

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

KRISHAN KUMAR SINGH

Rank - 181

Essay



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Roll No. _____

ESSAY

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).

Name KRISHAN KUMAR SINGH

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Krishan

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

SECTION - A

1. Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.
2. The material world is simply an expression of the mind.
3. The higher we are placed, the more humbly we should walk.
4. Sports and Competition do not build character; they reveal it.

SECTION - B

1. Consumerism kills culture with overproduction and heightened sense of need, established by the marketing.
2. In the era of post-truth fact depends entirely on the power of man who can fabricate it.
3. People 'over-produce' pollution because they are not paying for the costs of dealing with it.
4. There are not enough jails, not enough police, not enough courts to enforce a law not supported by the people.

→ Many men go fishing all of their lives
without knowing that it isn't fish they are
after.

Somewhere amid the old ruins of Kabul,
lies the grave of Mughal emperor Babur.
The mighty monarch who won various wars,
captured vast territories, and established a
dynasty that ruled India for centuries, rests
six feet below the land, mute and frozen.
A life that saw him win over kingdoms

with an unassailable spirit, now lies silenced. Today, his countless victories appear immaterial. ~~and as~~ ^{Though} a lot of water has flown down the Indus, but a question remains that none except Babur's soul can answer. Were the countless wars and thousands of deaths justified for the cause of victory? Did he really achieve that victory? And if he did, why didn't that victory saved him from an uneventful death.

The human spirit has strived over centuries to attain "happiness", yet it has always seemed elusive. We have aggregated new ideas, invented new technologies, waged wars and accumulated power, but human life has always stayed in a state of flux, away from satisfaction.

Aristotle called political life as highest form of human association. The essence of

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politics lies in "public good", but the reality of politics has been reduced to capturing political power, maligning opponents, and getting appointed to high offices. In the race of "winning elections", most of the politicians have ignored the very purpose of elections and politics. The politics today has degenerated into a monolith of rigid ideologies along ethnic lines and leviathan of corruption and inefficiency, structures contrary to its very essence of welfare of all.

In the economic sphere, we have often seen "happiness" as material wealth. People have amassed wealth beyond limits and in the process, exploited and deceived their fellow-brethren. In the rat-race of material oggrandizement, people have turned a blind eye to more organic relationships like family and neighbourhood. Our aspirations have

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now transcended just material well-being, as most of us have become money-minting machines. The emphasis on economic growth has eroded our social sphere, a fact which led noted activist Edward Abbey to remark, "Growth for the sake of growth is cancerous madness".

Technology was always envisaged as a tool of advancement of human civilization. Instead, the destructive uses of technology in form of Nuclear weapons and Ballistic Missiles have spawned a civilizational threat to human life. The menace of internet has led to the "virtualisation of human life" where our networking, bonding, and socialising, everything has been confined in our computer screens.

Our quest for growth for the sake of growth, has caused enormous irreparable environmental damage. Unsustainable infrastructural development, pollution, and deforestation has brought

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the entire civilization in threat. In our ignorant journey of being the masters of the earth, we have ignored the earth itself, the planet without which "Homo Sapiens" have no meaning.

In the hurried pace of human life; we have become arrogant human self disconnected from worldly ties. There are people who kill others for a few queer leaves of currency. There are people who cheat or deceive ignorants of their hard-earned money. States have waged wars against each other, forcing poor countries to invest more on defense expenditure than on vital needs like education or health. In the blind journey going after fishing all our lives, we have become indifferent to our real goals. We have become slaves of our own mindset.

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But why have most of us forgotten the real essence of life and gone for mindless pursuit of "material goods". One, we have become so engrossed with our ideologies and dogmas that we have forgotten about the value of "public reason" and "reflective thought". We have started copying others blindly, without applying our own "reason". In our quest for "instant gratification", we have degraded the soul of human life into that of an animal, which can only think upto satisfying its appetite.

Socrates once asked his students the meaning of "good life". There was no single answer to this question that couldn't be challenged by others. The only answer that was agreed by all was, "a life of happiness". Happiness, in its real form

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has the same meaning for the human race. It doesn't mean amassing wealth or power at the expense of others.

Happiness comes through seeing the human race as an end in itself, not just a means to some end. It involves deliberation in our actions, cooperation not conflict, and peace not war.

As Buddha said, Peace should come from within, don't seek it without. We have to understand the real purpose of our existence, The real development of human civilization will come when we broaden our horizons — when we look at tomorrow, not just today. In real terms, it will involve the principles of universal brotherhood, peace, sustainable and inclusive development — on ideas of a "Global Village" or "Vasudheva Kutumbakam".

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In the era of post-truth fact depends entirely on the power of man who can fabricate it.

→ The digital revolution has completely changed our worldview. Today, information reaches the other corner of the world in a matter of nano-seconds. The world has become a seamless web where ideas, people, and societies are more interconnected than they ever were. This interconnectedness has generated greater diffusion of ideas, beliefs, and culture, creating unique set of convergences and divergences of worldviews across the globe.

