

The overall exemptions for this document are (b)(1) and (b)(3).

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CIA - CI - BRIEF

76

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F(b)(1)
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2000

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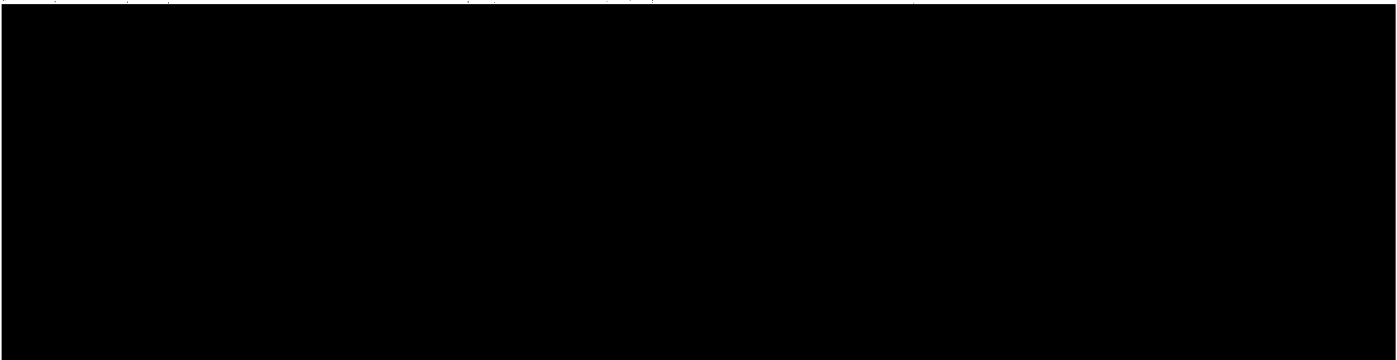
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EUROPEAN BRIEF CI EAB 76-025.4

1. PORTUGAL: ■■■■A DEMAND BY THE CENTRIST POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY THAT SEPARATELY SCHEDULED ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY COULD DELAY AGREEMENT ON THE MILITARY'S WITHDRAWAL FROM POLITICS AND POSSIBLY THE ELECTIONS THEMSELVES. THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ARE PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD BY APRIL 25, AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS SIX MONTHS LATER.4

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY, THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS HINTED THAT THE FAILURE TO ADOPT THE PARTY'S POSITION ON THE ELECTIONS COULD RESULT IN ITS REFUSAL TO SIGN THE NEW AGREEMENT FORMALIZING THE MILITARY'S WITHDRAWAL THAT HAS BEEN PAINSTAKINGLY NEGOTIATED WITH THE PARTIES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.4



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EARLY POLLS

SUGGEST THAT THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS RATHER THAN THE SOCIALISTS MAY GAIN A PLURALITY.



ON THE CONTRARY, INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE SOCIALISTS ARE PLANNING TO THROW THEIR SUPPORT TO PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO, THE SAME PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE MOST LIKELY TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS. ON TUESDAY, AZEVEDO ANNOUNCED HIS AVAILABILITY FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

TO ADD TO THE ELECTION TIMETABLE CONTROVERSY, THE SOCIALISTS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD REFUSE TO JOIN WITH ANY OF THE OTHER MAJOR PARTIES IN A POST-ELECTION COALITION—SPURNING BIDS NOT ONLY FROM THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS, BUT ALSO FROM THE

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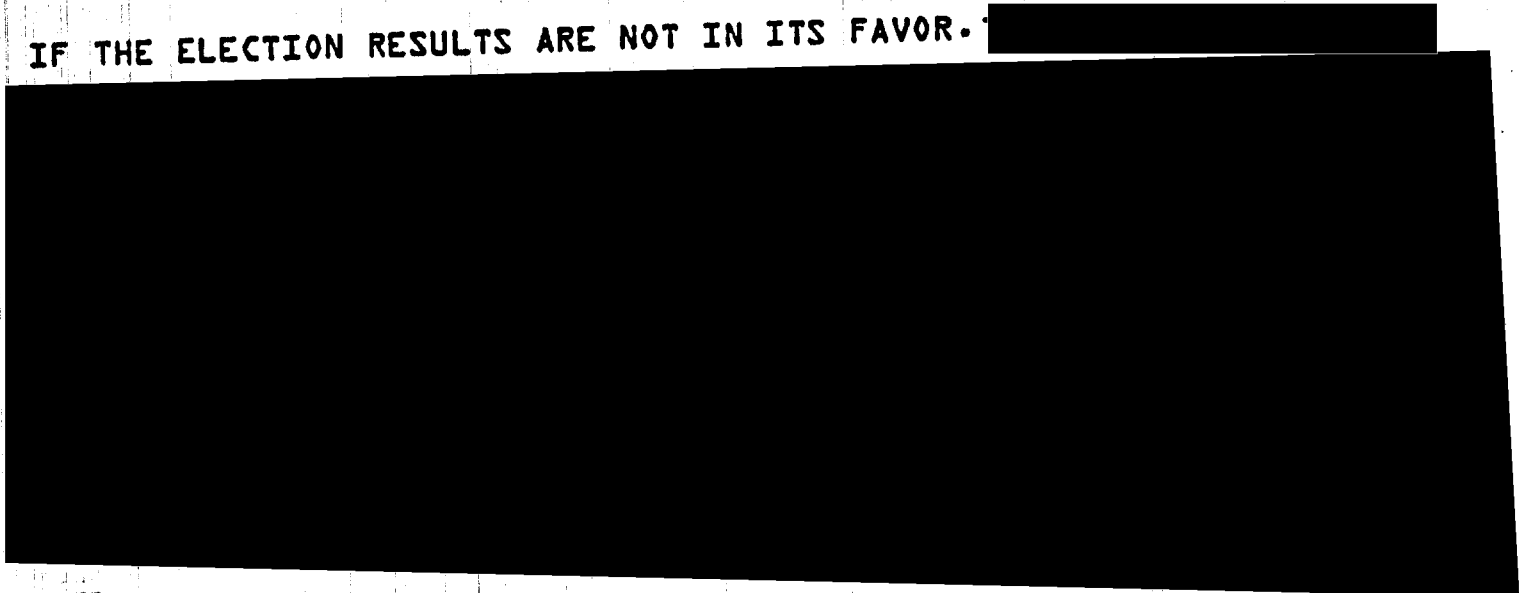
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CENTER-RIGHT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER AND FROM THE COMMUNISTS.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, SOARES DID LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN TO POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT, A GROUP OF LEFTIST DISSIDENTS WHO RECENTLY SPLIT FROM THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS.4

ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOARES IS PROFESSING DISINTEREST IN SUCH ALLIANCES AT THIS STAGE IN ORDER NOT TO SPLIT HIS OWN PARTY ALONG IDEOLOGICAL LINES BEFORE THE ELECTION, HE ALSO ^{HAS} ARGUED THAT NONE OF THE OTHER MAJOR PARTIES REALLY SHARES THE SOCIALISTS' GOALS AND THAT THE PARTY IS FULLY PREPARED TO GO INTO OPPOSITION IF THE ELECTION RESULTS ARE NOT IN ITS FAVOR.

