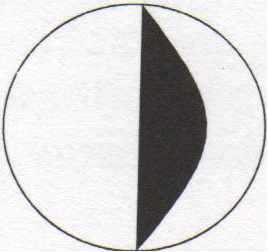
**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON**

**"EARTHQUAKE HAZARD AND RiSK INTHE MEDITERRANEAN REGION"**

*Hüseyin GÖKÇEKUŞ* • Editor

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**FOREWORD**

Throughout history, earthquakes have influenced man in every corner of the world, irrespective of country, religion, language or race.

Until now humanity proved to be impotent against the dreadful effects of earthquakes everywhere. With the advent of advanced technology, precautions are being taken against earthquakes and as a result the number of deaths due to earthquakes has dropped but by no means eliminated. i.e the number of people killed in earthquakes in 1999 is almost twice the average of the last 100 years.

Our universe possesses a dynamic structure and since its inception has constantly been moving and evolving. in this respect, tectonic movements of differing velocity are taking place in all parts of the world. These in turn cause the risk of an earthquake in a country to be high or low, depending on the characteristics of the tectonic structure of the area. The Mediterranean region forms one of the few most active earthquake belts of the world.

We can say that Cyprus, which is situated between the African and Anatolian plates, shows a very complex and intricate tectonic structure. Being one of the countries in the Mediterranean region susceptible to earthquake hazards and risks, TRNC was a suitable and, 1 am happy to say, a welcome venue for the lnternational Conference on Earthquake Hazard and Risk in the Mediterranean Region. The Conference held in the Near East University, Lefkoşa, TRNC, 18-22 October 1999, brought together more than 500 scientists from 53 countries with different approaches in 234 excellent presentations and 12 interesting posters.

The Conference which was originally announced at the lnternational Conference on Water Problems in the Mediterranean Countries in November 1997, was the first of such conferences to be organised after the earthquakes in İzmit - Türkiye, Athens - Greece, Taiwan, Mexico and Los Angeles and it has proven its timely contribution to the better understanding of the earthquake phenomenon. it alsa provided a platform for discussing and exchanging ideas soon after these major earthquakes thereby

generating great interest.

We aimed that the Conference be honoured by specialists, administrators and other interested parties to provide a forum to discuss and exchange experiences and information on a variety of aspects related to earthquake hazards and risks in the Mediterranean regions. This, we are pleased to say, rnaterialised and the entire spectrum of earthquake related topics such as :

1. Special Session on August 17, 1999 İzmit Earthquake; 2. Eastern Mediterranean Tectonics; 3. Paleoseismology; 4. Earthquake Prediction; 5. Strong Motion; 6. Seismic Risk Analysis; 7. Earthquake Studies; 8. Structural Engineering; 9. Soil

Dynamics were discussed.



Earthquake is a multidisciplinary concern. For the studies in this field to yield results the research workers, the local administrators and the relevant state departments should cooperate and work together.



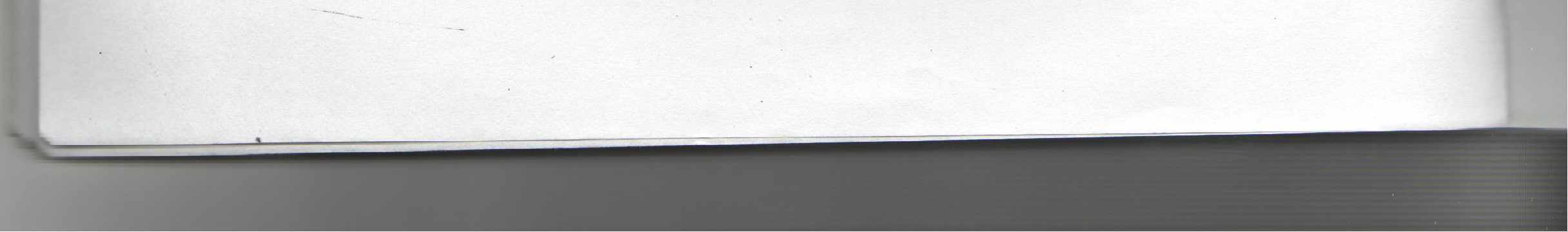
1 hope the conclusions of these discussions will provide all concerned - scientists, research workers, technocrats, law-makers, decision making organs and organisations and whoever else is concerned with preserving the socio-economic potential of a country against earthquake hazards and risks - with some scientific and technical assistance in their efforts to formulate national earthquake policies.

The success of the Conference was ensured by the painstaking studies of a large number of people and institutions. Special thanks to members of The Technical and Organising Committee, The Scientific Committee, The Speakers and all the participants far their invaluable contributions to the lnternational Conference on Earthquake Hazard and Risk in the Mediterranean Region.

