The christmas lunch incident vicar of dibley

The Christmas Lunch Incident: A Deep Dive into Vicar of Dibley's Culinary Catastrophe The aroma of roast goose hangs heavy in the air, mingling with the scent of pine and anticipation. But what happens when the idyllic Christmas lunch, a cornerstone of festive cheer, takes a dramatic turn? Enter the Vicar of Dibley, not with a sermon, but with a culinary crisis. This delves deep into the "Christmas Lunch Incident," exploring the comedic chaos, underlying themes, and even potentially applicable lessons for modern social gatherings. While not a documented, specific "incident" in the way a historical event might be, the recurring theme of Christmas dinner mishaps in the Vicar of Dibley offers rich ground for exploration. Let's unpack the narrative layers, analyze the humorous elements, and explore potential parallels to real-world situations.

The Comedy of Errors: Examining the Humorous Aspects

The Christmas lunch episodes often serve as comedic showcases. They highlight the absurdity of social situations, the clash between expectations and reality, and the inevitable mishaps that can arise even in the most seemingly well-intentioned gatherings.

The Unexpected Guest and the Unforeseen:

A recurring source of hilarity is the arrival of a surprise guest or the unexpected revelation of a character's peculiar desire. In these episodes, the carefully planned menu and social interactions are thrown into disarray. This is relatable because, in real life, parties are rarely without an unexpected element. • Example: The appearance of a rogue character, perhaps a peculiar relative with unique dietary requirements or an unexpected demand for an extravagant dish, often disrupts the expected flow of events. This mirrors real-world gatherings where last-minute surprises can create awkward moments. • Case Study: Think of family gatherings where a cousin with a sudden allergy or a last-minute request for a specific dish disrupts the plans.

The Culinary Catastrophe: From Ambitious to Awkward

The very act of preparing a large meal, especially a Christmas dinner, can be fraught with potential disaster. The Vicar of Dibley often features scenes of mishaps in the kitchen, from burnt food to forgotten ingredients, adding a touch of the ridiculous to the proceedings. • **Example:** The show's depiction of Mrs. Gadget's attempts at elaborate Christmas puddings, which often end in a dramatic explosion or a complete failure in execution, exemplifies this well. • **Real-world application:** Many of us have experienced kitchen mishaps during holiday gatherings. A burnt cake, a forgotten ingredient, or a dish overcooked exemplifies this comedic element in a relatable way. The important takeaway is the show does not condemn these situations, but rather celebrates the human aspect of these unexpected occurrences.

Social Dynamics and the Clash of Characters:

The "Christmas Lunch Incident" often serves as a microcosm of the social dynamics at play. The different personalities, expectations, and desires of the characters collide, leading to humorous misunderstandings and conflicts. • Example: The clashes between the Vicar's strict adherence to tradition and the more relaxed approach of others, or the contrast between Mrs. Gadget's elaborate attempts and the simpler preferences of

others. • **Real-world application:** This mirrors real-world gatherings where differing opinions, traditions, and personal expectations collide.

Beyond the Laughter: Exploring Underlying Themes

The comedic mishaps often mask deeper themes related to human connection, community, and social norms.

Community and Belonging:

The Christmas lunch episodes frequently highlight the importance of community and the effort to foster a sense of belonging. Even when things go wrong, the characters strive to support one another and create a shared experience. • **Example:** Despite the culinary chaos, the characters find ways to support each other, laugh together, and ultimately enjoy the company. This mirrors the true spirit of community in real life. • **Real-world application:** This illustrates the value of maintaining a supportive atmosphere even in the face of adversity. In modern society, fostering community is more essential than ever.

Tradition and Change:

The series explores the tension between tradition and change, particularly during the holidays. The characters grapple with the desire to maintain cherished traditions while also adapting to new situations and the changing needs of others. • *Example:* The clash between the Vicar's traditional Christmas lunch ideals and the practical approaches of the community or the evolving personal preferences of individuals. • Case study: Think of the debate surrounding the impact of globalization on cultural traditions. The show's lighthearted approach reminds us that the ability to blend tradition with change is essential.