The era of "Post-truth" has emerged from increasing institutionalisation of technology in our information chains. Today, we rarely wait for newspapers the next day or the 9 PM bulletin to get our news updates, the social and digital media ensures that information reaches us in a

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of seconds. Countless chain of tweets, retweets, and live feeds form a trail of information (news, events, issues, etc.) that shape our understanding of "truth" or the reality of world around us. The post-truth regime feeds on our unquestioned reliance on receiving information from undifferentiated sources. It involves producing alternate facts, misconstrued interpretations of events, and covert propaganda, that shapes our knowledge and alters our perception of "right" and "wrong", in the most concealed and powerful manner.

The idea of moulding truths and fabricating facts is not new to the world. Right from the times of Thucydides (a Greek historian who wrote an account of Peloponnesian War), facts and history was termed as biased and subjective. Thinkers

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like Kautilya and Machiavelli, suggested kings to use propaganda and establish a "divine origin" to perpetuate their rule over subjects. Throughout the ages, states have been understood to have been ruled by will and not force. The Nazi Germany had a separate Propaganda Ministry to constantly alter the facts and control the flow of ideas in the society. The fabricated facts could thus be used to gain legitimacy for inhumane genocides by projecting a "superman leader" and a "common enemy" in Jews for Aryan race".

Hence, history has shown us that "history" is a dangerous currency. Our understanding of past & present facts determine our future actions and hence a control over information pipelines can put the entire civilization in jeopardy. The scope of post-truth regime pervades over

Remarks

all spheres of our life.

Today, the politics across nations and ideological spectrum has entered the age of social media. Not only the leaders share their opinions over social media, their followers also utilise the medium to directly communicate with their leaders. The open web of ideas and information has also raised serious questions as more and more examples of falsification and counter-falsification are encountered. In democratic societies, where sensitive information before elections can sway the electoral behaviour either ways, a photoshopped image or a false news or claim can change the election result completely. The era of Post-truths where people either don't question what they see or get confounded by myriad claims and counter-claims has dangerous connotations for our times.

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But the impact of Post-truths doesn't lie only in the political sphere. Today various companies can modify or remodel information so that our perception of the commodity changes completely. The big businesses through aggressive marketing, branding, and packaging could ensure that their product catches our eye despite its defects. The constant iteration of calling Soft-Drinks free from pesticides or noodles free from MSG, is to alter our understanding of reality and obstruct our desire to get to the real truth.

The "fabrication of facts" has also been employed as a recruitment strategy by various fundamentalist and terrorist organisations. The cries of "Religion in danger", fabrication of audio-visual content, and slogan of global Jihad, all mark the calibrated moulding of historical & present facts to create a picture that suits their ideology.

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Not only at the global level, "alternate facts" have been extensively used by rioters and sloganeers to spread their message, which is usually distorted to provoke masses to disrupt the social and public order.

The regime of post-truth breeds on our ignorance. It creates a society of distrust, intolerance, and avengefulness as our ideas are no longer our sole authority. In the post-truth universe, our ~~idea~~ ^{mind} becomes the marketplace of those who fabricate and spread the distorted realities. These realities shape our perceptions and actions in such a powerful manner that it forms an unbreakable "Idea - Perception - Conduct" feedback loop.

The only way to assert our independence on our ideas and come out of the alternate fact regime is to question what

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we are fed through the digital, information systems. It requires humans to develop a spirit of inquiry and initiate rational dialogues to understand the true reality.

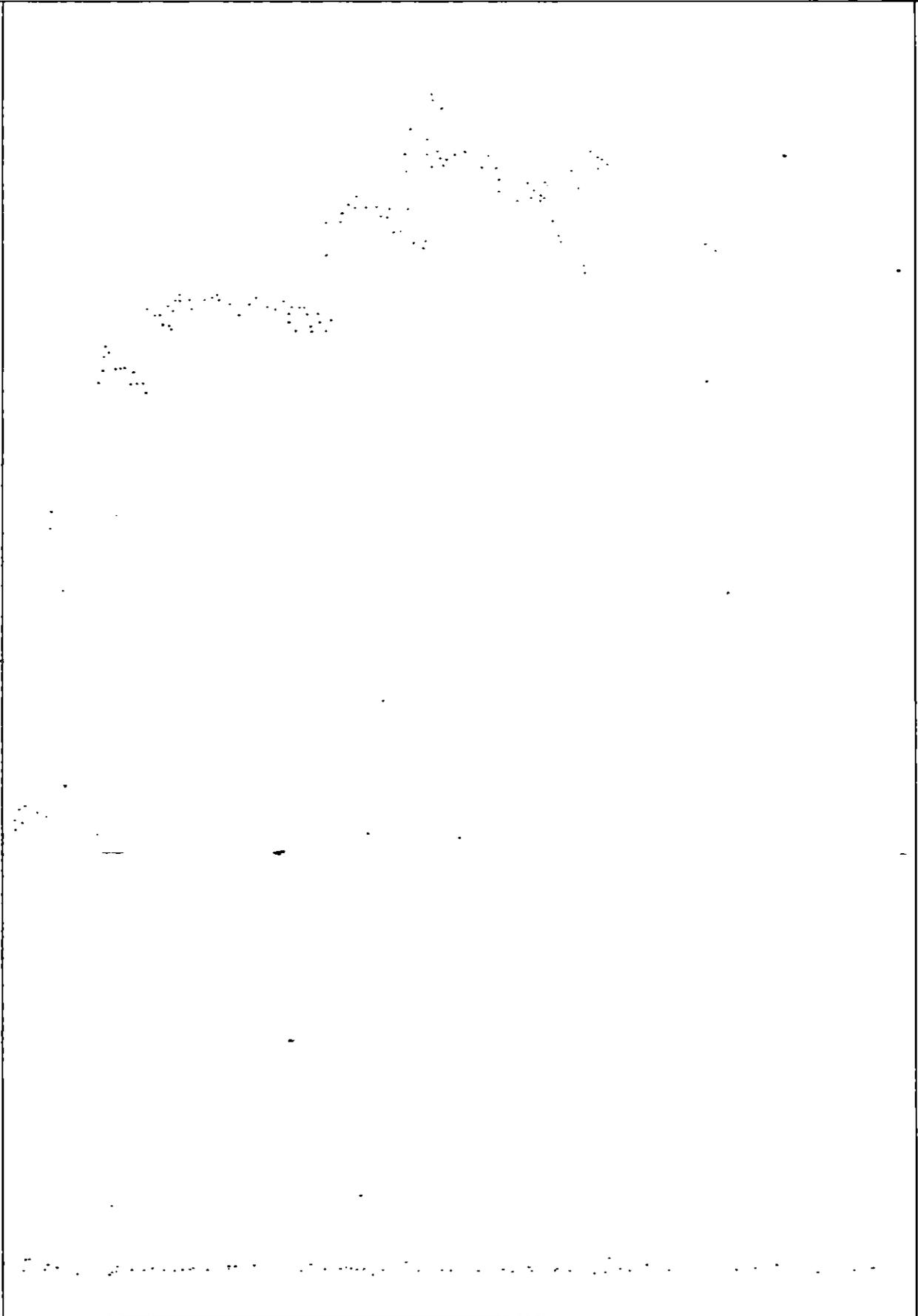
"When I look at the world, I become pessimistic but when I look at humans, I become optimistic"
- Carl Rogers