**20 July 2000 - Near East University, Lefkoşa, TRNC**

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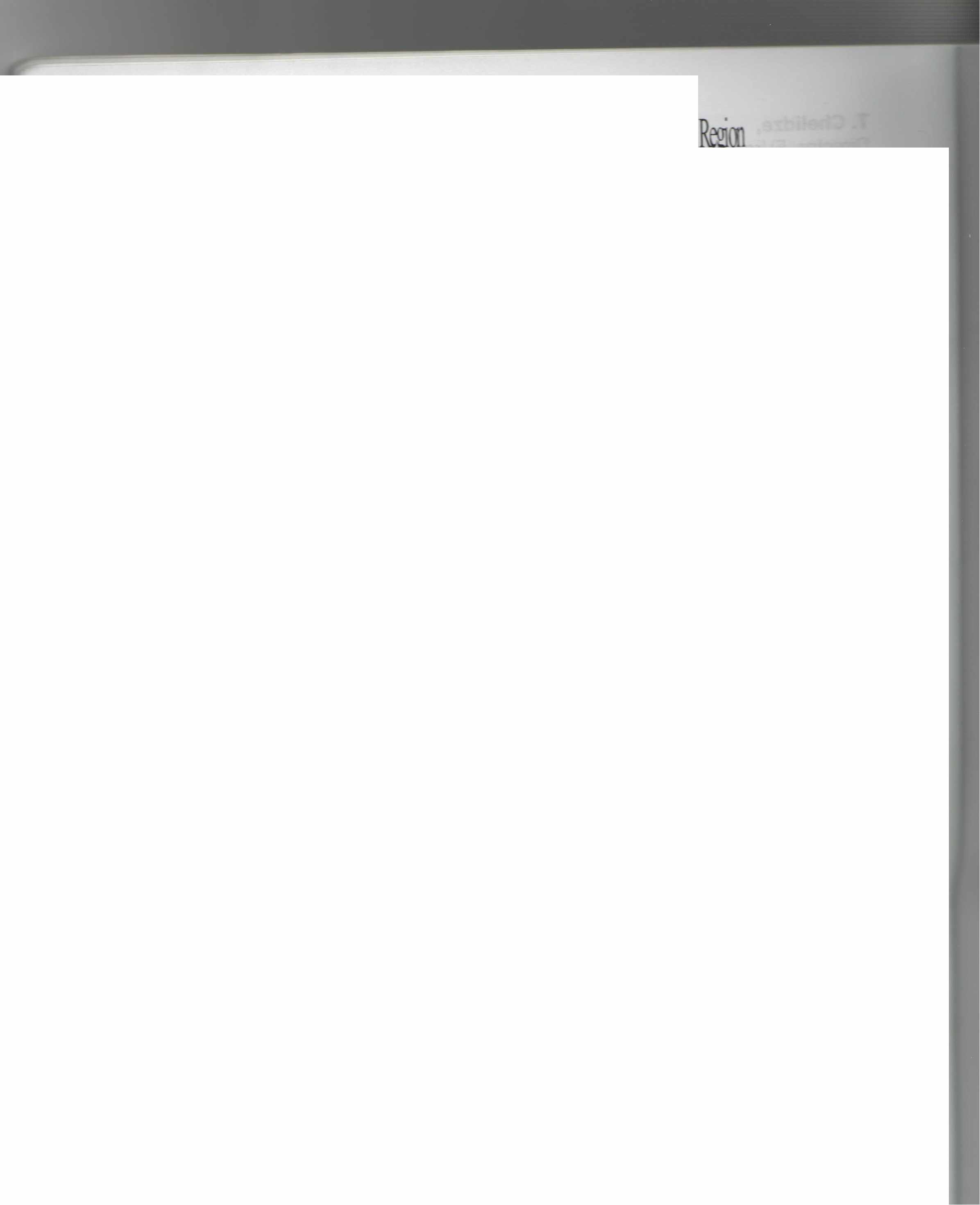