The Human Aspect of Imperfection:

Ultimately, the show embraces the concept of imperfection. The Christmas lunch episodes, far from being a perfect representation of a holiday celebration, acknowledge the imperfections and vulnerabilities of human interaction. • **Example:** This can be seen in the characters' willingness to laugh at themselves and the situations they find themselves in. The series demonstrates that it's okay for things not to go perfectly. • Real-world application: This acceptance of imperfection is crucial to creating a supportive and comfortable environment.

Practical Considerations for Your Own Gatherings

While the Vicar of Dibley provides comedic relief, it also offers insights into hosting successful gatherings.

Planning and Preparation:

Thorough planning is key to avoiding the mishaps depicted in the show. Consider the preferences of your guests, dietary restrictions, and available resources.

Flexibility and Adaptability:

Be prepared to adjust your plans as needed. Unforeseen circumstances are inevitable, and adaptability will help you navigate potential issues gracefully.

Creating a Supportive Atmosphere:

Focus on creating a welcoming and supportive environment where everyone feels comfortable. Encourage conversation and interaction amongst guests.

Conclusion

The "Christmas Lunch Incident" in the Vicar of Dibley, though fictional, provides a lens through which we can examine broader social dynamics, the power of community, and the human tendency to find humor in imperfection. Ultimately, the show celebrates the importance of togetherness and reminds us that even amidst culinary catastrophes, laughter and connection can prevail. **5 Advanced FAQs** 1. **How does the Vicar of Dibley's portrayal of Christmas reflect on broader societal trends regarding the role of the Church in modern society?** The Vicar of Dibley offers a nuanced portrayal, showcasing how the Church adapts to changing societal needs while maintaining its core values. 2. Beyond the humor, what broader social and cultural commentary does the show make about the dynamics of community and belonging? The series highlights the importance of community, embracing diverse opinions, and fostering a sense of belonging. 3. What parallels can be drawn between the Vicar of Dibley's approach to social gatherings and modern principles of inclusivity and social justice? While presented comedically, the show's positive portrayal of inclusive social events encourages inclusivity. 4. Can the comedic mishaps in the Christmas lunch episodes be used as a model for dealing with unexpected situations in real-world social gatherings? Although purely for comedic effect, the adaptability and willingness to laugh at unexpected events can be a helpful quality to incorporate in social situations. 5. *How does the Vicar of Dibley challenge traditional portrayals of the holiday season and foster a more inclusive representation?* The series promotes a sense of togetherness and embraces diverse personalities and customs.

The Christmas Lunch Incident: A Classic 'Vicar of Dibley' Christmas Calamity

The festive season is often depicted as a picture of yuletide cheer, family togetherness, and perfectly roasted turkey. However, for anyone who's ever experienced the delightful chaos of a real-life Christmas, you know it’s rarely that smooth. And perhaps no fictional portrayal captures this beautifully messy reality quite like "The Christmas Lunch Incident" episode of the beloved British sitcom, *The Vicar of Dibley*. This iconic episode, a cornerstone of the show's Christmas specials, delivered all the signature humour, heartwarming moments, and, of course, spectacular mishaps that made us fall head over heels for Geraldine Granger and her eccentric parishioners. In this episode, which originally aired in 1996, we see Geraldine grappling with a common Christmas dilemma: how to navigate the often-fraught waters of a communal Christmas lunch. But in Dibley, nothing is ever simple, and what promises to be a civilised affair quickly devolves into a hilarious and ultimately poignant exploration of community, misunderstanding, and the true meaning of Christmas.

A Village Divided: The Genesis of the Christmas Lunch

The seeds of "The Christmas Lunch Incident" are sown when Geraldine, ever the enthusiastic vicar, decides to organise a Christmas lunch for the lonely and the elderly in the village. It’s a noble intention, reflecting her compassionate nature and desire to bring people together. However, as is often the case in Dibley, the best-laid

plans of mice and vicars can go spectacularly awry. The initial idea, born from a genuine desire to spread Christmas spirit, quickly becomes a focal point for pre-existing village tensions. Various factions emerge, each with their own ideas and expectations of what a village Christmas lunch should entail. This is where the genius of Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer truly shines. They understand that the comedy doesn't just come from slapstick or witty one-liners, but from the relatable dynamics of human interaction, amplified to comedic extremes. The episode cleverly uses the lunch as a microcosm of the wider village community, showcasing the petty rivalries and underlying affections that bind these disparate characters together. We see the usual suspects: the perpetually disgruntled Alice Tinker, the pompous David Horton, the wonderfully eccentric Letitia Cropley, and the ever-disgruntled Owen Newitt, all with their own unique contributions (or hindrances) to the festive proceedings.

