

ANNEX I
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Project ref.: HOME/2019/AMIF/AG/EMAS/0107

Title: " Strengthening Spain’s action along its coastlines within the scope of the Humanitarian Assistance Programme"

1. Summary of the action

Ever since 2017, Spain has been confronted with a considerable migratory pressure, reaching historical highs in 2018 both in terms of irregular migratory flows and number of applicants for international protection. This state of affairs placed a considerable strain on the humanitarian assistance systems deployed on the Spanish coastlines and in the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, as well as on the National System for the Reception and Integration of International Protection Seekers and Beneficiaries. With a view to strengthening the national capacity to cope with recurrent and massive arrivals of irregular immigrants and asylum.

The “emergency situation” has continued throughout 2019, which started with the largest number of irregular migrant arrivals ever recorded in a month of January. Comparative data of migrant flows to the Spanish coastlines indicate that the number of recipients of humanitarian assistance during the first semester in 2019 (10.775 persons) has dropped compared to the number of migrants who received assistance during the same period in 2018 (15.489 persons), but this figure goes well beyond the arrivals of previous years. Furthermore, it is estimated that, in terms of irregular migration flows, 2019 might be the year with the second highest level ever recorded right after 2018 when 64.298 arrivals were registered. Moreover, according to current forecasts, during the lifespan of this project (1.07.2019 – 31.12.2021), a total of 65.000 migrant persons will require humanitarian assistance.

Mitigation measures that can help alleviate this migratory pressure by means of efficient and responsive mechanisms and in compliance with human rights, need to be backed up with a significant economic and financial effort that cannot be carried out relying on the national budget alone. Moreover, the lack of political consensus and the failure to pass the State’s s General Budget for 2019 (PGE 2019) have triggered a re-enacted budget under which Spain’s previous year’s funding program is deemed in force. These circumstances pose a number of difficulties: on one hand, in terms of budgetary constraints and, on the other hand, given the extended budget, the budgetary allocations have not been increased to keep up with the actual needs.

To ease this burden, it is therefore necessary to resort to the Emergency Assistance (EMAS) foreseen within the scope of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) whose objective is precisely to provide financial assistance to address urgent and specific needs in the event of an emergency situation. Point (k) of Article 2 of Regulation 516/2014 defines it as “a situation resulting from heavy migratory pressure in one or more Member States characterised by a large and disproportionate inflow of third-country nationals, which places significant and urgent demands on their reception and detention facilities, asylum systems and procedure “.

It is therefore the aim of this project to seek, within the aforementioned context, the additional funding that EMAS could provide and that DGIAH-MITRAMISS’ Humanitarian Assistance Programme calls for. Under this Programme, particularly noteworthy are the actions related to the Humanitarian Assistance along the Spanish Coastlines that are subject of this application for an Emergency Assistance.

This project will allow the Spanish Red Cross (CRE) to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the migrant population reaching Spanish coasts mainly by:

- Delivering urgent medical response services, such as first aid and basic and advanced life support techniques, in order to protect their life and health.

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- Supplying food staples, clothing and hygiene items.
- Detecting early warning signs of potential victims of human trafficking and identifying persons likely to need international protection.

Update in November 2020

Throughout the year 2020 the maritime migration route to the Canary Islands has experienced a great increase, coupled with the pandemic situation generated by the Covid-19 and successive declarations of alarm that have created a very complicated situation regarding the management of these migration flows. Thus, in 2018 1.033 people arrived to the Canary Islands, in 2019 this figure doubled and the number of arrivals reached 2.613, while, until November 10th 2020, more than 18.000 arrivals have been registered. This figure constitutes a fifteenfold increase until November 2020 compared to 2018.

Furthermore, the number of arrivals continues to grow. In particular, the increase of arrivals of immigrants to the Canary Island is very significant, since the islands concentrate half of the arrivals that have taken place this year in Spain (18.435 people of the total assisted in the Spanish territory, which amounts to 34.808 people). It is noteworthy the concentration of assistance in the Canary Islands, where 5.442 people have been assisted out of the total 8,348 who arrived to the Spanish coasts in October. In a similar fashion, during the first week of November almost 3,500 people were assisted in the Canary Islands compared to a total of 4,332 in the whole Spanish territory.