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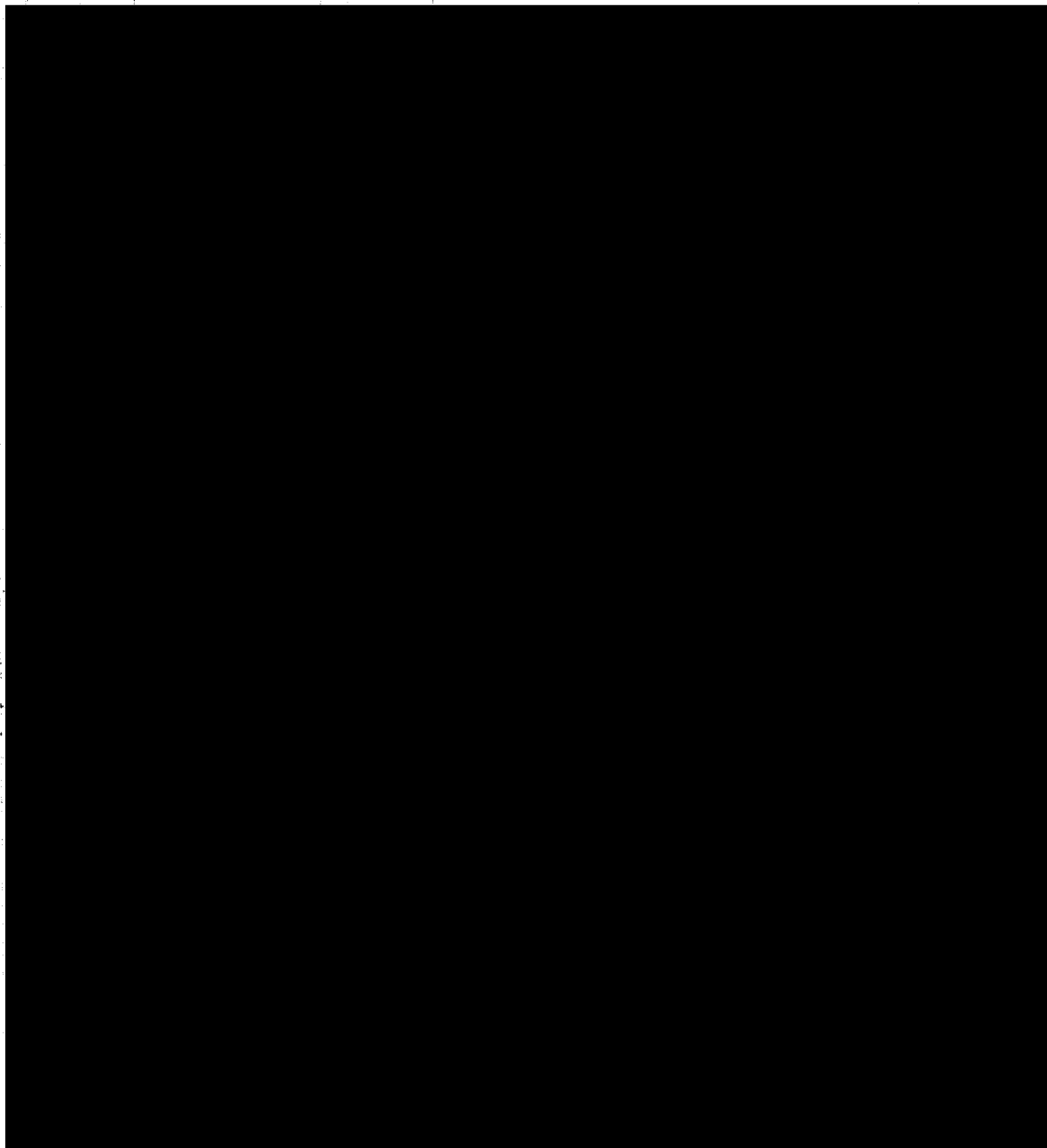
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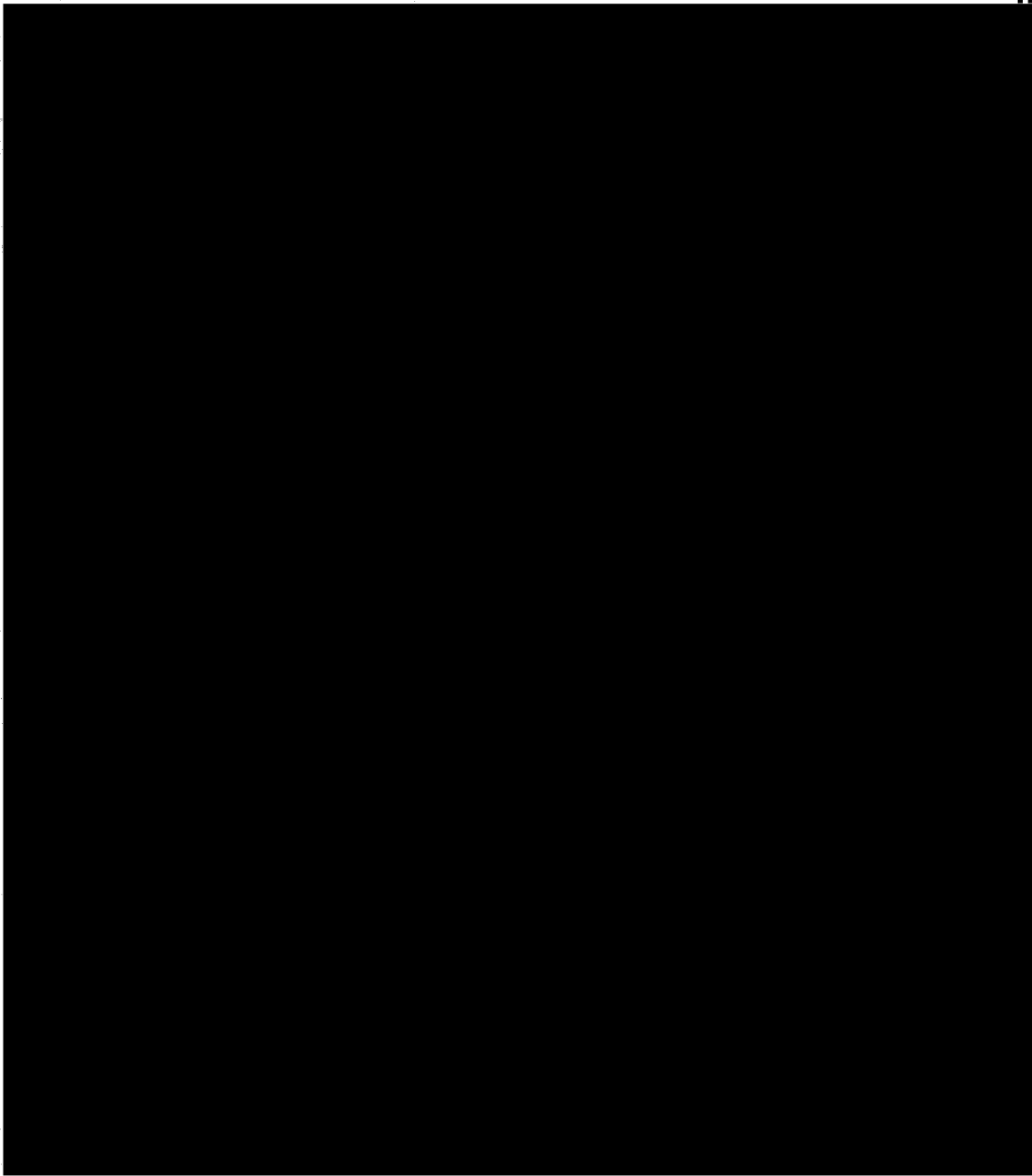