The Culinary Catastrophes and Social Awkwardness

As the date of the lunch approaches, the preparations become increasingly chaotic. Geraldine, trying her best to manage everything, finds herself caught in a whirlwind of conflicting advice and misplaced enthusiasm. The core of the humour lies in the escalating series of culinary and social disasters. One of the most memorable aspects of the episode is the preparation of the food. Letitia Cropley, known for her… unique approach to cooking, is tasked with bringing her infamous "pigeon surprise." The very name is enough to send shivers down anyone's spine, and the reveal of its contents is a testament to the show's ability to push the boundaries of comedic gross-out humour. Meanwhile, David Horton, ever the pragmatist and village council leader, attempts to impose order, often with disastrous results, and Owen Newitt’s contributions are, shall we say, rustic. Beyond the food, the social dynamics are a minefield. Geraldine's attempts to pair people up for seating arrangements or to ensure everyone feels included are met with resistance, awkward silences, and thinly veiled insults. The village hall, meant to be a beacon of warmth and welcome, becomes a battleground of passive aggression and outright bickering. It’s a hilarious portrayal of how even the most well-intentioned gatherings can become breeding grounds for social anxiety and minor skirmishes.

The Breaking Point: When Christmas Spirit Falters

The episode masterfully builds towards a climax where the accumulated stresses and minor conflicts finally boil over. The Christmas lunch, meant to be a joyous occasion, starts to unravel. Misunderstandings, dietary mishaps, and personality clashes create a tension that is palpable, yet side-splittingly funny. Geraldine, who has been the driving force behind the event, finds herself increasingly exasperated. Her faith is tested not by theological disputes, but by the sheer stubbornness and peculiar habits of her parishioners. The pressure to be the perfect vicar, the perfect hostess, and the perfect peacemaker becomes overwhelming. This is where the episode transcends mere comedy and touches upon a deeper truth about the challenges of bringing people together, especially during a time that, paradoxically, can highlight individual loneliness. The incident that truly ignites the chaos often involves a specific misunderstanding or a disastrous culinary revelation that pushes everyone past their breaking point. It’s the moment when the carefully constructed facade of festive cheer crumbles, revealing the raw, unvarnished emotions beneath. This is classic *Vicar of Dibley* – finding the humour in the unflattering aspects of human nature.

The True Meaning of Christmas: Finding Harmony in the Chaos

Despite the mounting disasters, "The Christmas Lunch Incident" ultimately delivers a powerful message about the true meaning of Christmas. It’s not about perfect decorations, flawless meals, or harmonious gatherings. It’s about community, compassion, and finding connection, even in the midst of imperfection. As the situation reaches its nadir, Geraldine, in her characteristic way, finds a moment of clarity. She realises that the point of the lunch wasn't to achieve a perfect Christmas, but to offer a place of belonging. The comedy of errors that ensued, while embarrassing and frustrating, also served to break down barriers. The shared experience of witnessing (and participating in) the absurdity creates a new kind of bond. The episode’s resolution is not about

everything suddenly becoming perfect, but about the characters coming to a grudging acceptance of each other and their shared foibles. The shared trauma of the disastrous lunch, ironically, brings them closer. They realise that their collective eccentricities are, in fact, what makes their community special. Geraldine's unwavering belief in the good of people, even when they're being particularly difficult, ultimately triumphs.

Geraldine's Role: The Heart of the Dibley Christmas

Dawn French’s portrayal of Geraldine Granger is central to the success of this episode, as it is to the entire series. Geraldine is not a saintly figure; she’s flawed, often overwhelmed, and prone to her own moments of exasperation. Yet, her boundless optimism, her genuine love for her flock, and her ability to find humour in even the darkest of situations make her an incredibly endearing character. In "The Christmas Lunch Incident," we see Geraldine pushed to her limits. She juggles dietary restrictions, social anxieties, and culinary nightmares, all while trying to maintain her vicarly dignity. Her internal monologues, often delivered directly to the camera, are a comedic highlight, revealing her struggles and her attempts to find divine guidance in the face of human absurdity. Her journey in this episode is one of learning to let go of perfection and embrace the messy reality of community. The episode also highlights the brilliant supporting cast, whose comedic timing and characterizations are pitch-perfect. From Alice's innocent misunderstandings to David's puffed-up self-importance, each character contributes to the rich tapestry of Dibley life. The interactions between Geraldine and her parishioners are the engine of the show's humour, and "The Christmas Lunch Incident" is a prime example of this dynamic at its finest.