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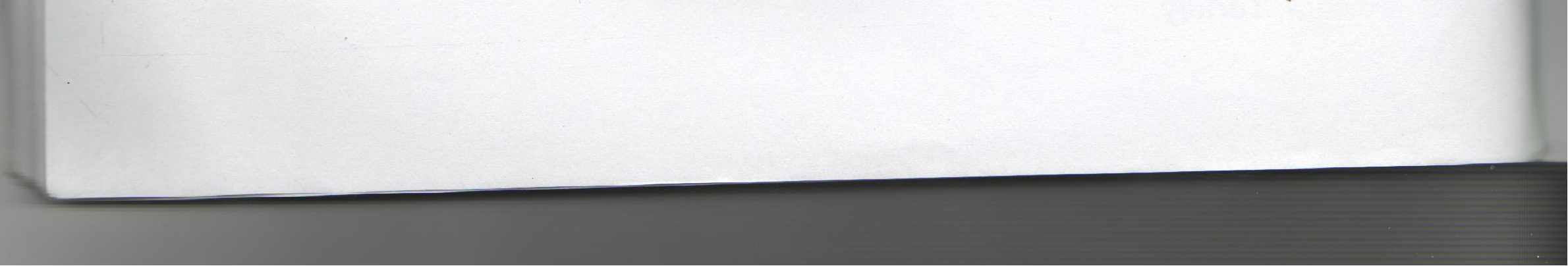
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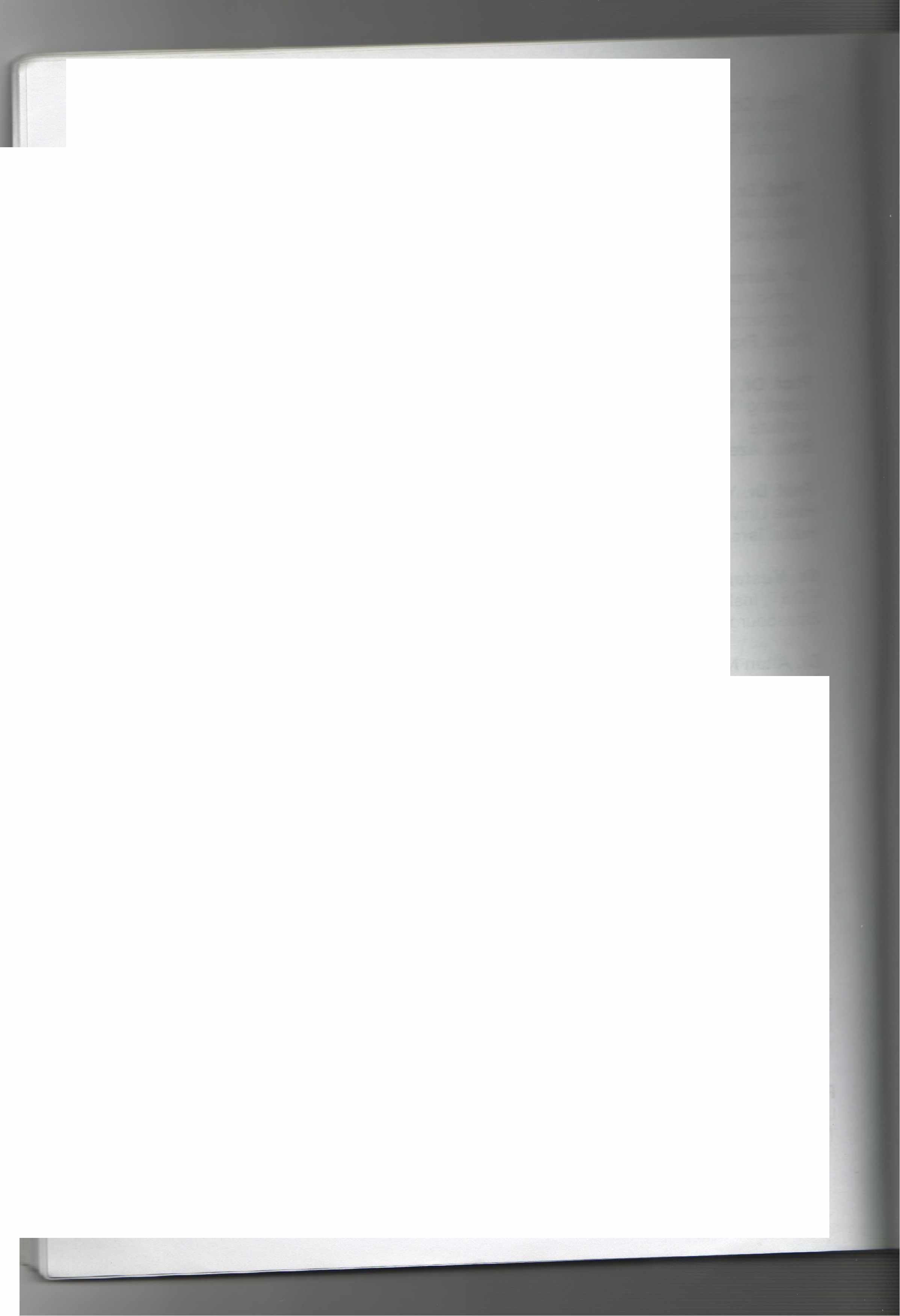