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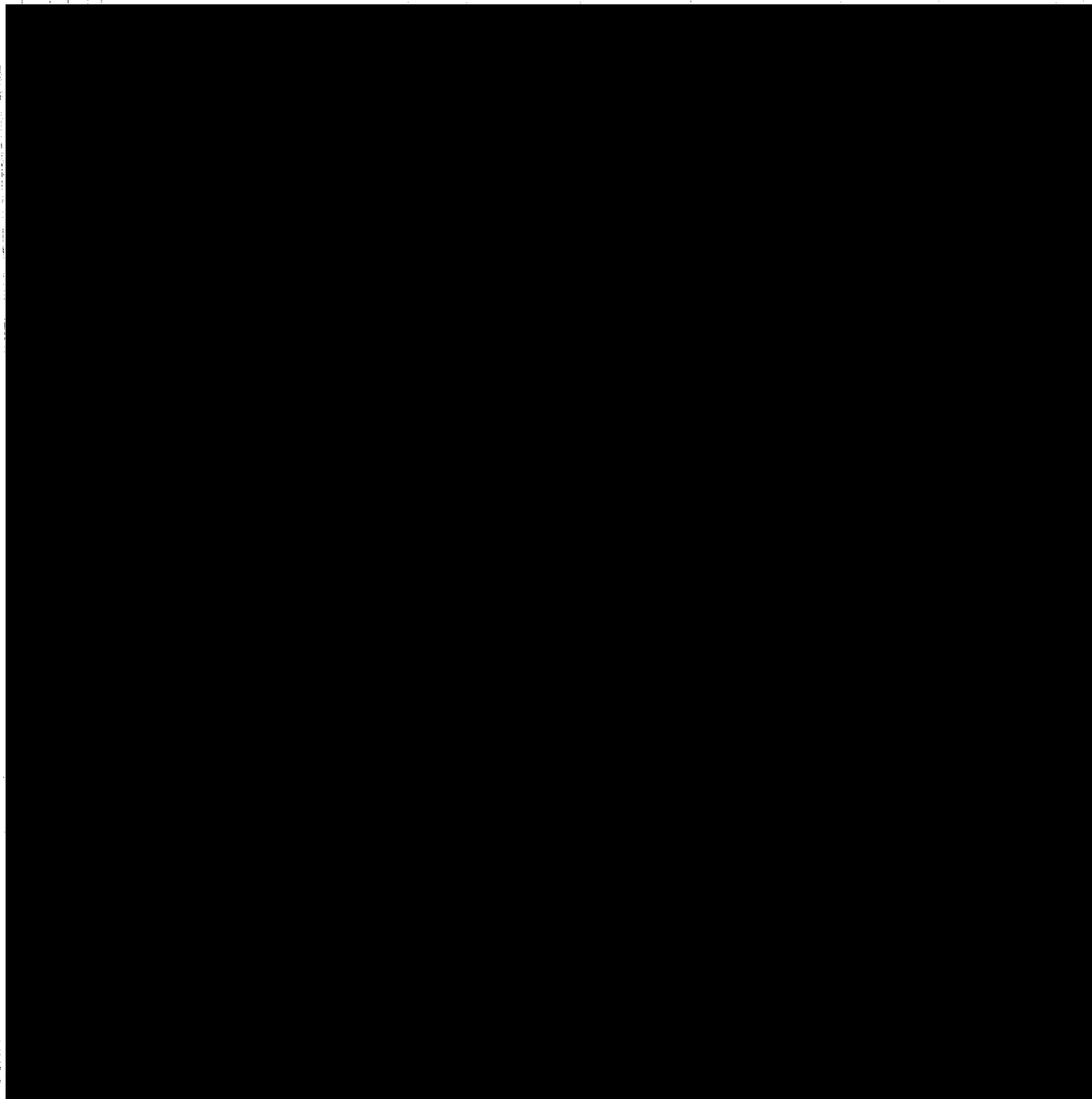
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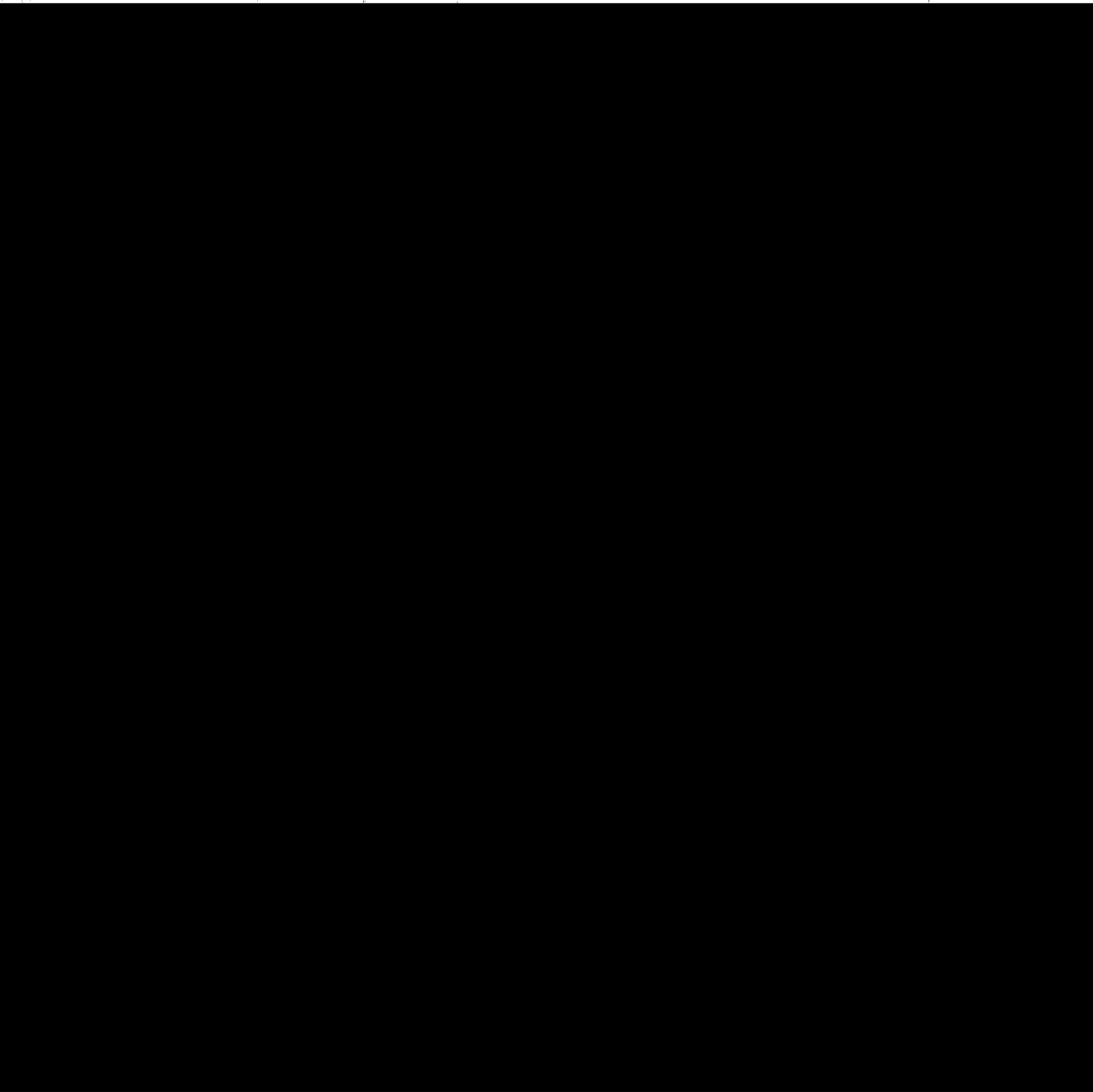