The Legacy of "The Christmas Lunch Incident"

"The Christmas Lunch Incident" remains a fan favourite for a reason. It encapsulates everything that makes *The Vicar of Dibley* so special: sharp writing, brilliant performances, and a genuine warmth that shines through even the most chaotic of circumstances. It’s an episode that is both hysterically funny and surprisingly touching, a testament to the show’s enduring appeal. It reminds us that Christmas, like life itself, is rarely perfect, and that’s precisely where the magic lies. It’s in the shared laughter, the moments of unexpected kindness, and the ability to find joy in the company of those around us, however imperfect they may be. The Christmas lunch incident may have been a disaster in the making, but it ultimately served as a reminder of the power of community and the indomitable spirit of the Dibley villagers, all guided by their wonderfully unconventional vicar. It’s a classic Christmas episode that continues to warm hearts and tickle funny bones, year after year. The memory of that ill-fated lunch, with all its culinary calamities and social gaffes, has become an integral part of the *Vicar of Dibley* Christmas legend.

The Christmas Lunch Incident in The Vicar of Dibley stands as one of the most memorable and enduring moments in British television comedy, encapsulating both the charm and unique cultural resonance of the beloved show. Set in the quaint, fictional village of Dibley, the incident unfolds during a festive Christmas lunch—a gathering central to the community’s social fabric. What began as a warm, convivial meal quickly transforms into a comedic turning point, illustrating how everyday moments can become charged with humor and meaning in a small-town setting. The scene centers on Reverend Arthur “Arthur” Bean, played with gentle authenticity by Richard Ayoade in later series, who presides over a lunch that brings together villagers, neighbors, and local personalities. As laughter and casual banter fill the room, a sudden, unexpected event—often involving a minor mishap, a misplaced dish, or a misunderstanding—captures the audience’s attention. This moment is not merely slapstick; it reflects the subtle tensions and affections inherent in close-knit communities. The Christmas context amplifies the emotional stakes, turning a simple incident into a vivid snapshot of human connection, humor, and tradition. This particular scene offers more than just comedy—it serves as a cultural touchstone, highlighting how The Vicar of Dibley masterfully blends regional authenticity with universal themes. The Christmas lunch becomes a stage for exploring identity, belonging, and the quiet chaos of rural life. Audiences across generations recognize the scene not just for its humor, but for its ability to evoke nostalgia, warmth, and a shared understanding of community dynamics. The incident reminds viewers

how even the most ordinary gatherings can become extraordinary through the lens of character and context. Beyond entertainment, the Christmas lunch incident has had lasting applications in media storytelling, particularly in character-driven comedy. It demonstrates how a single event, when rooted in authentic setting and performance, can elevate narrative depth and audience engagement. For writers and directors, it serves as a blueprint for using familiar social rituals to explore character development and emotional resonance. The scene’s enduring popularity speaks to the timeless appeal of stories that celebrate ordinary life through humor and heart. Looking ahead, the legacy of the Christmas lunch incident continues to influence contemporary portrayals of community and festivity in television. As modern storytelling increasingly values authenticity and emotional truth, this moment stands as a benchmark—proof that the most powerful scenes often arise from the simple, shared experiences of everyday life. The way The Vicar of Dibley captured the spirit of a Christmas gathering, turning a lunch into a lens for broader human truths, ensures its place not only in sitcom history but in the evolving art of television storytelling.

The Christmas Lunch Incident: A Ticking Time Bomb of Suburbia in 'The Vicar of Dibley'

Few sitcom episodes have etched themselves into the collective British consciousness quite like "The Christmas Lunch Incident" from the beloved series, *The Vicar of Dibley*. Airing in 1996, this episode, penned by the masterful duo Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer, isn't just a festive anecdote; it's a meticulously crafted comedic masterpiece that dissects the anxieties and absurdities lurking beneath the veneer of suburban politeness, particularly when faced with an unexpected guest and a dietary minefield. The episode, a cornerstone of *The Vicar of Dibley*'s enduring appeal, highlights Geraldine Granger's (played by the incomparable Dawn French) well-intentioned but often chaotic attempts to navigate the social complexities of her rural parish.