The true method of coming out of the vicious trap of post-truth era is to realise the essence of being human. Only through deliberate inquiry, argumentativeness, and rationality, can we ensure a two-way communication where we aren't just listeners but also speakers.

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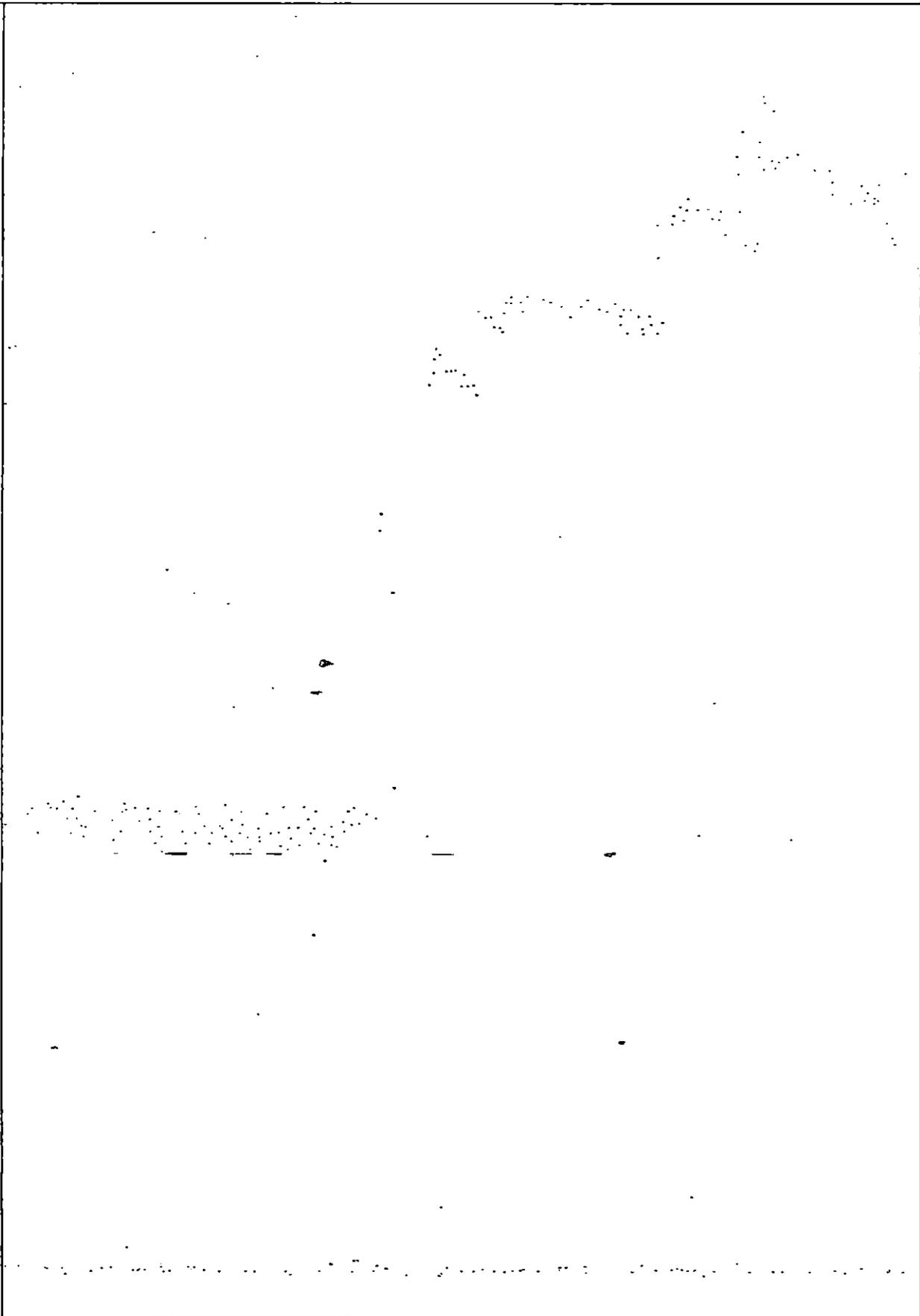
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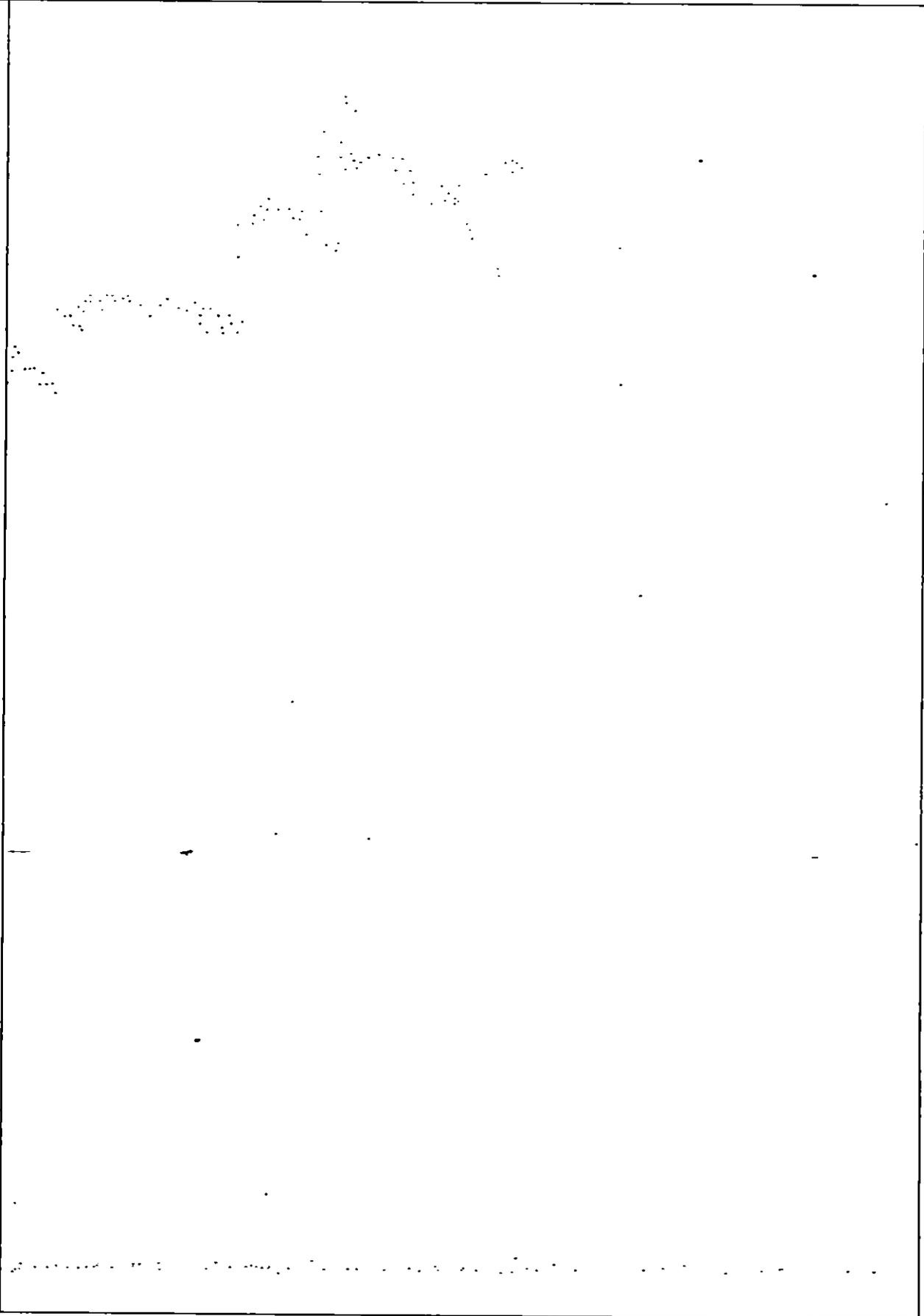