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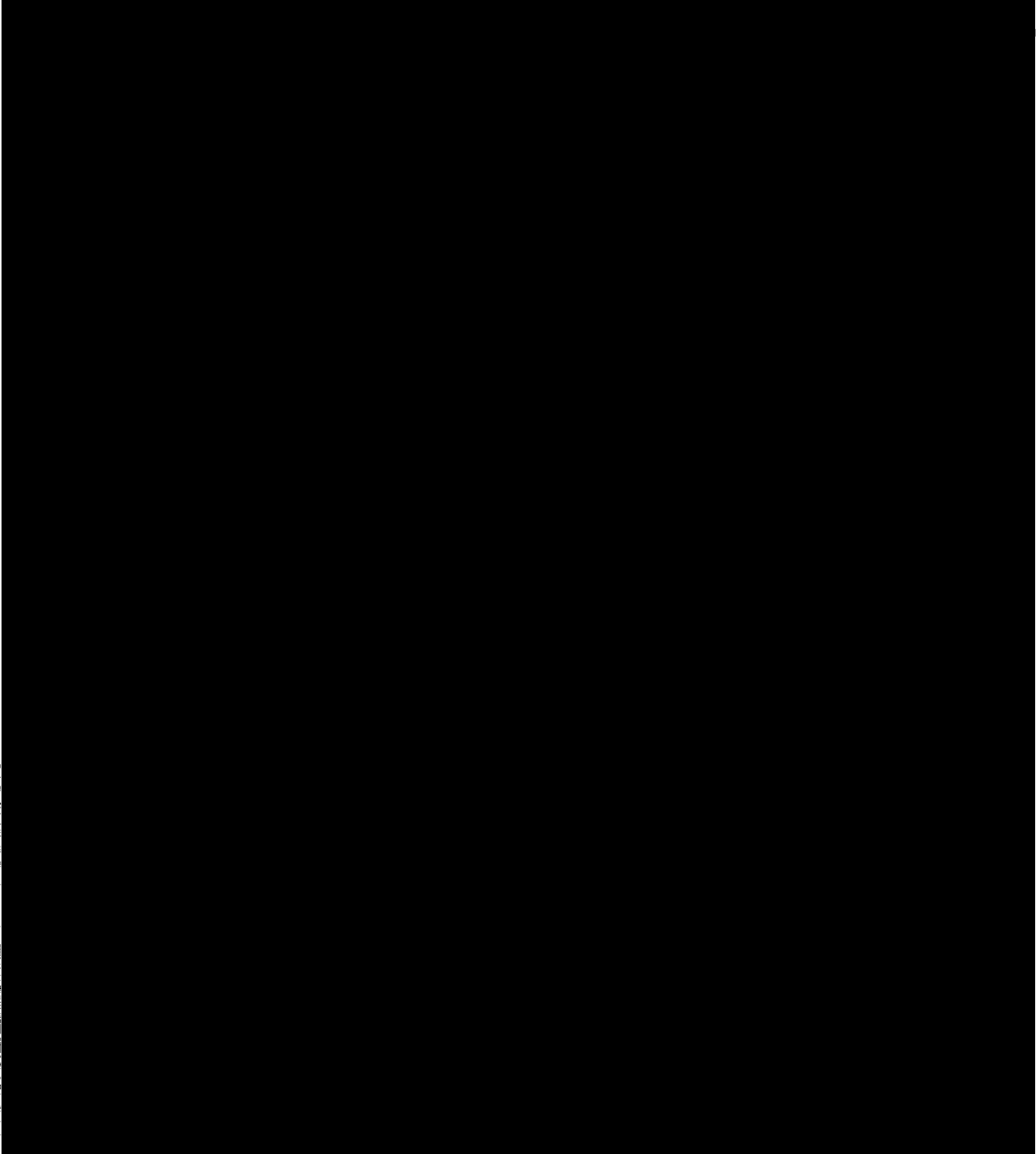
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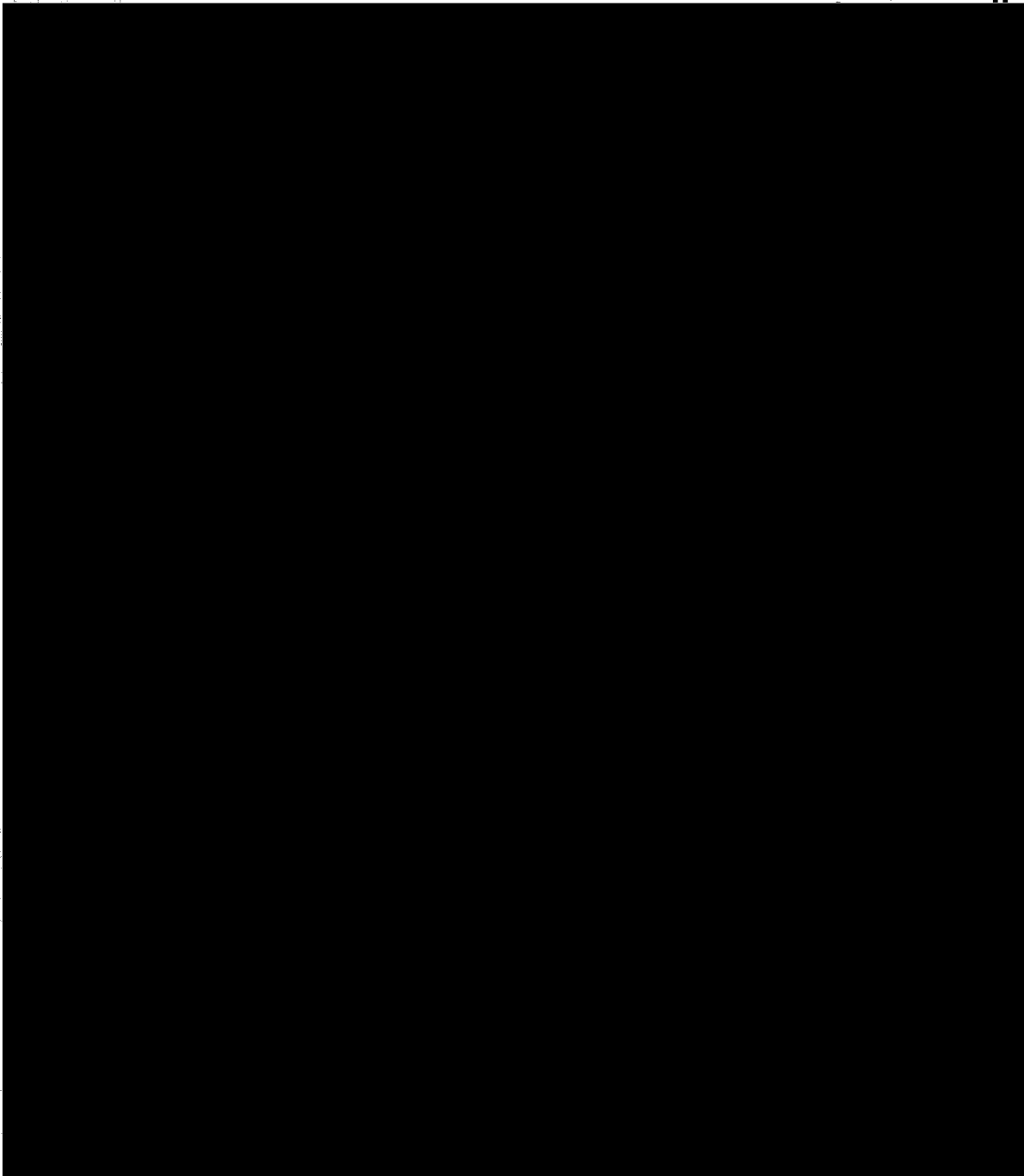