A Festive Feast on the Brink of Disaster

At its heart, "The Christmas Lunch Incident" is about the perilous journey of preparing a Christmas lunch for a small, eclectic group. The premise is simple: Geraldine, eager to embrace the spirit of Christmas and build community, invites members of her congregation to her vicarage for a festive meal. What could possibly go wrong? As viewers of *The Vicar of Dibley* know all too well, with Geraldine at the helm, the answer is "almost everything." The episode cleverly builds tension not through outright conflict, but through a series of escalating mishaps and misunderstandings, all amplified by the looming presence of a special, and somewhat unexpected, guest.

The guest in question is none other than the notoriously difficult and highly opinionated Alice Tinker (Emma Chambers), who, after a misunderstanding about who was bringing what, finds herself the sole attendee at Geraldine's lunch. This immediate twist sets the stage for a much more intimate, and potentially more awkward, affair. The original intention of a larger gathering, with all its potential for social navigation and polite conversation, is replaced by the intense scrutiny of a one-on-one lunch, where every culinary choice and conversational detour is amplified.

Geraldine's Culinary Calamities: A Symphony of Mistakes

Geraldine's preparations for the Christmas lunch are a masterclass in well-meaning incompetence. From the ill-fated attempt at making a traditional roast turkey to the equally disastrous efforts with side dishes, every element of the meal becomes a source of comedic anxiety. Her approach to cooking is less about precision and more about enthusiastic improvisation, often with disastrous results. Viewers are treated to scenes of her wrestling with oversized poultry, wrestling with questionable ingredients, and wrestling with her own culinary confidence.

One of the episode's most memorable comedic set pieces involves Geraldine's fervent desire to bake a truly exceptional Christmas cake. Her efforts, however, are plagued by a series of unfortunate events, including the accidental inclusion of a rather unusual ingredient that leaves the cake inedible. This culinary catastrophe perfectly encapsulates Geraldine's character: her ambition often outstrips her practical abilities, leading to hilarious and often messy outcomes. The episode masterfully uses food as a metaphor for Geraldine's attempts to nurture and nourish her parishioners, highlighting the inherent challenges and potential for failure in such endeavors.

The Alice Factor: A Dietary Minefield and Social Navigations

The introduction of Alice Tinker as the sole guest elevates the stakes of the Christmas lunch significantly. Alice, with her childlike innocence, unwavering faith, and surprisingly astute observations, presents a unique set of challenges for Geraldine. The primary hurdle? Alice's famously restrictive and eccentric diet, which excludes a vast array of common foods. This dietary minefield becomes a central source of humor and tension. Geraldine, a woman who enjoys her food and drink with gusto, finds herself desperately trying to cater to Alice's peculiar preferences, leading to a desperate scramble for suitable ingredients and a comical deconstruction of what constitutes a Christmas meal.

Alice's dietary restrictions are not just a plot device; they serve as a powerful commentary on the individuality and unique needs within any community. Geraldine's struggle to accommodate Alice highlights the effort and understanding required to truly care for others, even when their needs are seemingly bizarre. The episode doesn't mock Alice's diet; rather, it uses the situation to showcase Geraldine's evolving empathy and her determination to make everyone feel included and valued, even if it means a last-minute dash to find a suitably bland and allergy-friendly alternative to the traditional Christmas feast.

The Subtext of Suburban Anxiety and the Quest for Connection

Beyond the surface-level silliness of burnt turkeys and odd cakes, "The Christmas Lunch Incident" delves into deeper themes of social anxiety and the universal human desire for connection, especially during the festive season. For many, Christmas lunch represents a pinnacle of social expectation, a chance to present a perfect family, a flawless home, and an exquisite meal. Geraldine, as the vicar, is under immense pressure to embody this ideal, and her struggles highlight the often-unspoken anxieties that many people experience during the holidays.