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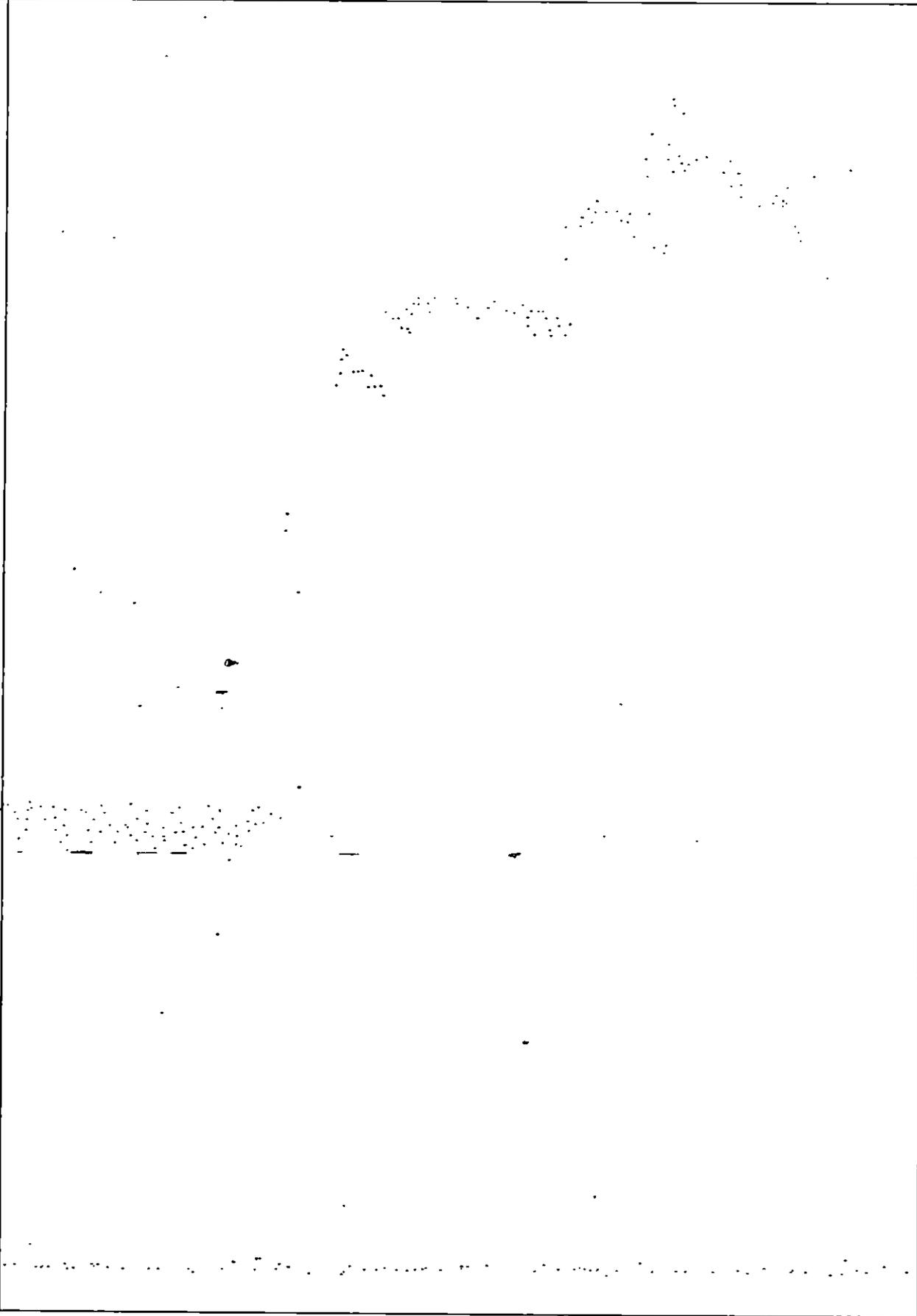
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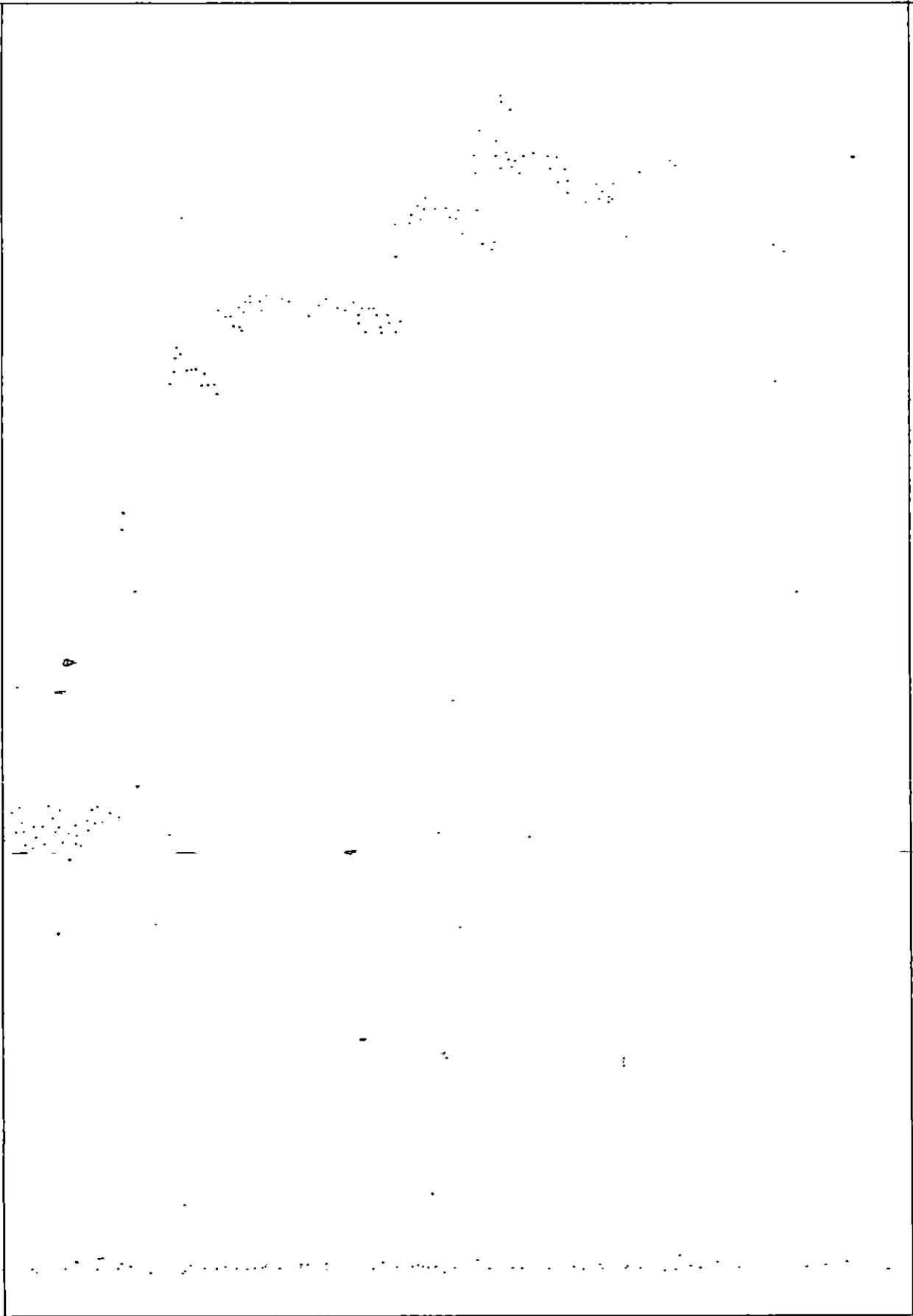