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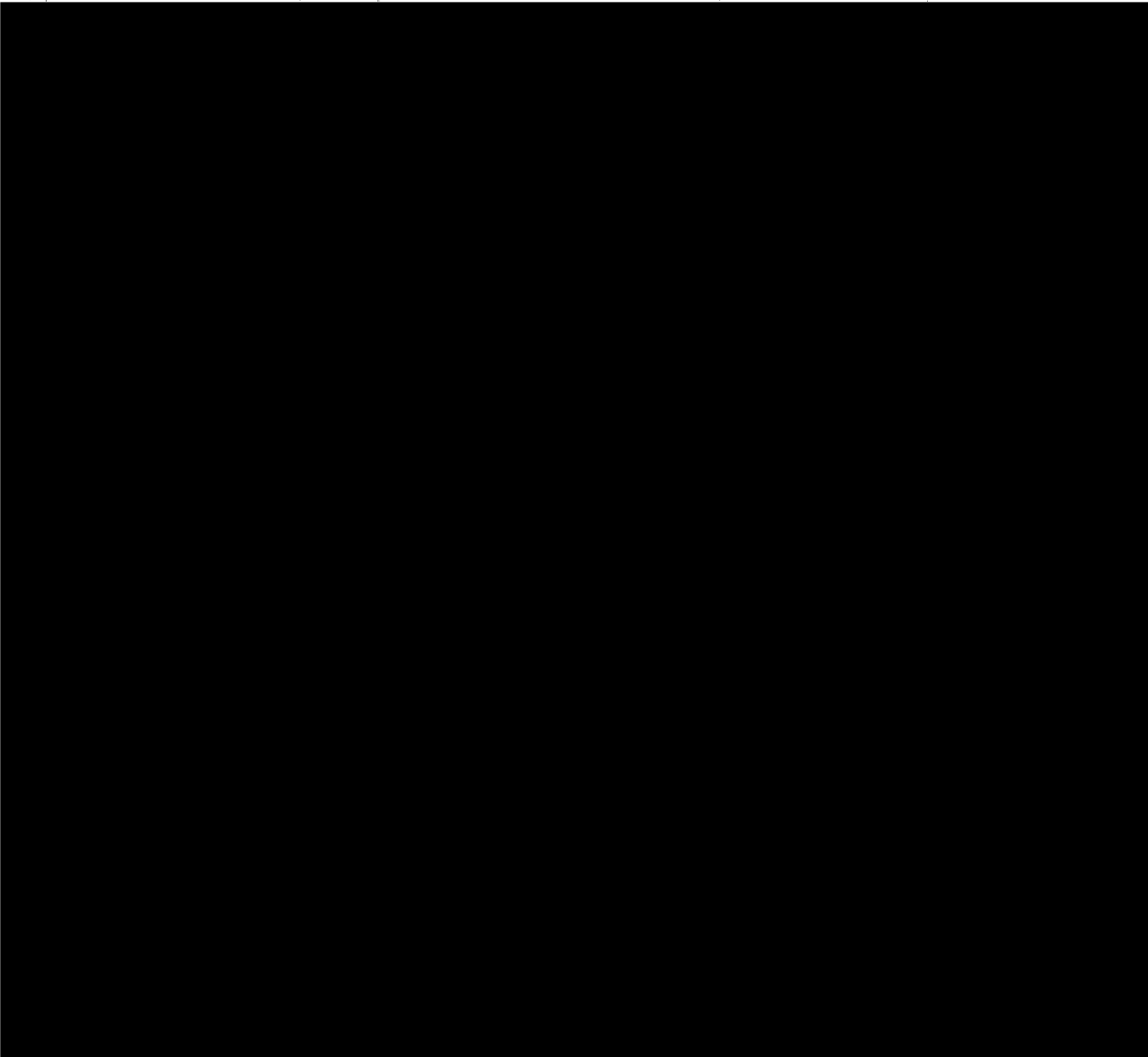
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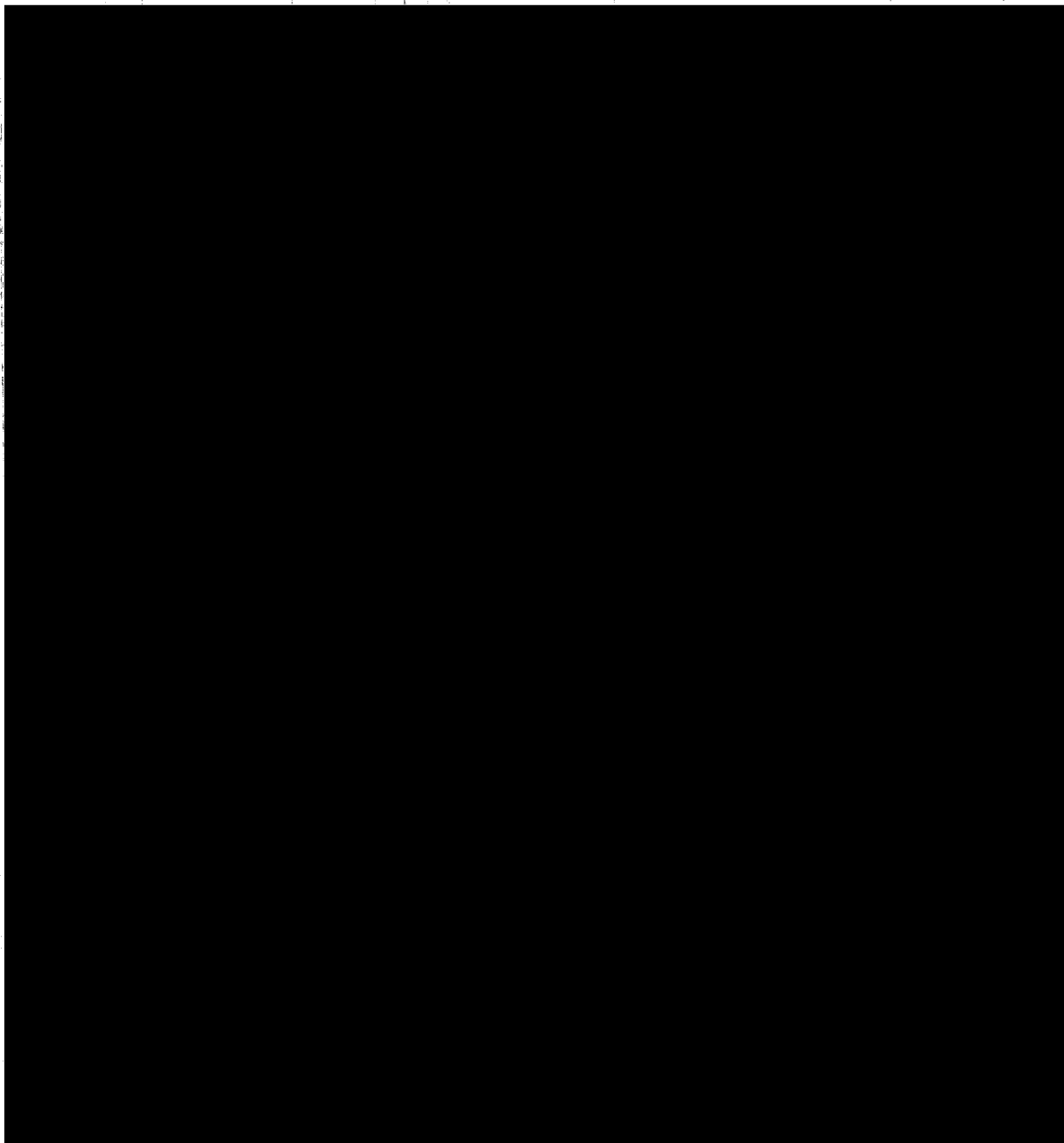