Moreover, in just one weekend, 7th and 8th of November, more than 2.000 people arrived to the Canary Islands, a situation never seen before that is expected to continue or even deteriorate in the coming dates. However, the Canary Islands do not currently have the capacity to accommodate so many people in such a short time, which means that receptions are being referred to the port of Arguineguín and short-term stays in hotels. In October 2019, the Canary Islands had around 100 reception places that increased during the following months reaching just over 1.000 places at the beginning of the summer of 2020.

Despite the effort to create new reception places in the Canary Islands, these places are not sufficient to assist and manage these numerous migration flows. This situation has extraordinarily led some of these people to stay overnight in tents and places lacking the characteristics to meet their basic needs.

In consequence, for the time being it is necessary to find temporary solutions for the reception of more than 7,000 people who are currently beneficiaries of the Humanitarian Assistance programme in different locations, some of them provided by public administration, but mostly hotels.

The tents and prefabricated modules that are to be purchased under this project will enable MISSM to create 7.000 semi-permanent places in up to 5 camps in the Canary islands, with the following distribution: *Canarias 50* and *Colegio León* in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, *Las Canteras* and *Las Raíces* in San Cristobal de la Laguna in Tenerife Island and *El Matorral* in Puerto del Rosario in Fuerteventura Island. These new places are essential to address the urgent situation in the Canary Islands since the tents purchased thanks to previous EMAS are being used already for humanitarian assistance in the Canary Islands and in the Spanish mainland.

Besides, these 7.000 new places are designed to assist mixed migratory flows for a period between 15 days and one month, that can be extraordinarily extended to 3 months, until migrants can be referred to permanent assistance places or transferred to the Spanish mainland. Due to the Covid19 pandemic and borders closure, forced and voluntary return has become very difficult to carry out. Thus, new needs of humanitarian assistance arise in order to protect public order and safety.

In the aforementioned camps an individual assessment of each person shall be carried out to determine its necessities and specific vulnerabilities and refer them to proper humanitarian assistance places, either in the Spanish mainland or

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in the Islands, where a more individualized assistance will be given. Professional staff of Humanitarian Assistance will work in these camps to detect vulnerabilities and organize the referral. Therefore, this emergency assistance aims to organize a swift referral, avoid the presence of immigrants in unprepared facilities and abide by the sanitary measures in force due to the Covid19 pandemic.

In addition, it is very important to insist in the public health emergency caused by COVID-19, which requires the adoption of extraordinary measures in the reception of immigrants arriving to our coasts. This crisis has led to a decrease in the number of places available for humanitarian care due to the establishment of limitations in the number of places in the centers to comply with the necessary measures to avoid health risks, which has forced the blocking of places for the quarantine and / or isolation of people residing in centers. This crisis has also led to an increase in the length of stay in the shelters, reducing their capacity to accommodate newcomers, an issue that especially affects certain territories where the number of places is already insufficient due to the increase in the number of arrivals.

The revision of EMAS project HOME/2019/AMIF/AG/EMAS/0107 aims to tackle this extraordinary situation since the pre-financing of this project has been exhausted by CRE. Therefore, an additional pre-financing for the financial top-up of this project would be required to address the new urgent needs. In addition, DGIAH requests a 6 months extension period until December 31th, 2021 of the project implementation period foreseen in the article 1.2.2. of the Special Conditions.

2. General objective (expected impact) and response to the emergency situation

The main objective of the EMAS project is to strengthen the national capacity to meet needs of public, social and humanitarian interest that stem from the irregular arrival of extremely vulnerable migrants to the Spanish coasts. This capacity building will allow CRE:

- To provide immediate assistance to 65.000 migrant persons throughout the project lifetime, both in cases of ordinary migrant arrivals and emergency situations triggered by massive arrivals established in the COPLAN-Estrecho to face massive arrivals of irregular migratory flows in the area of the Strait of Gibraltar, Alboran Sea and adjacent waters, produced by the Coordinating Authority tackling Irregular Immigration in the Strait of Gibraltar (ACIE).
- Provide semi-permanent shelter for 1,200 people belonging to groups with special vulnerability, in the case of occupation of the places managed by the SEM-MITRAMISS within the framework of the Humanitarian Assistance Program.
- Reinforce the emergency healthcare assistance CRE's units provide to immigrants according to the criteria established in the *Action Guide for Healthcare Intervention with Immigrants along the Spanish Coastlines* which sets out the procedures related to the diagnosis of health conditions and the subsequent assistance to immigrant population and according to the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social welfare.
- Improve the management and treatment capacity of information derived from humanitarian interventions with migrants both on their arrival at ports of reference and on beaches without established communications infrastructure, and have an integral vision of the development of interventions, geographical positioning, volume of people assisted in real time, services performed, as well as the development of emergency actions derived from the actions of COPLAN-Estrecho
- Provide semi-permanent shelter for 7.000 people that arrived to the Canary Islands including preparation of the ground, purchase/rental of tents, transport of tents, deployment of provisional camps, deliverables and services to assist immigrants. It is estimated that the total number of people assisted in the Canary Islands will reach 15.000.