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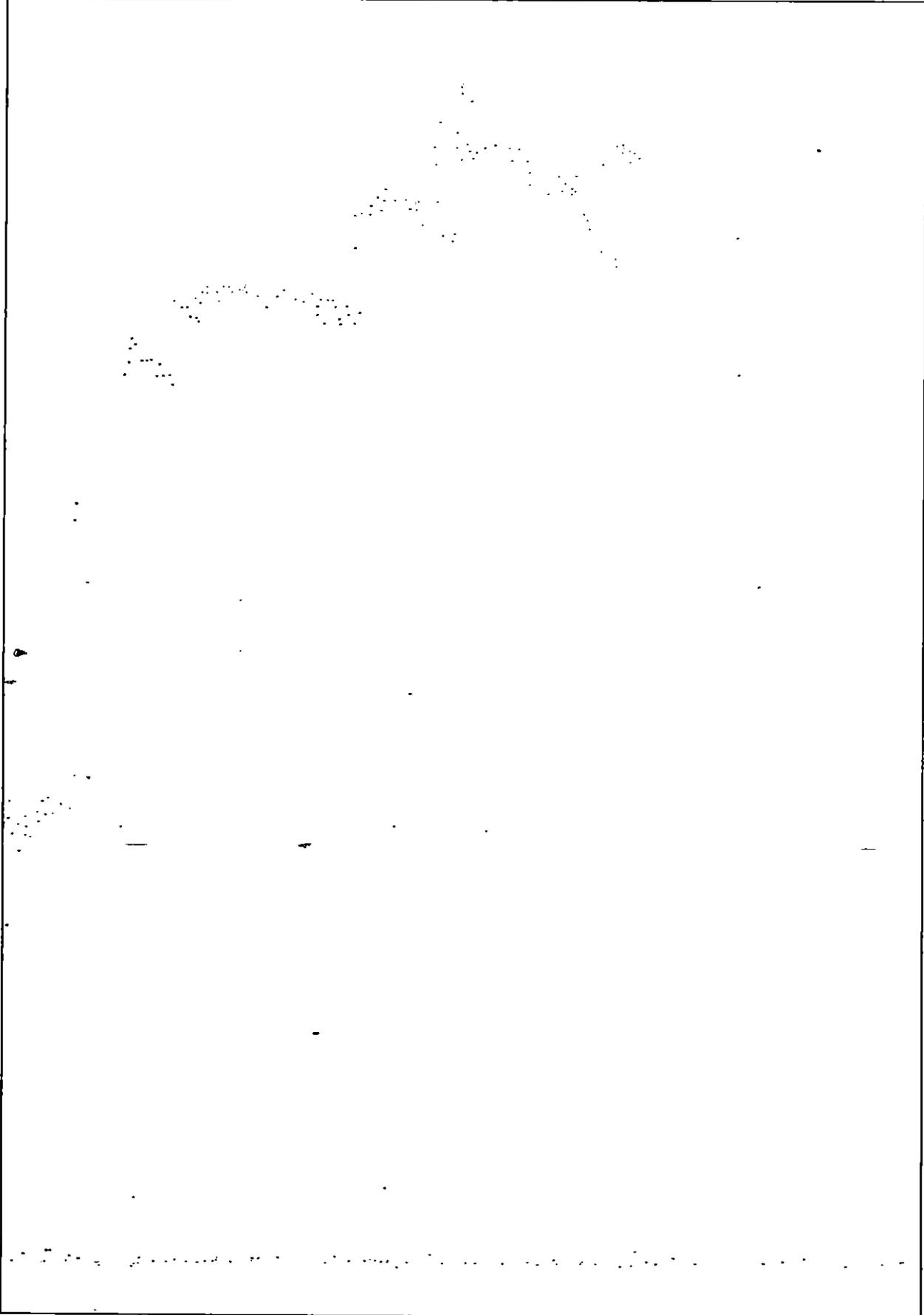
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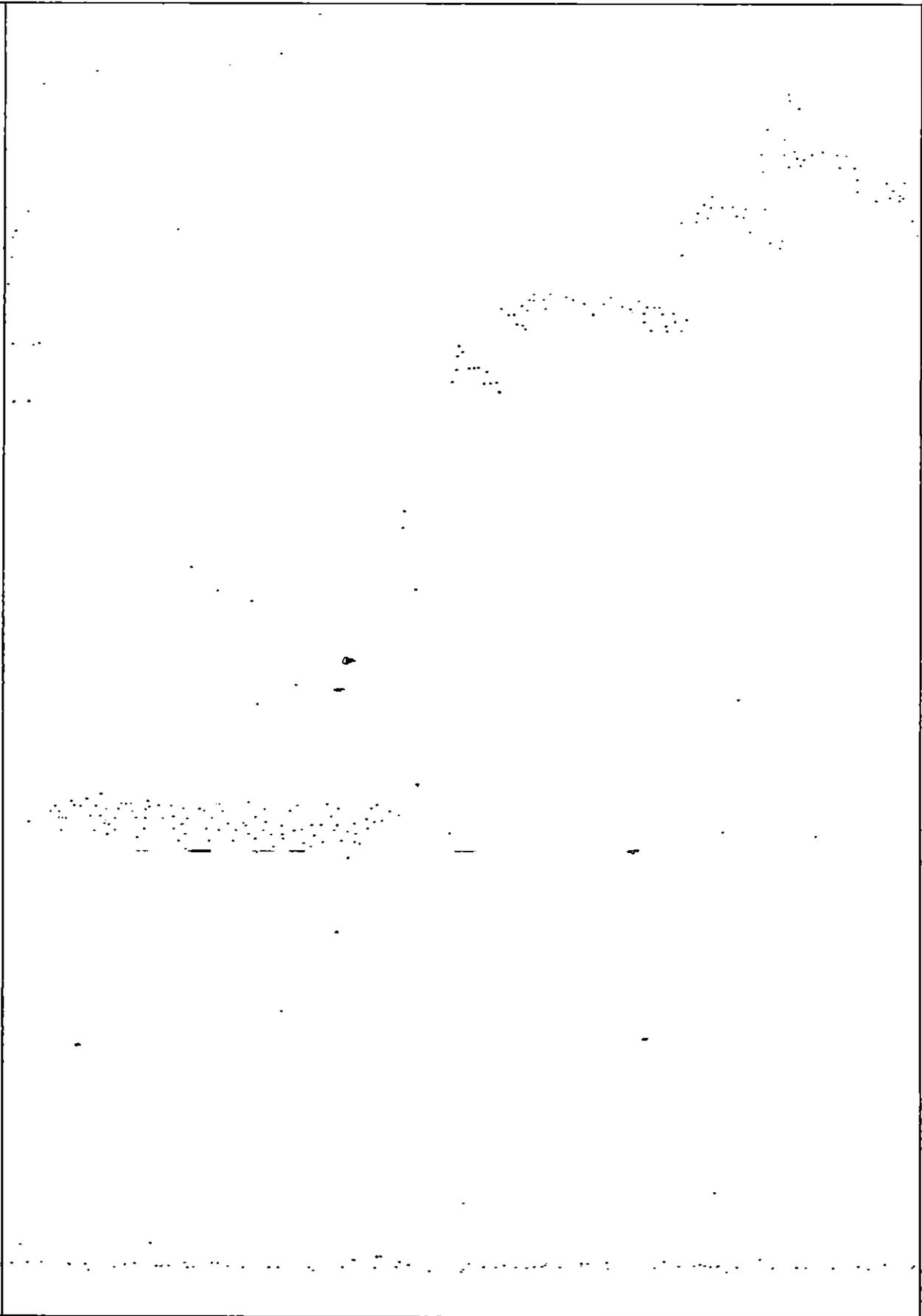