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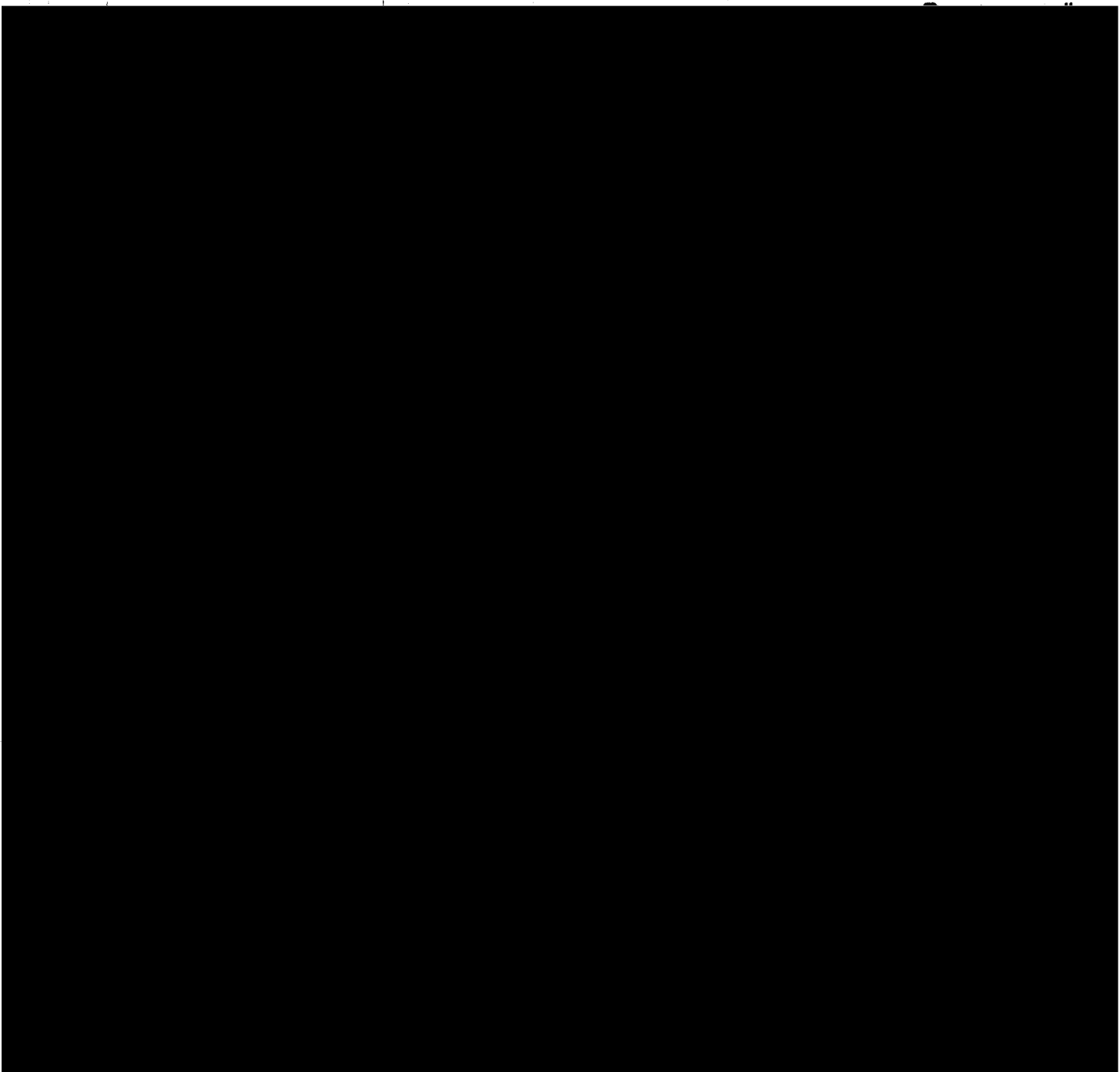
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