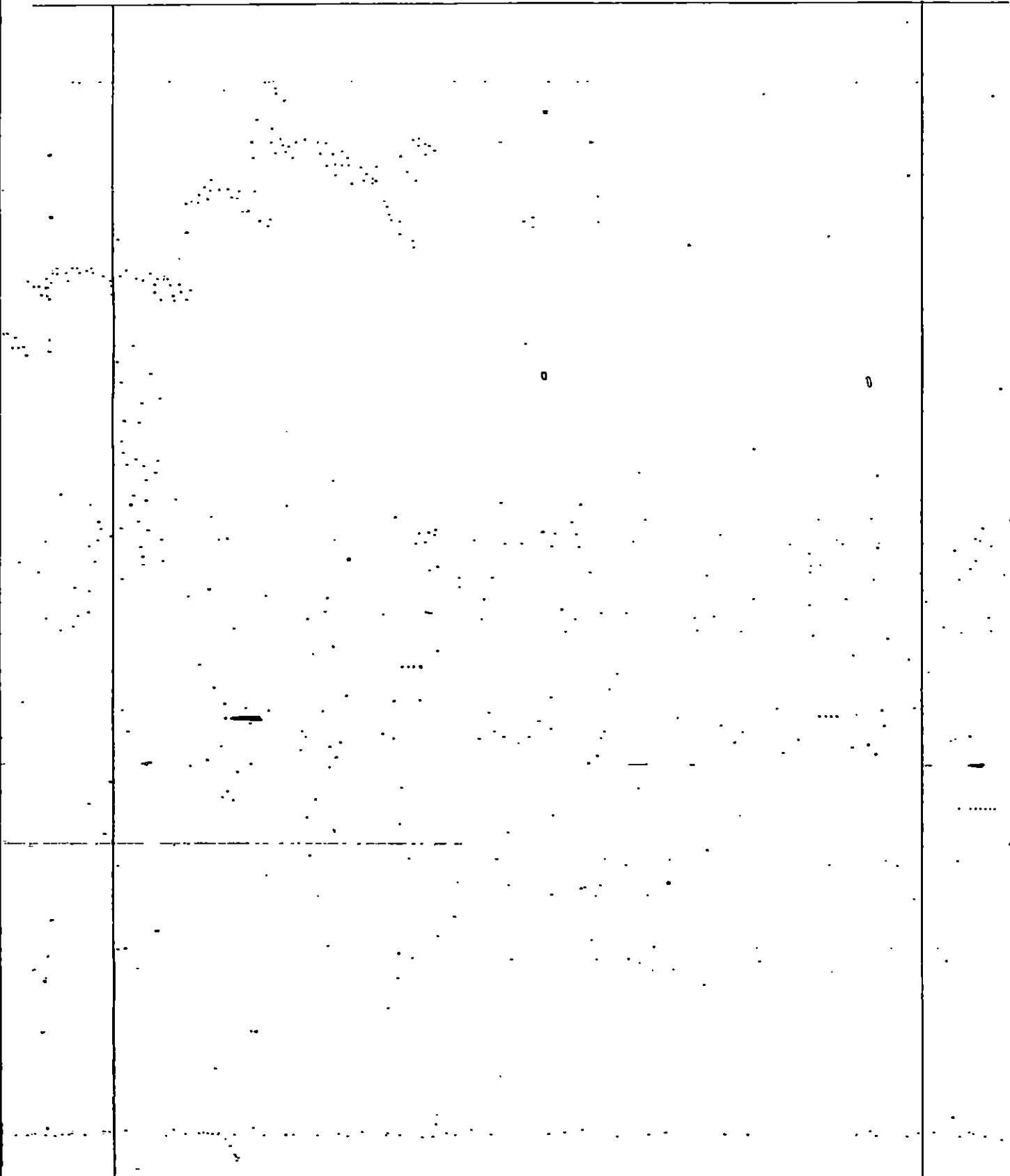
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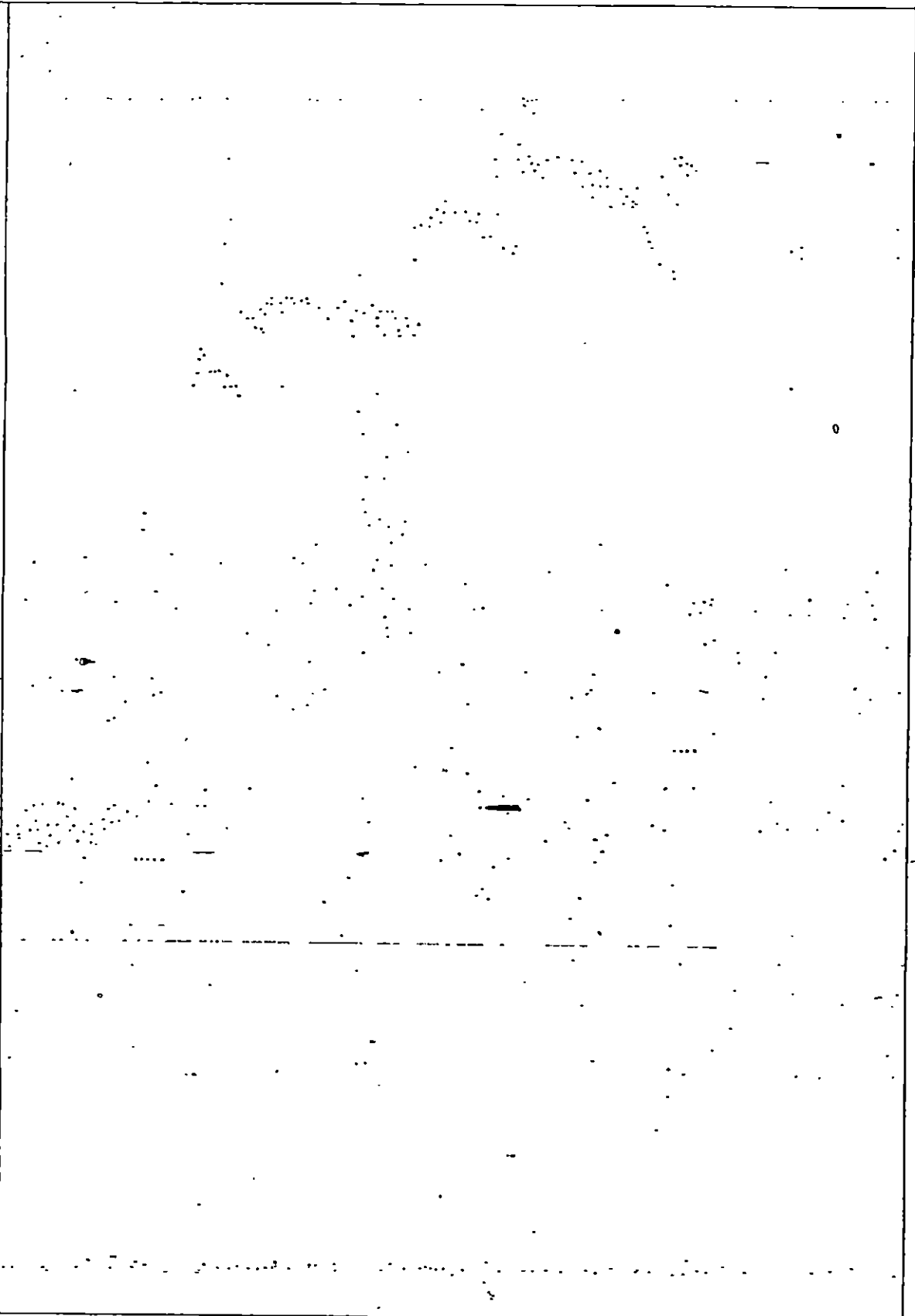
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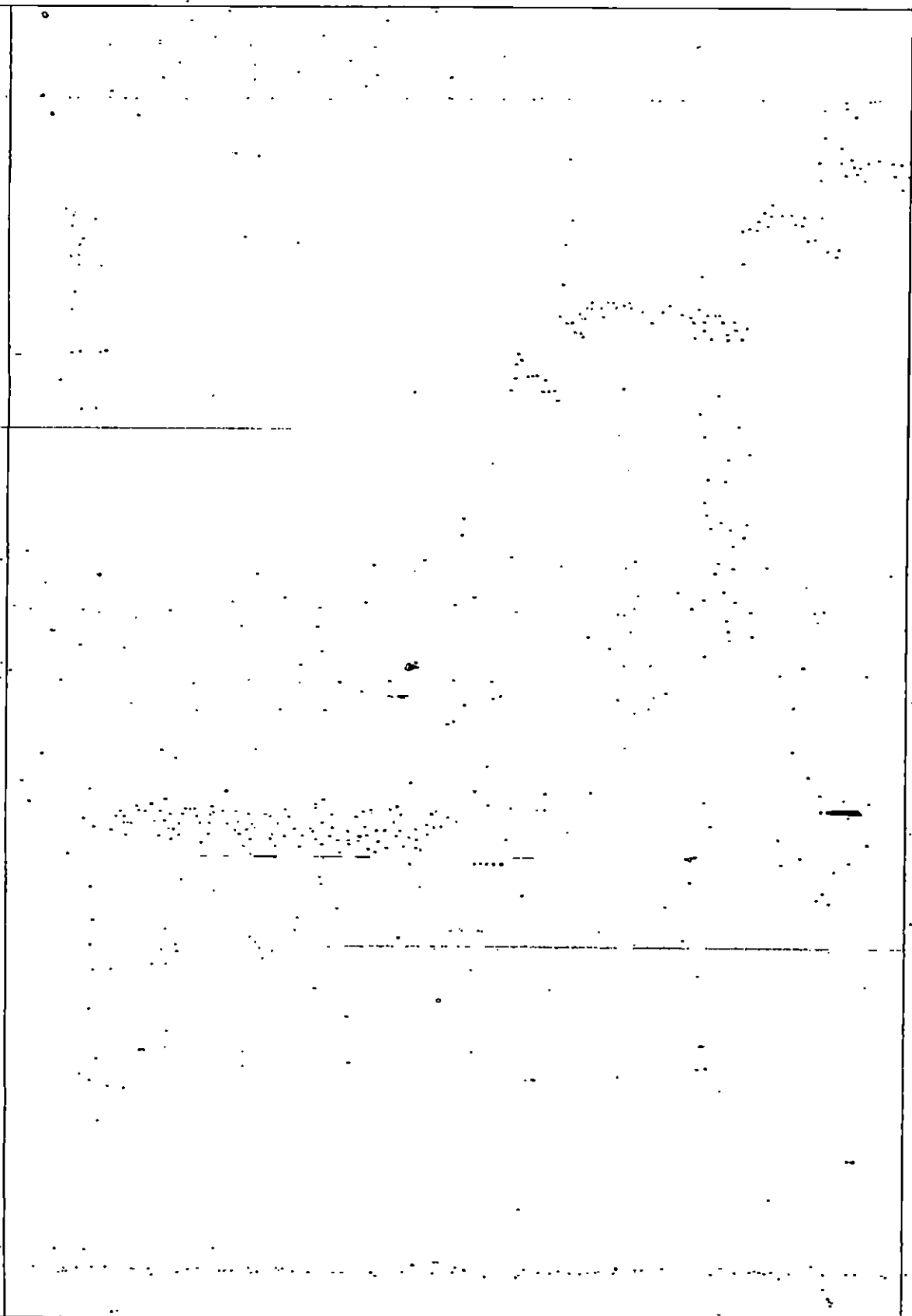


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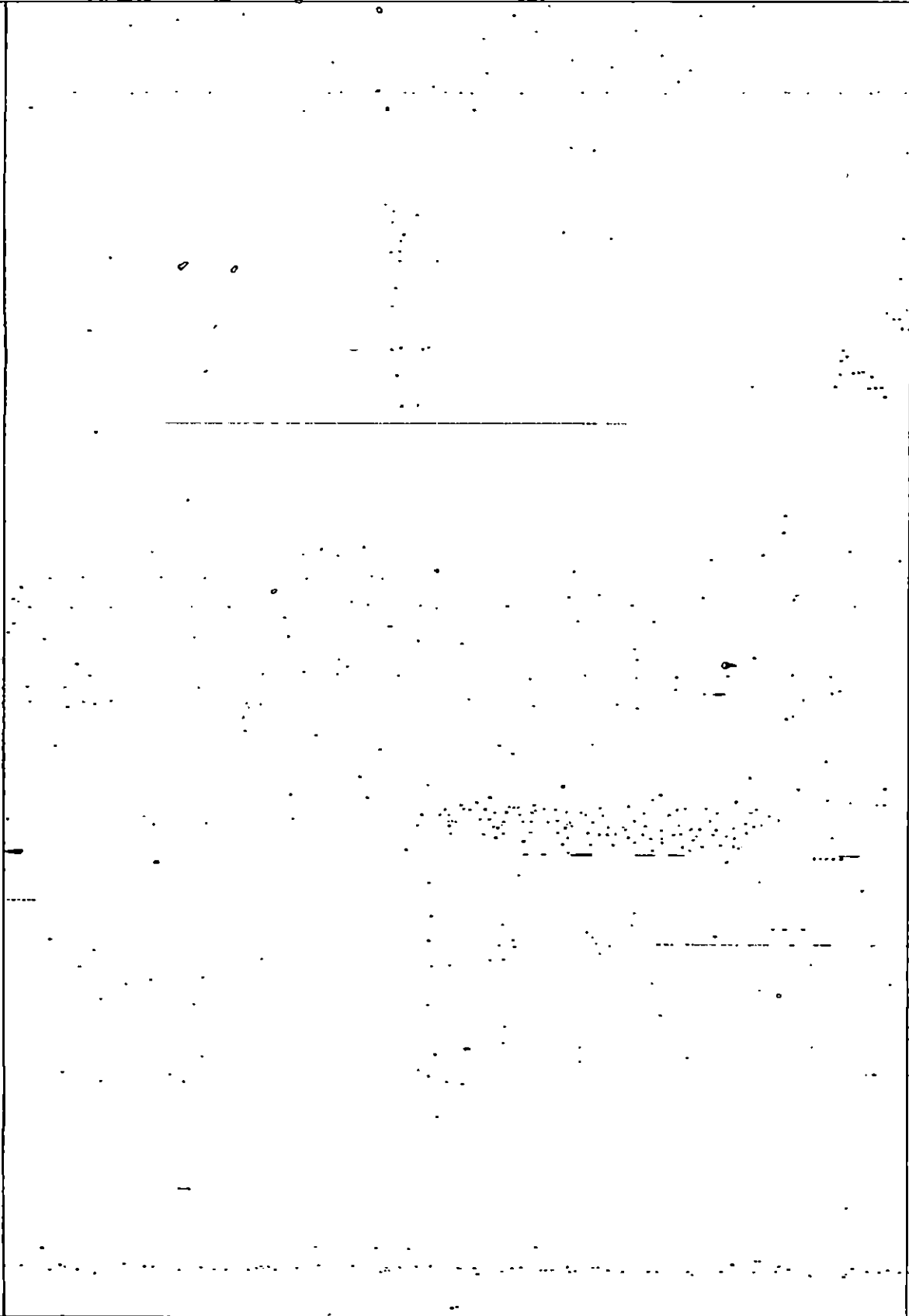