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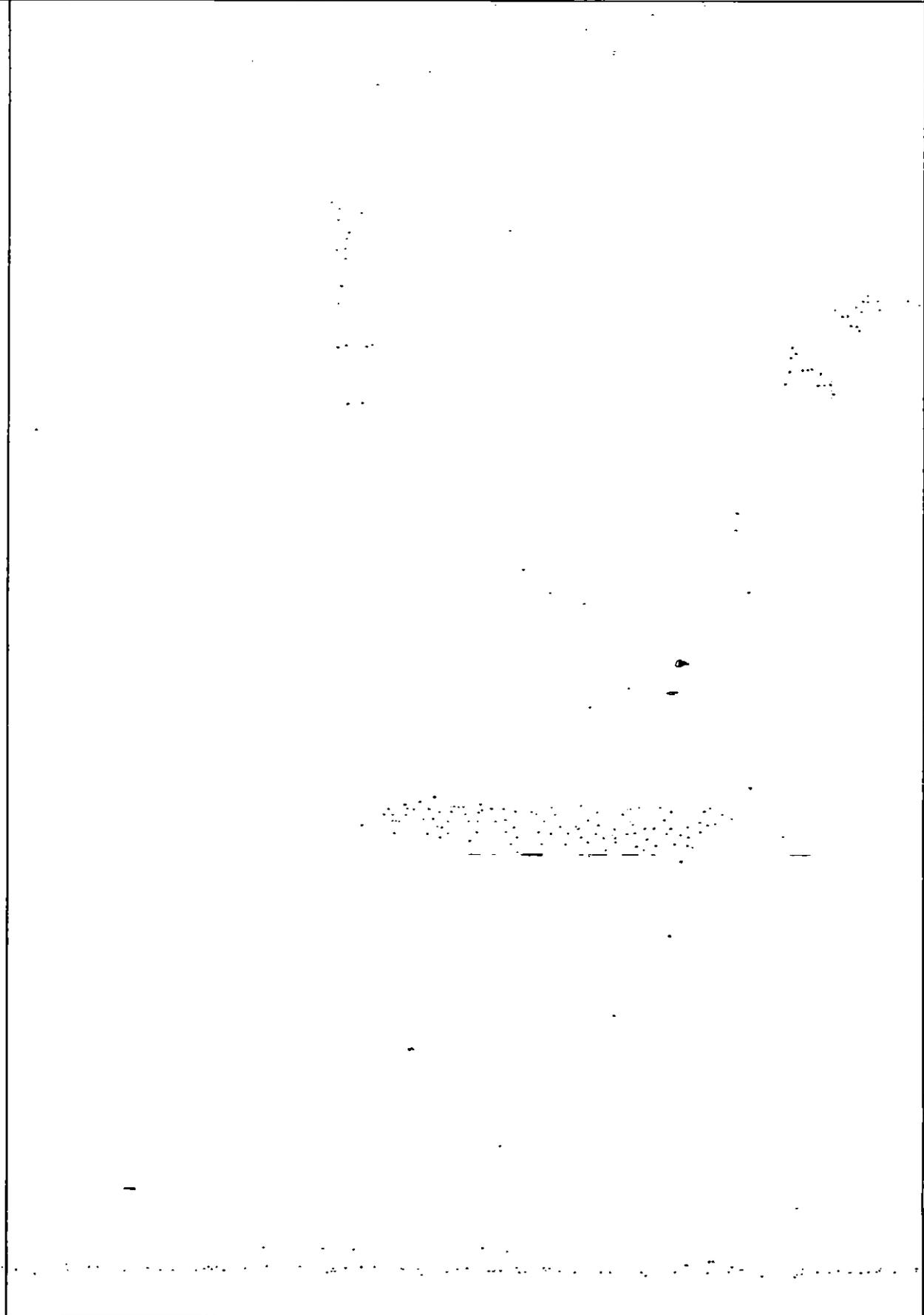
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In the era of post truth fact depend entirely on the power of man who can fabricate it.