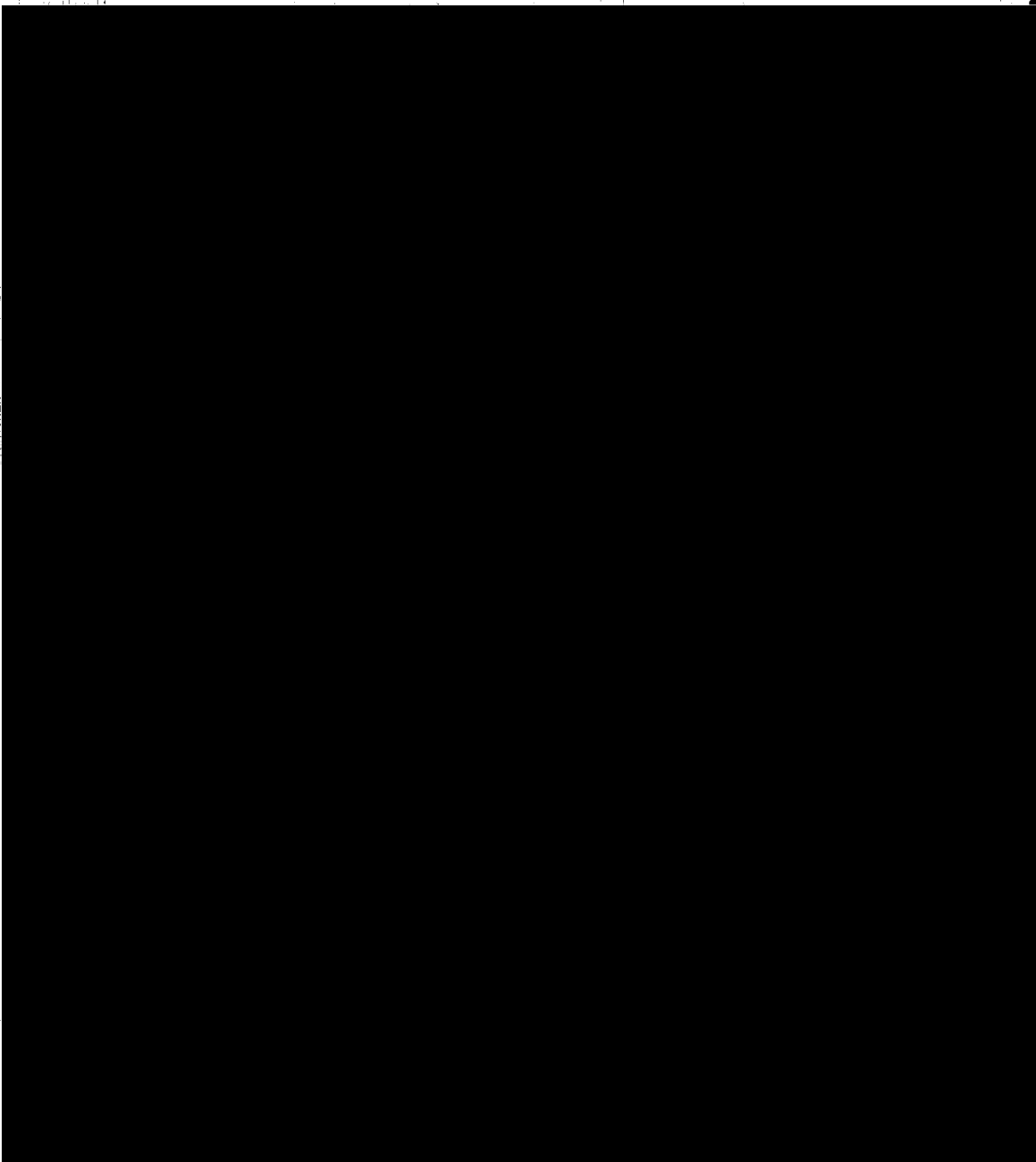
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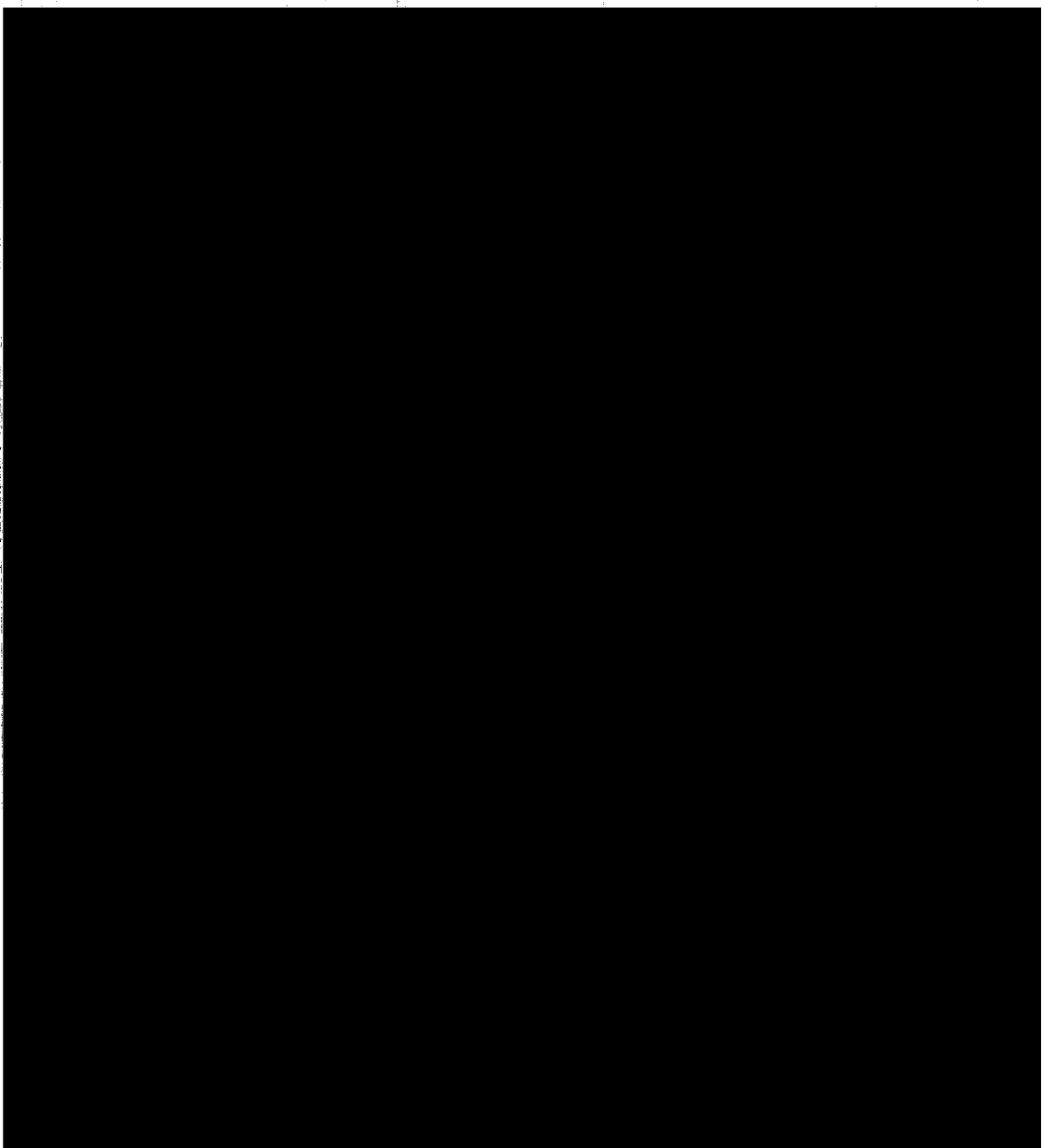
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