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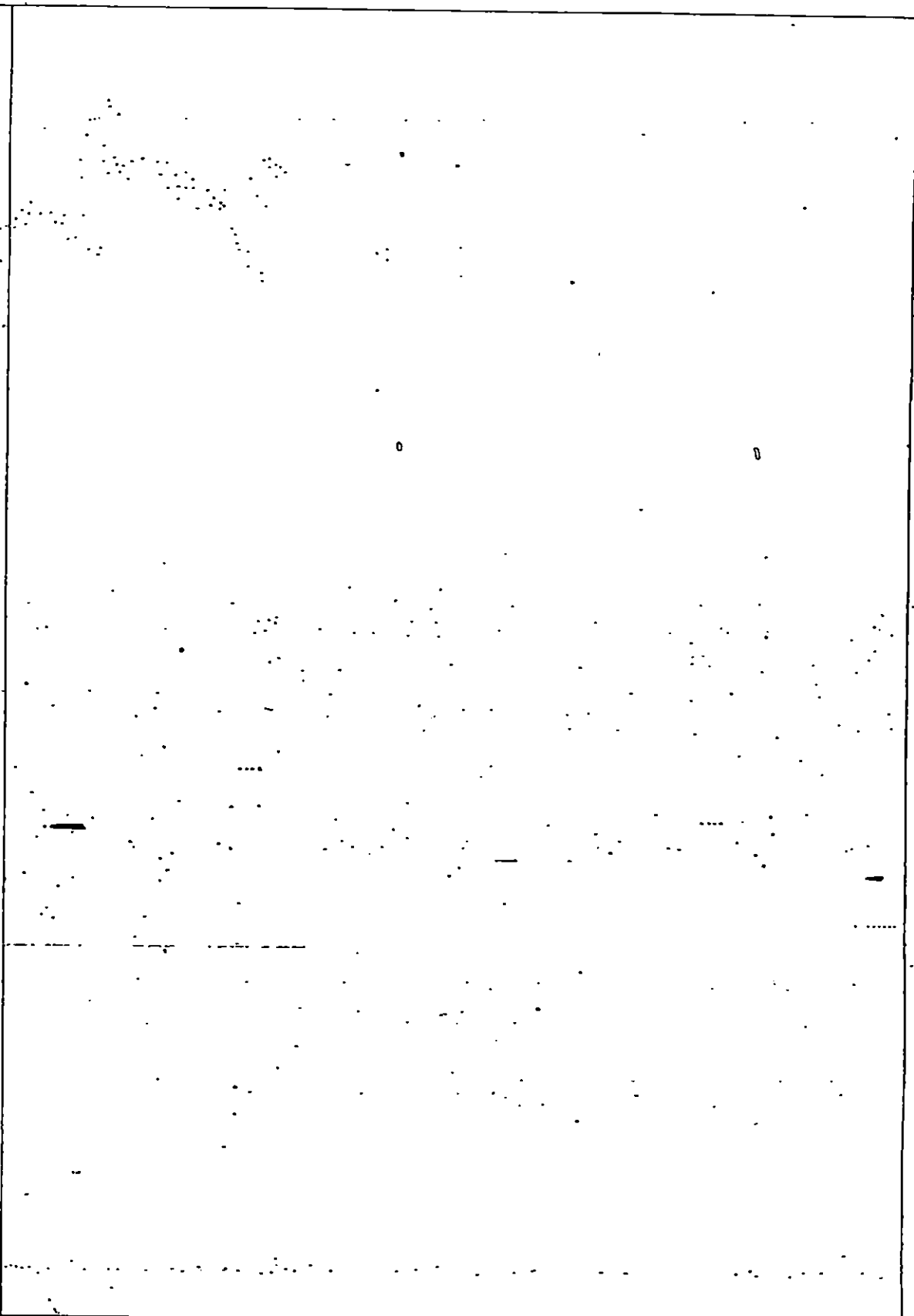
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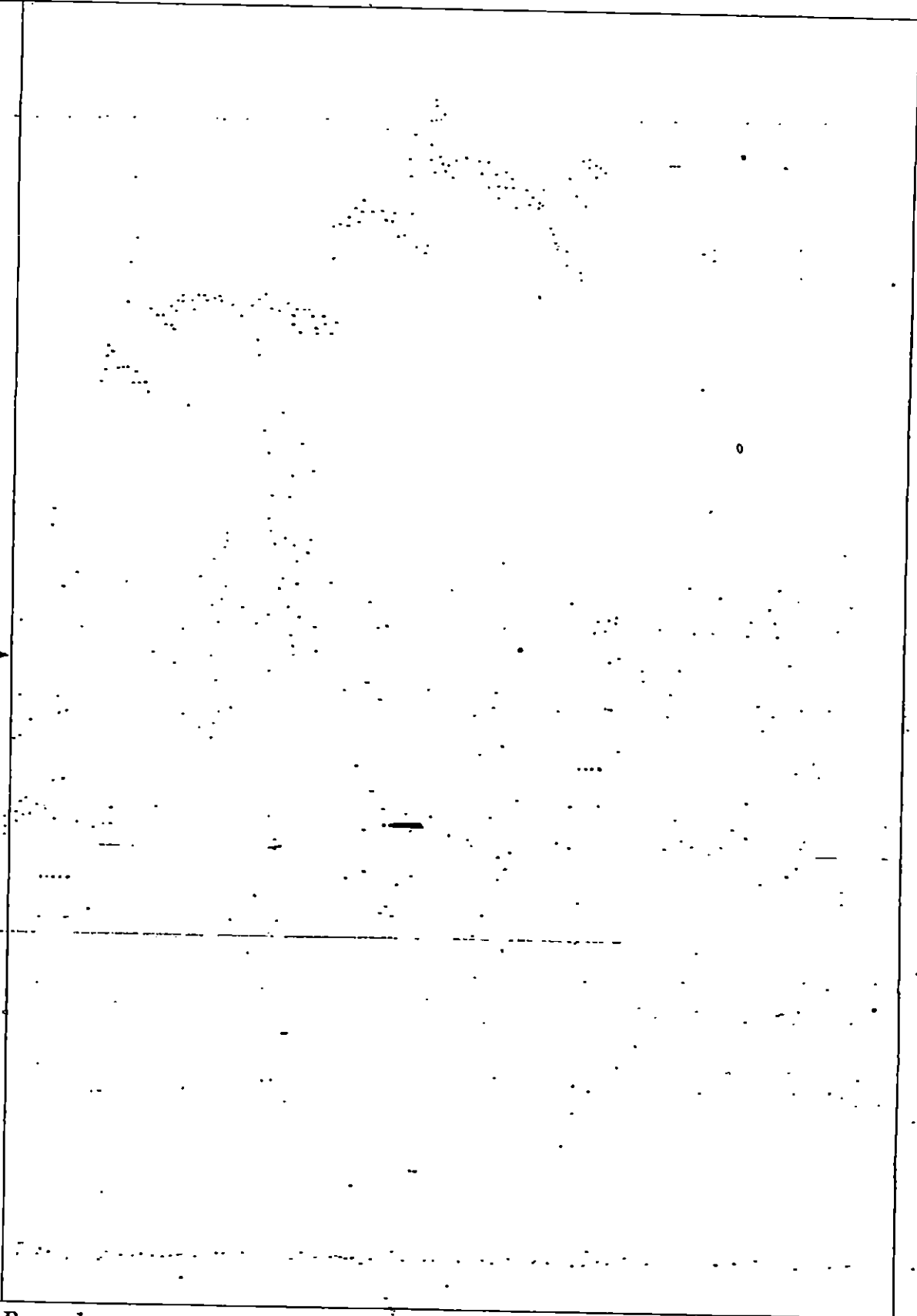


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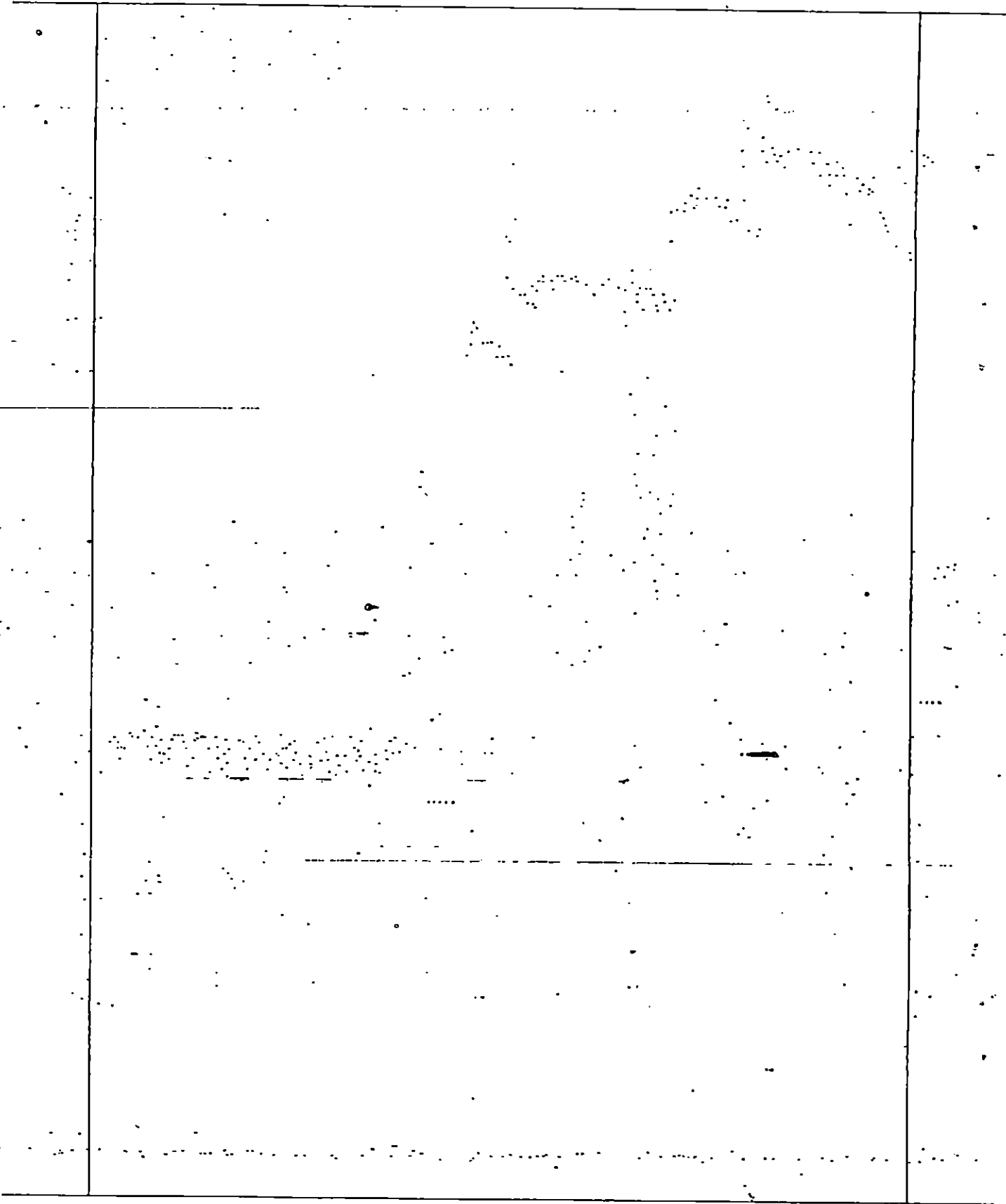