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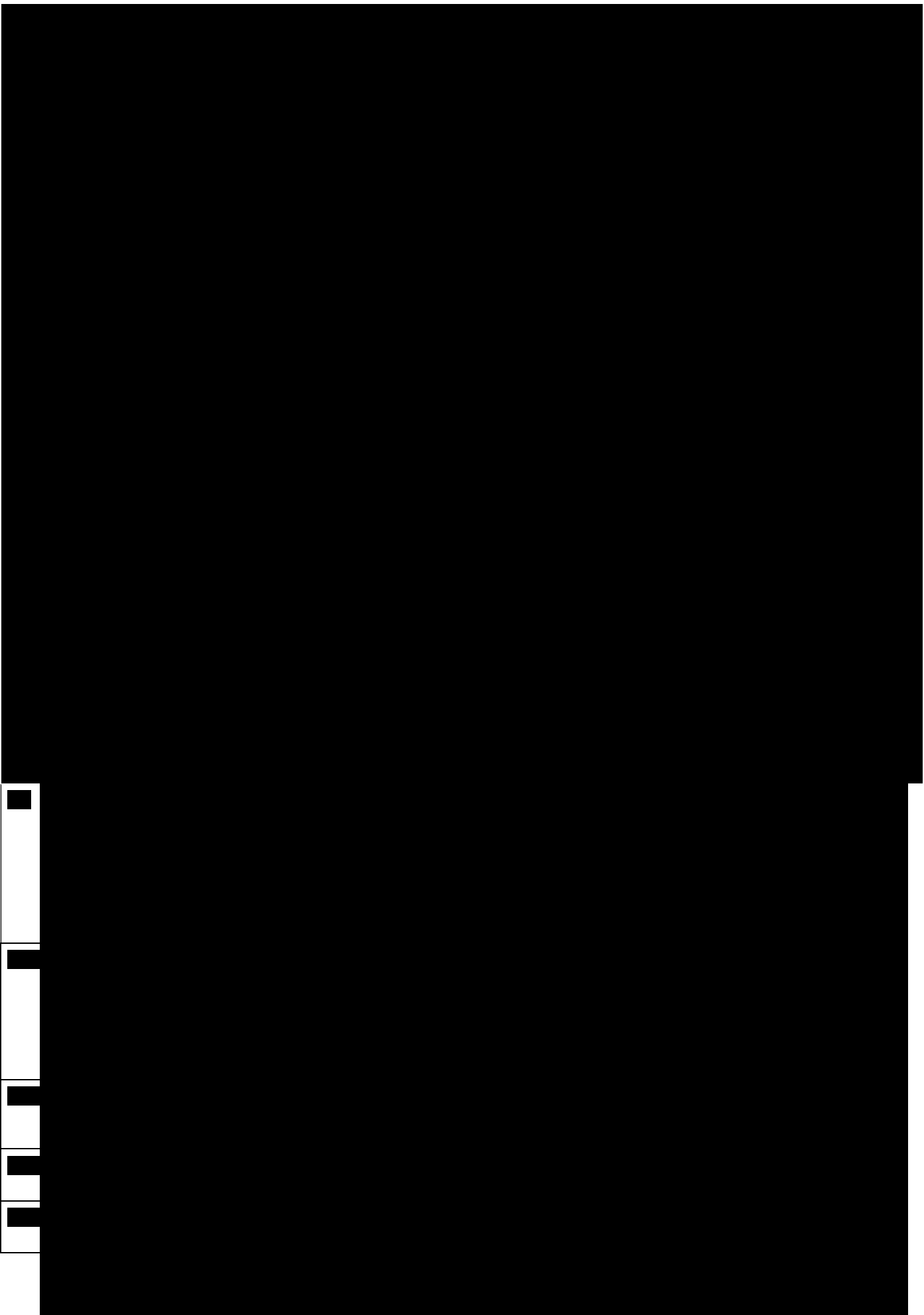
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