↓
World beyond boundaries
by " travel at lightning speed
Appeal & not authenticity matters.

Post truths & Alternate facts.

↓ not always driven by techn.
& not a very new idea.

Kautilya → propaganda
Machiavelli → Proclaim yourself as a divine ruler.
Nazis
Rulers of ideas — will not force —
manufacture consent. — gain legitimacy,
terrorism / global fundamentalist
propaganda.

Contemporary times

↓
Politics

- * Pro-right leader
- * Across Ideol. spectrum.
- * Winning elec^{ns}

Economics

- * Consumerism
- * Branding / marketing.
- * Control people by their consent.

↓
Human sphere

- * decline in dialogue
- * decline in authentic facts.

Remarks

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Remarks

Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after

Changviz Khan | Samarkand.
 Khwaza Moinudeen Chishti.

six feet below the land.

Socrates — "What is a good life?"

Atma Deepo Bhava. happiness — but how to attain it?

* Prime method since ages → Capture power + Gain economic means of production.

[Material aggrandisement] why?

Man wants to live happily.

* Why fishing → blindly copying others.
 ↳ lack of reflective thought & reasoning
 ↳ short-term gratification instead of happiness.

* Political → capture power; malign opponents; win elections; get high offices; public good. ↓ real goal

* Econ — Exploit subordinates; amass wealth; GDP numbers; Technology — destructive purp. guided men + long. missiles
 ↓ material well-being & satisfacⁿ ↓ betterment of human life.

Remarks [Edward Abbey]

* Ecological — dams, mines,

* Intern^t wars dispute

* Behav. ↓ Arrogance

schism ↓ development & not growth

↓ Vasudhev Kutumbha

↓ understand humanity

If we understand the real meaning

↓

- ↳ true peace, devel., and happiness.
- ↳ no distin^c or diff. levels.

Principles → deliberative democracy
 → act in concert.
 ↳ Constⁿ — spirit of fraternity,
 humanism, integrity.

Remarks