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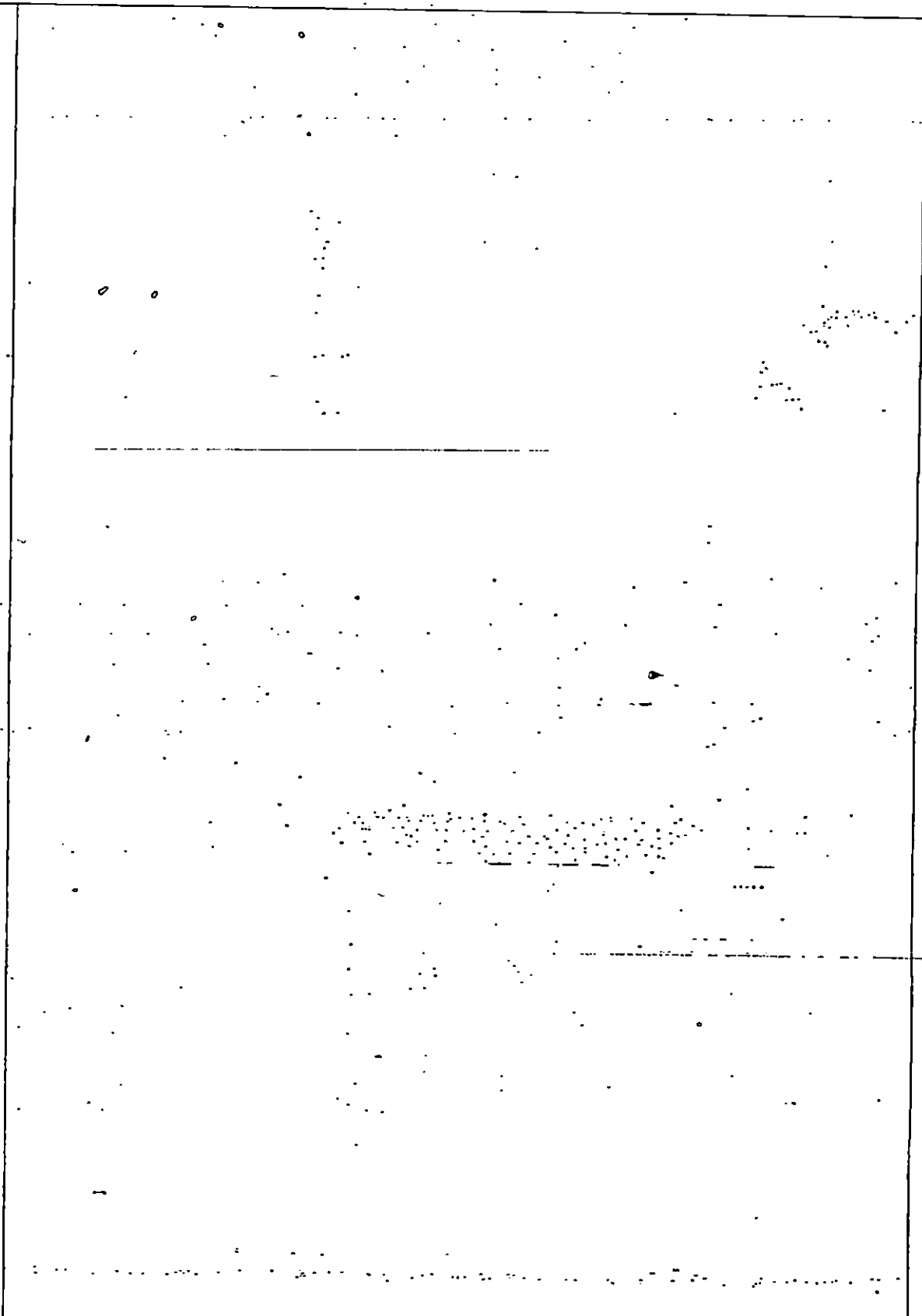


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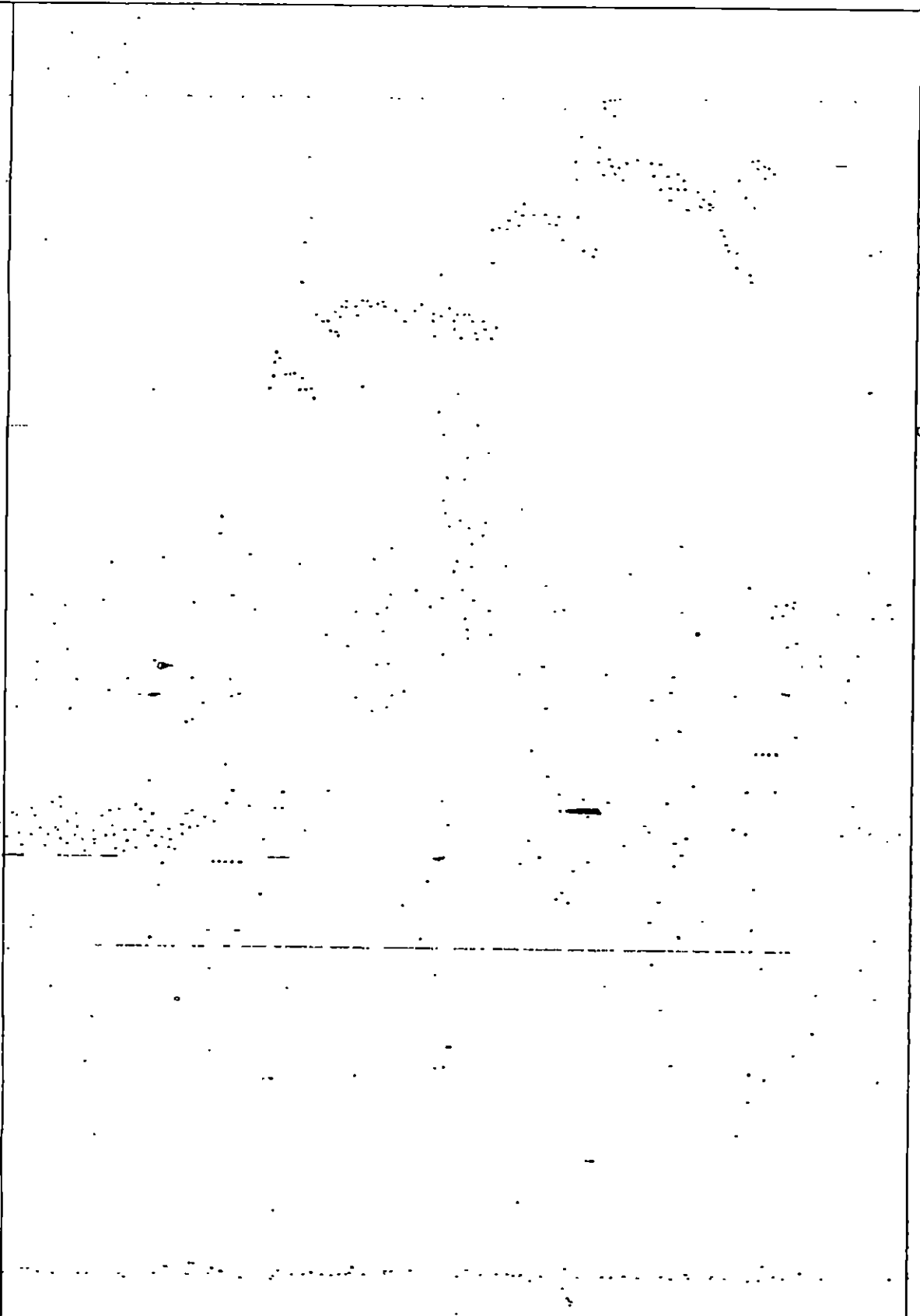
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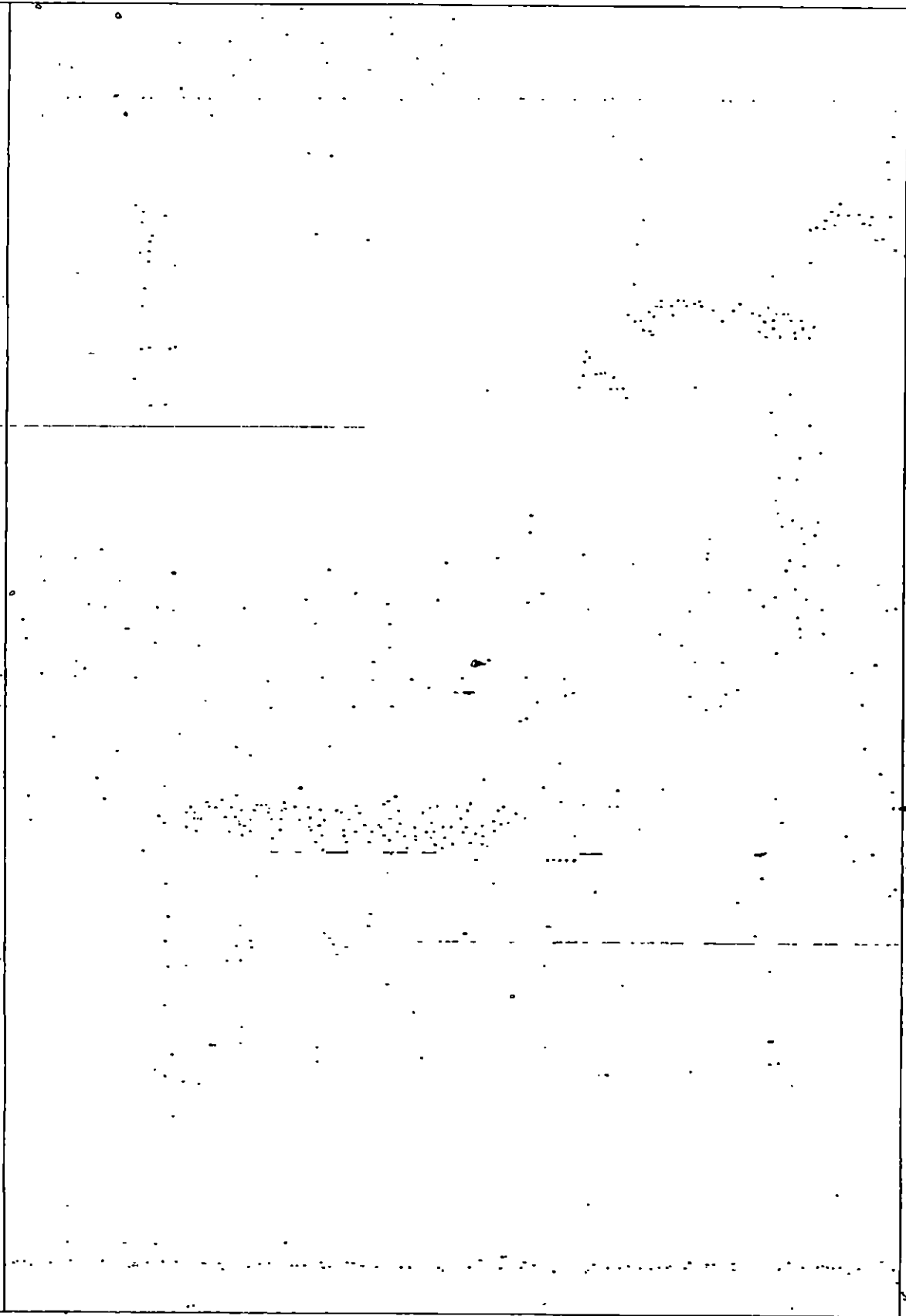