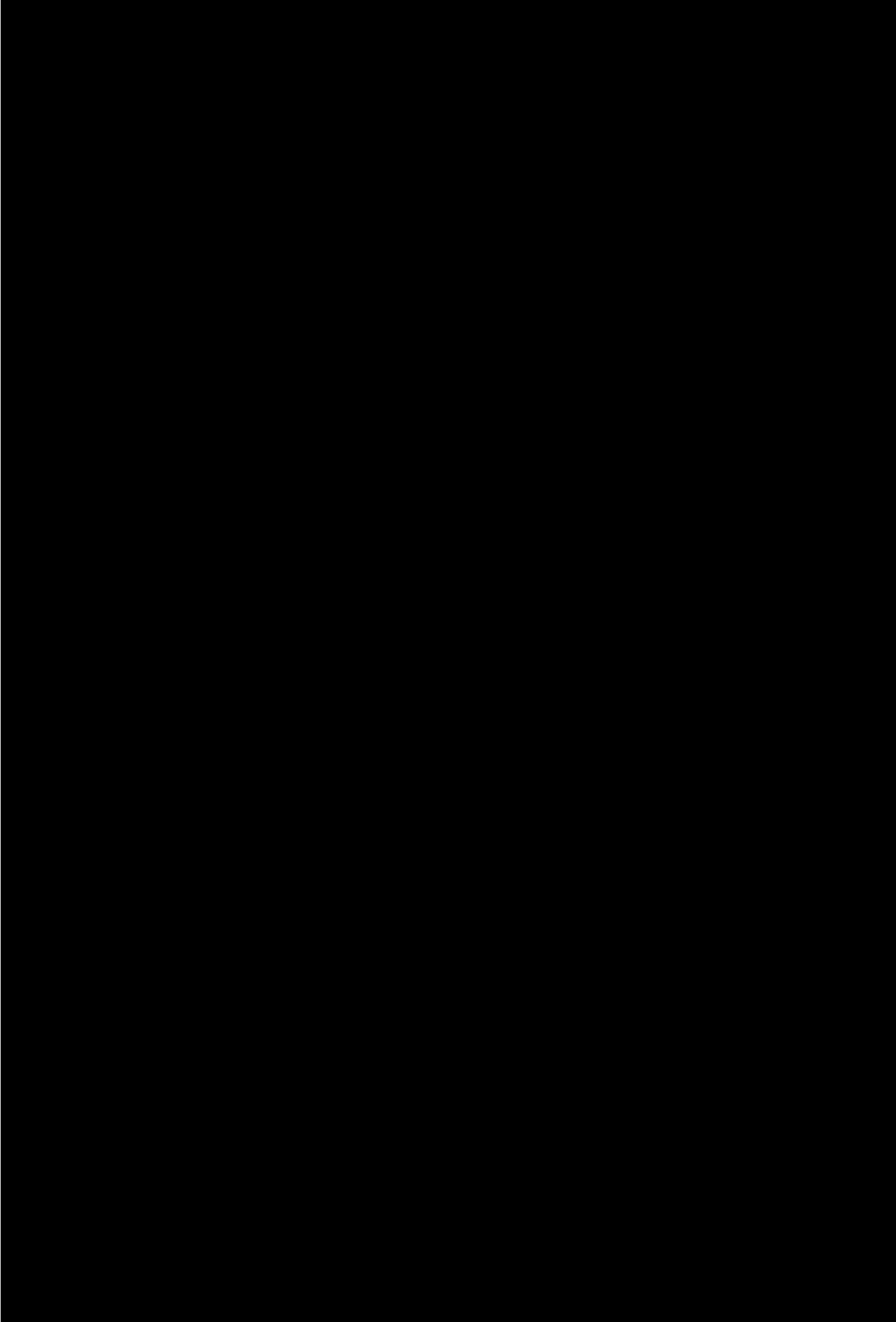
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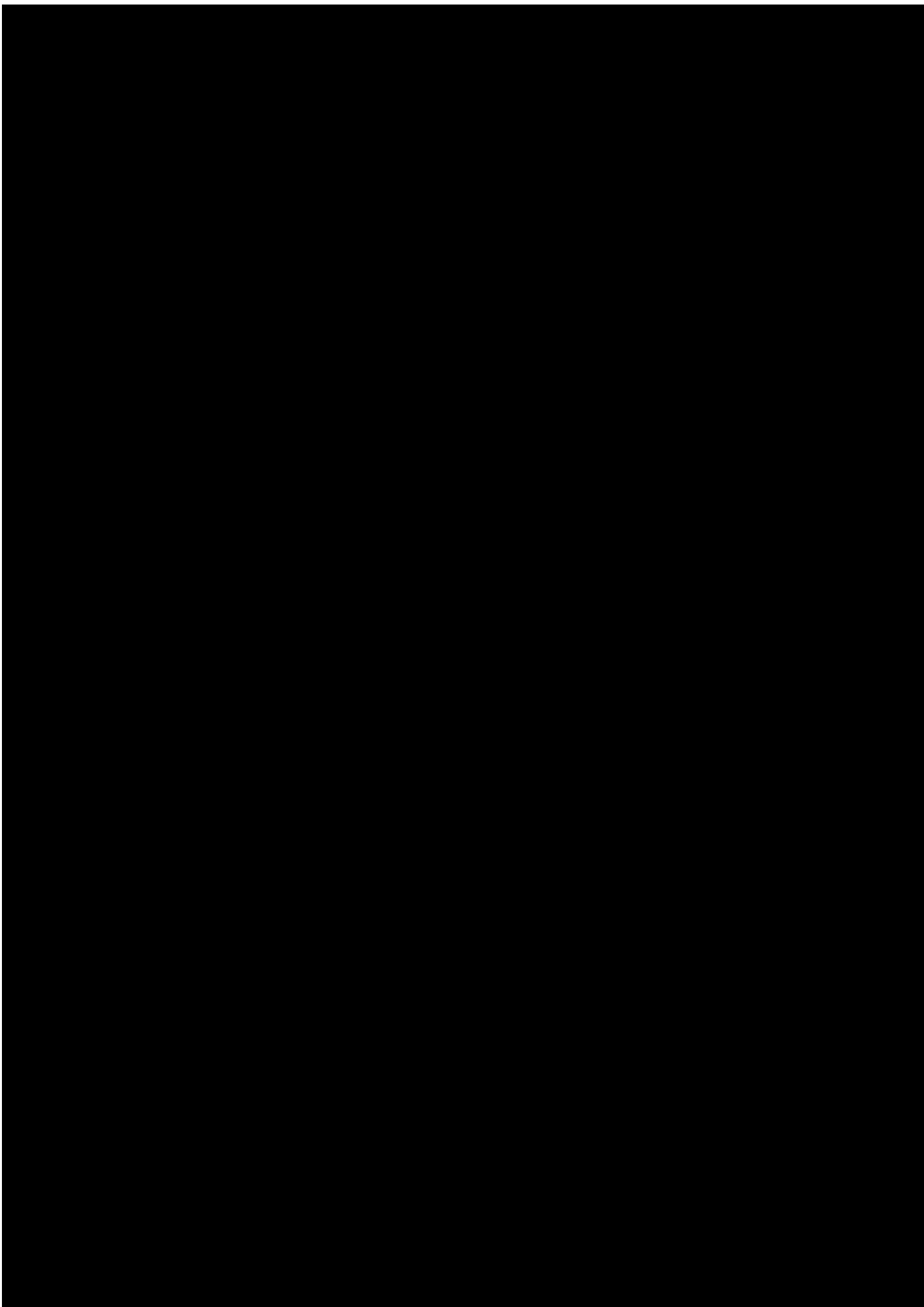