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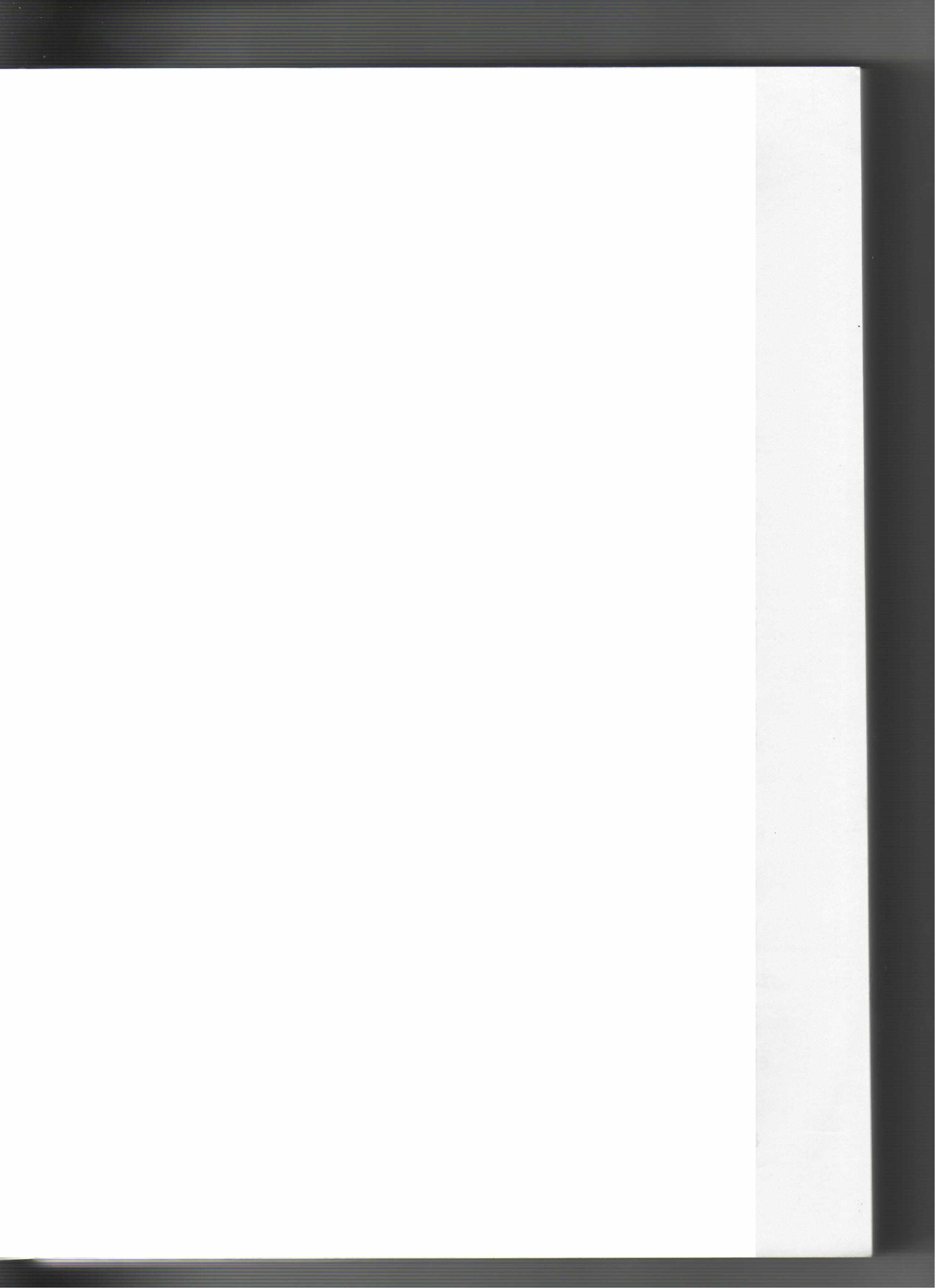
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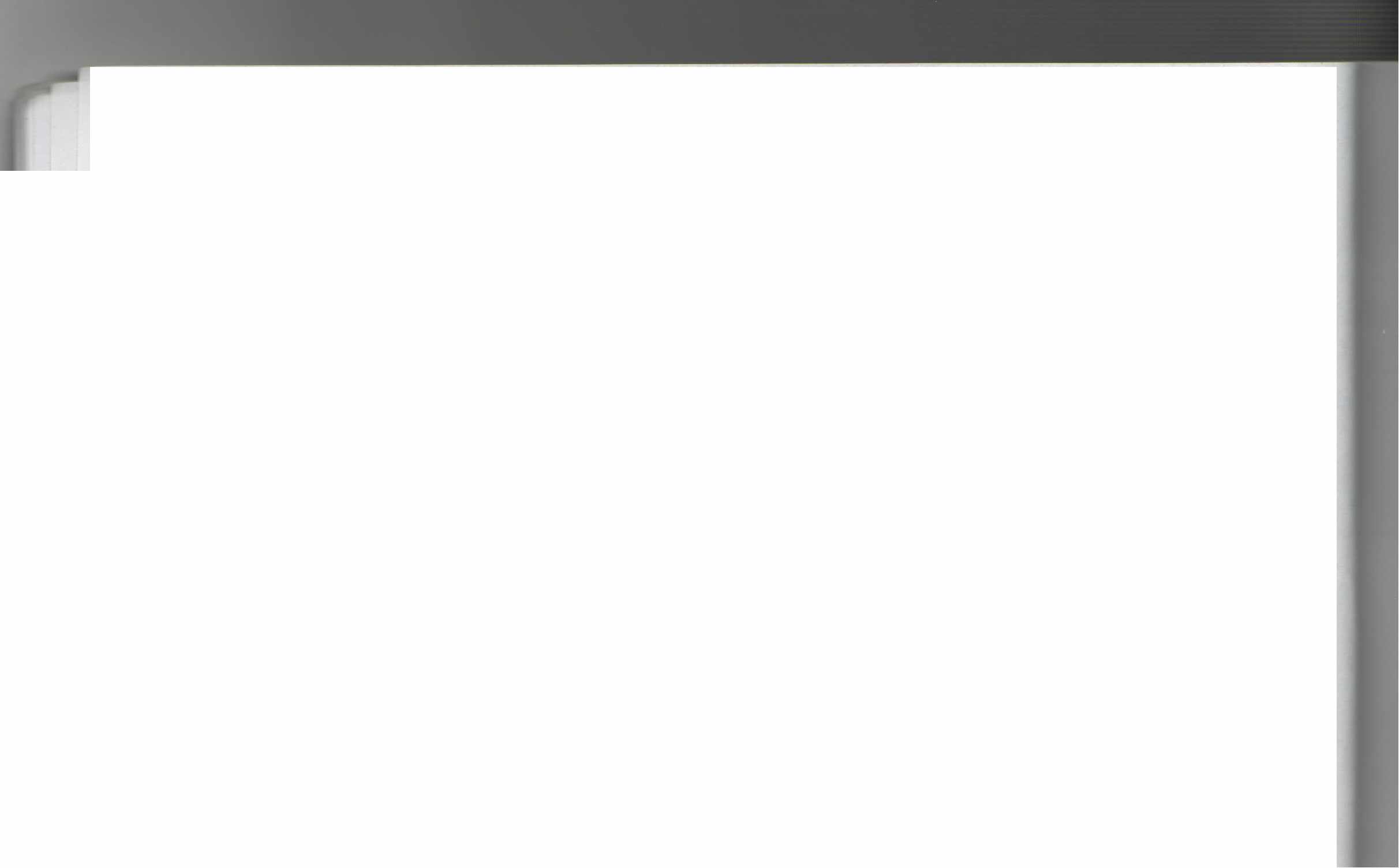
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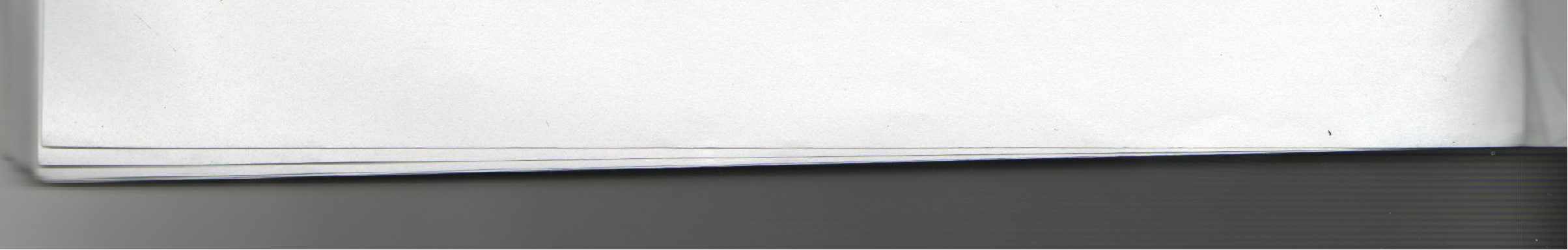
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