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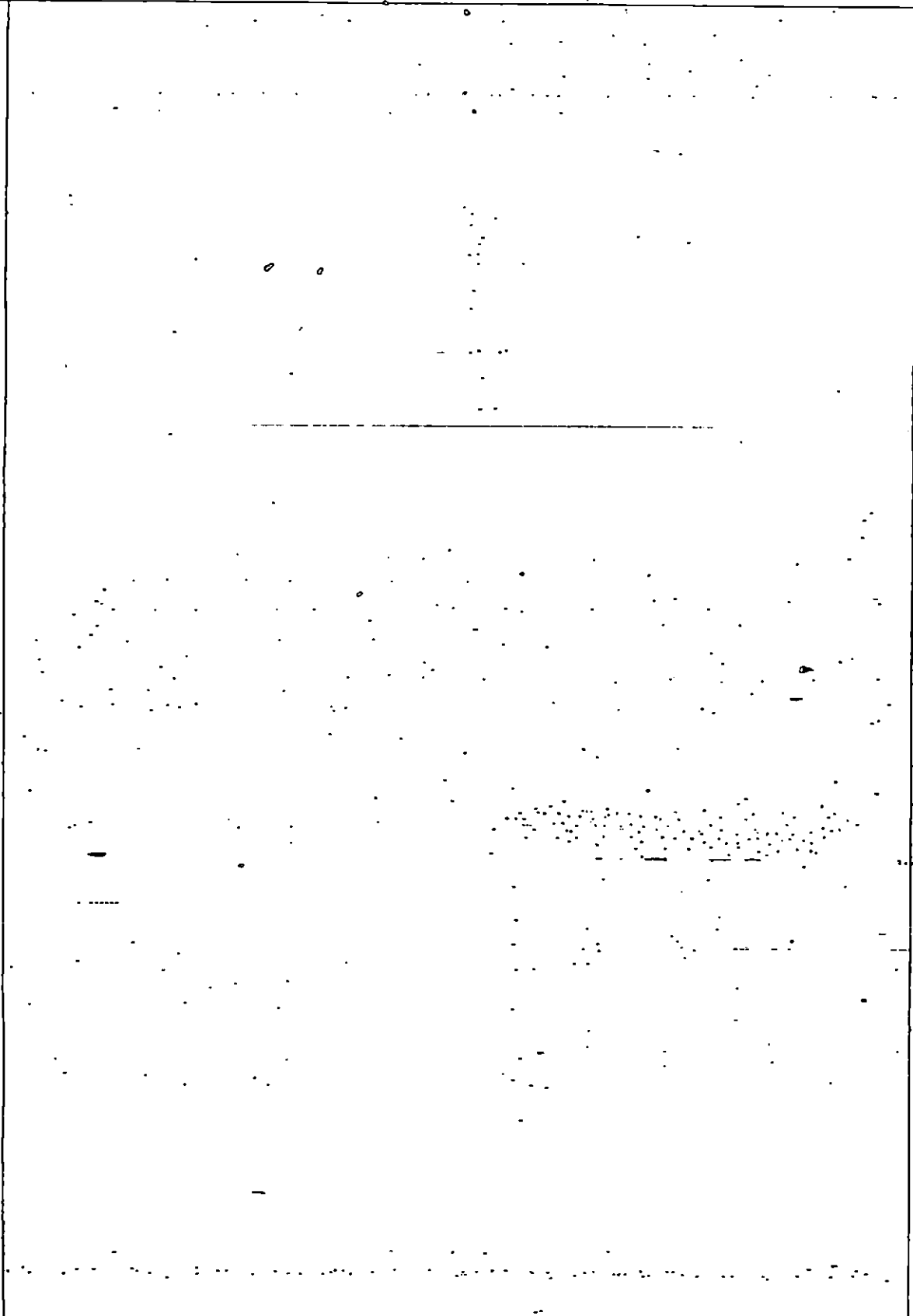


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Remarks

- (b) Chanakya : Public administration, the art of statecraft are important aspects of governance. Most of the political systems and the governments today are based on western ideologies. Due to the predominance of the hegemonic countries, the local traditional administration set up was largely overthrown by the colonial masters. Today the political systems are based on western ideas. Even in the studies of politics, the oriental political thought is given lesser importance. Even in India, it is not widely taught. One of the such political ideas is Asthanashtra by Chanakya. It is a treatise on statecraft and administration. Purely based on the idea of creating an ideal monarch. First political consolidation in India under the aegis of Kautilya.
- Some important aspects:
- Nature of king → Under law.
 - People's welfare should be his welfare.
 - Nature of the administration and offices.
 - Our foreign policy.
- Comparison with Machiavelli

- (c) * Known is a drop, unknown is no ocean.
 * Socrates → I am the wisest man of all, because I know I know nothing. * Martin Luther King * Truth is God → Humchi
We can only evolve. But there is no end to evolution. There are so many. There is no end. Religion, culture, Buddhism.

Remarks