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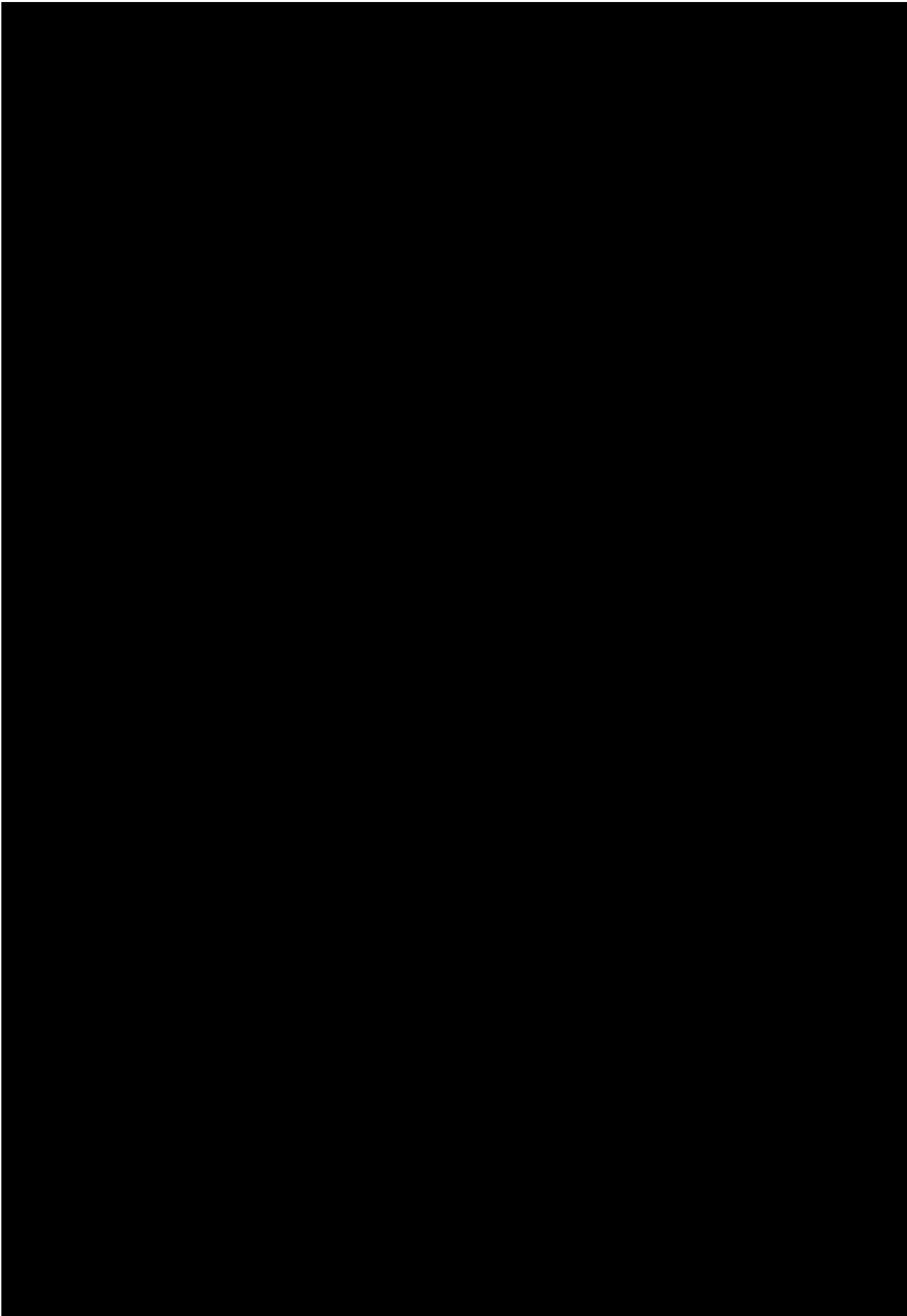