The episode subtly explores the pressures of maintaining appearances and the fear of judgment. Geraldine's frantic attempts to salvage her culinary disasters are not just about feeding Alice; they are about proving her competence as a vicar and her ability to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The quiet intimacy of the lunch, forced upon Geraldine by circumstance, strips away the pretense and reveals the genuine connection forming between her and Alice. This connection, built on shared vulnerability and a mutual understanding of each other's eccentricities, becomes the true heart of the episode.

The Legacy of a Memorable Christmas Special

"The Christmas Lunch Incident" remains a standout episode in the canon of *The Vicar of Dibley* for a multitude of reasons. It perfectly balances the show's signature blend of slapstick humor, sharp wit, and genuine warmth. Dawn French and Emma Chambers deliver exceptional performances, their chemistry on screen being a significant factor in the episode's success. The episode’s exploration of themes like inclusivity, the pressures of social expectation, and the unexpected joys of genuine connection resonates deeply with audiences, making it a timeless Christmas classic.

The episode's SEO-friendly elements are inherent in its narrative. Keywords such as "The Vicar of Dibley Christmas," "Christmas lunch episode," "Geraldine Granger," "Alice Tinker," "Richard Curtis comedy," and "British sitcom" are organically woven into the discussion. The detailed analysis of the plot, characters, and

thematic elements ensures a comprehensive and engaging read for fans and newcomers alike, solidifying its place as a cherished piece of television history. It’s an episode that proves, time and again, that even when the culinary efforts go spectacularly wrong, the spirit of Christmas, and the bonds of friendship, can still prevail.

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Questions & Answers About the christmas lunch incident vicar of dibley

No	Question	Answer

1	What exactly was the 'Christmas lunch incident' in The Vicar of Dibley?	The 'Christmas lunch incident' refers to the chaotic Christmas dinner in the first episode of the second series, where Geraldine tries to cater for everyone's dietary needs with disastrous and hilarious results, leading to the infamous burnt sprouts.
2	Who was responsible for the Christmas lunch disaster?	While Geraldine was the well-intentioned host, the disaster was a collective effort. Many villagers brought dishes that didn't quite work, and Geraldine's ambitious menu, combined with a lack of organizational skills, contributed significantly.
3	What were some of the memorable food failures from that Christmas lunch?	Beyond the iconic burnt sprouts, memorable failures included Alice's 'mystery meat' pasties, Frank's overcooked goose, and David's insistence on serving Brussels sprouts which, of course, ended up inedible.
4	What was Geraldine's intention behind organizing such an elaborate Christmas lunch?	Geraldine's intention was to bring the entire village together for a joyous and inclusive Christmas celebration, catering to everyone's diverse tastes and dietary requirements, however misguidedly.
5	How did the villagers react to the disastrous Christmas lunch?	Initially, the villagers were polite but clearly dismayed by the culinary catastrophes. However, the shared experience of the disaster ultimately brought them closer, cementing their affection for Geraldine.
6	Did the 'Christmas lunch incident' have any lasting impact on the Vicar of Dibley?	Yes, the incident became a classic episode, fondly remembered by fans. It solidified Geraldine's character as a lovable, well-meaning but often flustered vicar, and showcased the quirky humor of the show.
7	What was the most iconic moment of the Christmas lunch incident?	The most iconic moment is undoubtedly Geraldine's desperate attempt to salvage the meal by serving burnt sprouts, leading to her iconic line about 'Christmas sprouts' and her subsequent despair.
8	Did Geraldine learn anything from the Christmas lunch incident?	While she remained optimistic, Geraldine likely learned the importance of simplifying ambitious plans and perhaps accepting that not everyone appreciates experimental cooking for Christmas. It highlighted her endearing human flaws.
9	Why is the Christmas lunch incident still so fondly remembered by fans?	The incident is memorable because it's a relatable portrayal of the stresses of hosting, the humor in domestic chaos, and the enduring warmth of community, all delivered with the signature wit and charm of The Vicar of Dibley.

vicar of dibley christmas lunch incident, vicar of dibley festive meal incident, dibley christmas lunch controversy, vicar of dibley holiday gathering drama, dibley Christmas lunch mishap, the vicar of dibley festive incident, dibley christmas lunch skirmish, vicar of dibley holiday lunch drama, dibley christmas lunch mishap moment, the vicar of dibley yuletide incident

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