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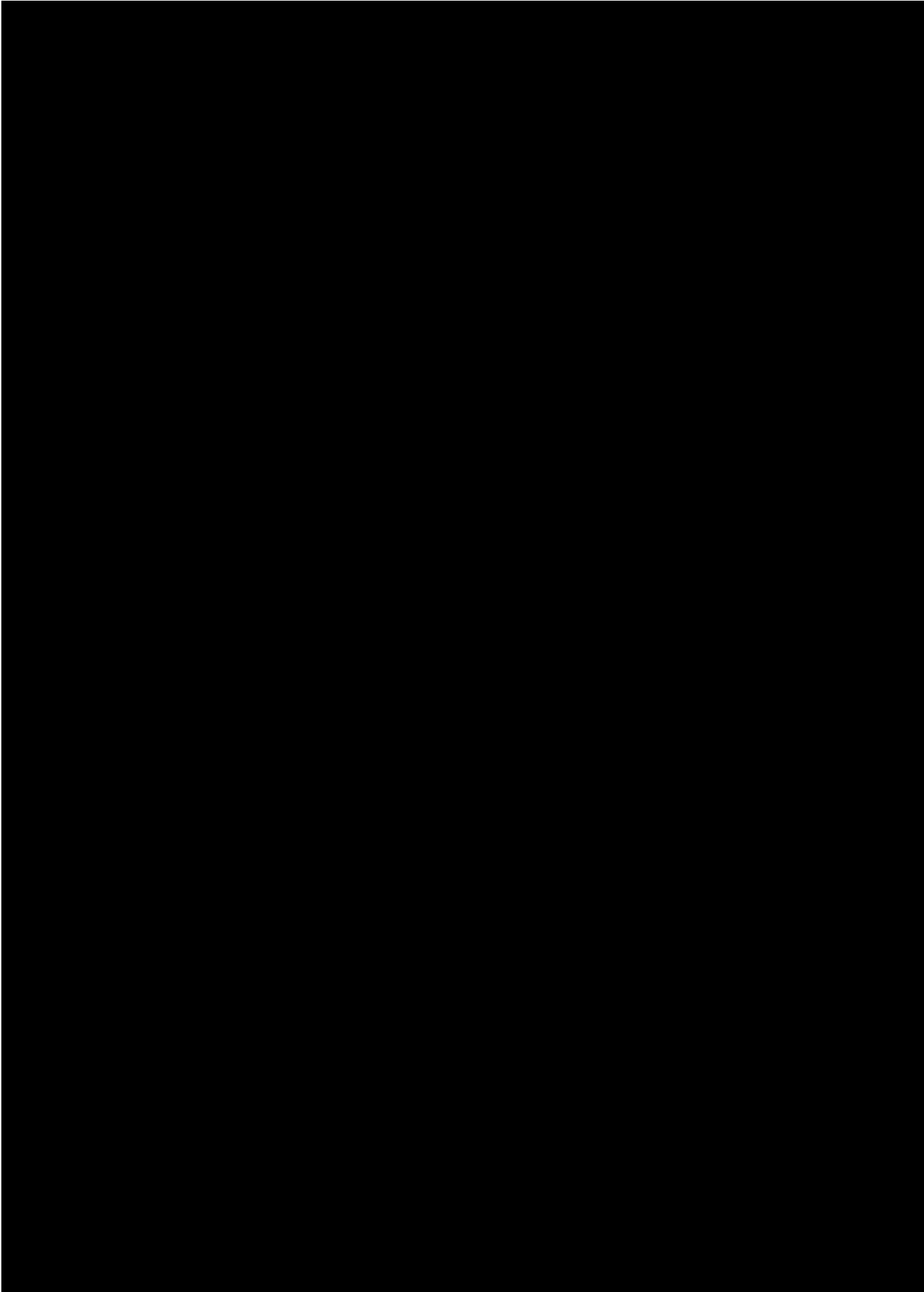
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