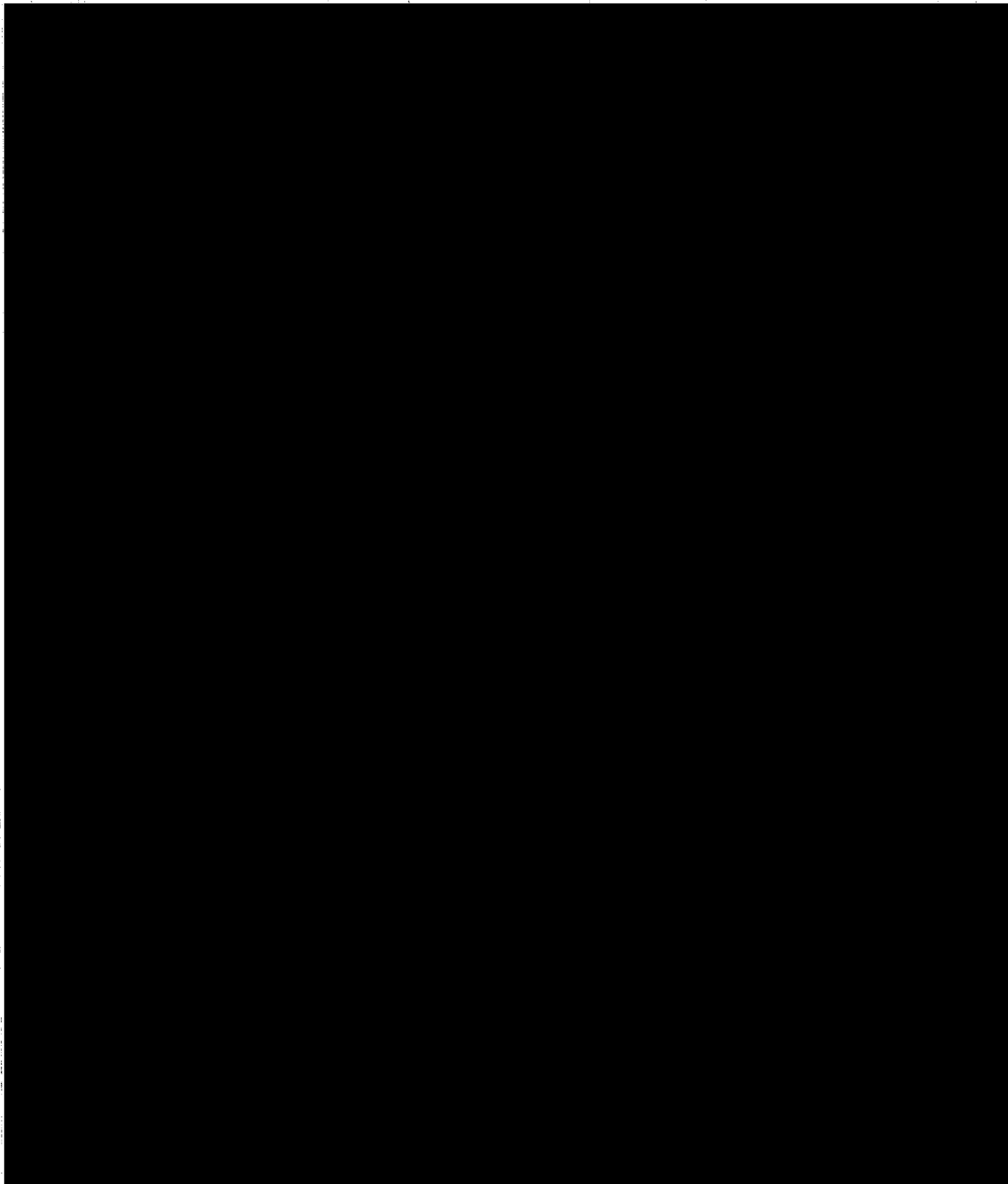
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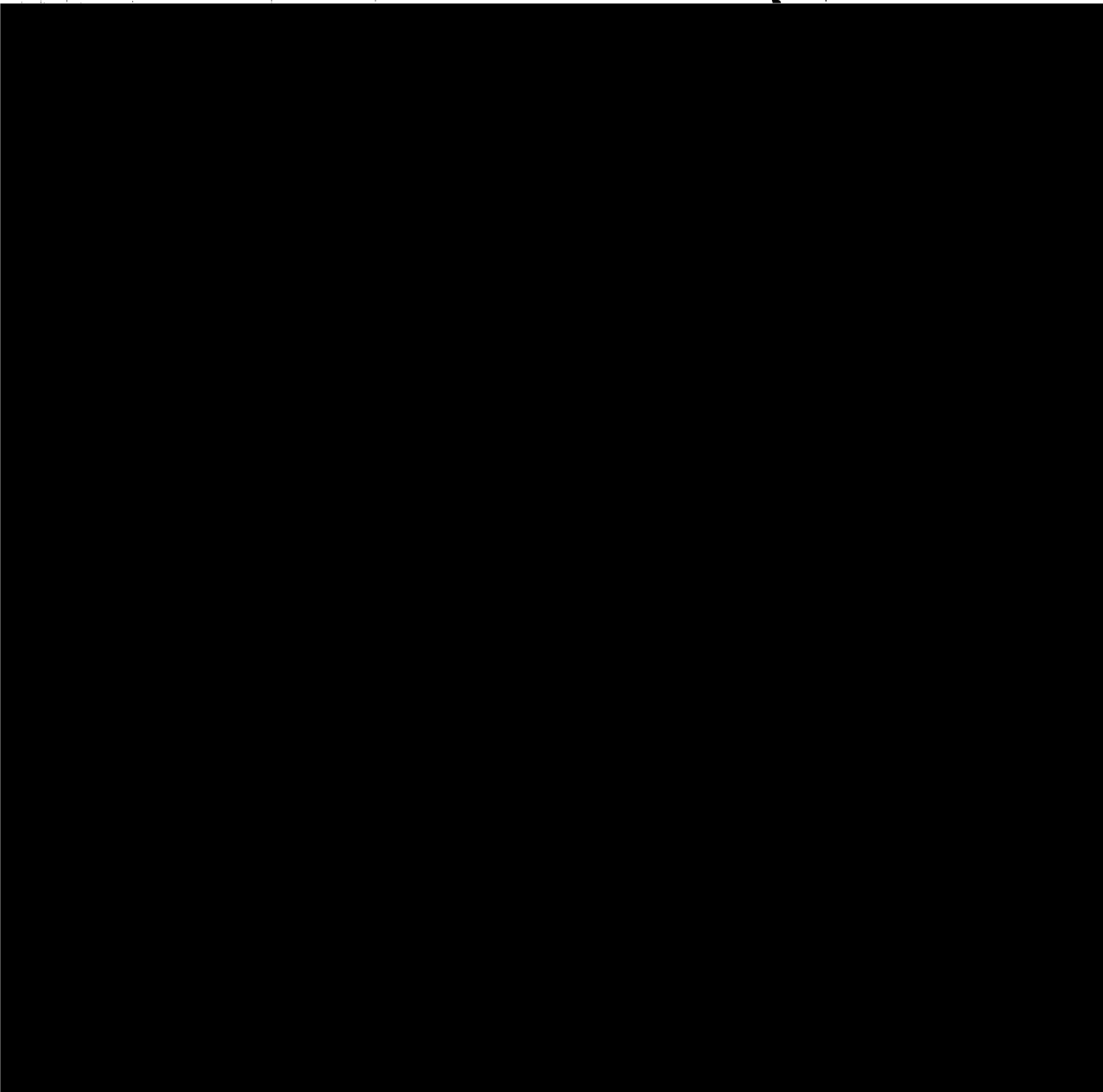
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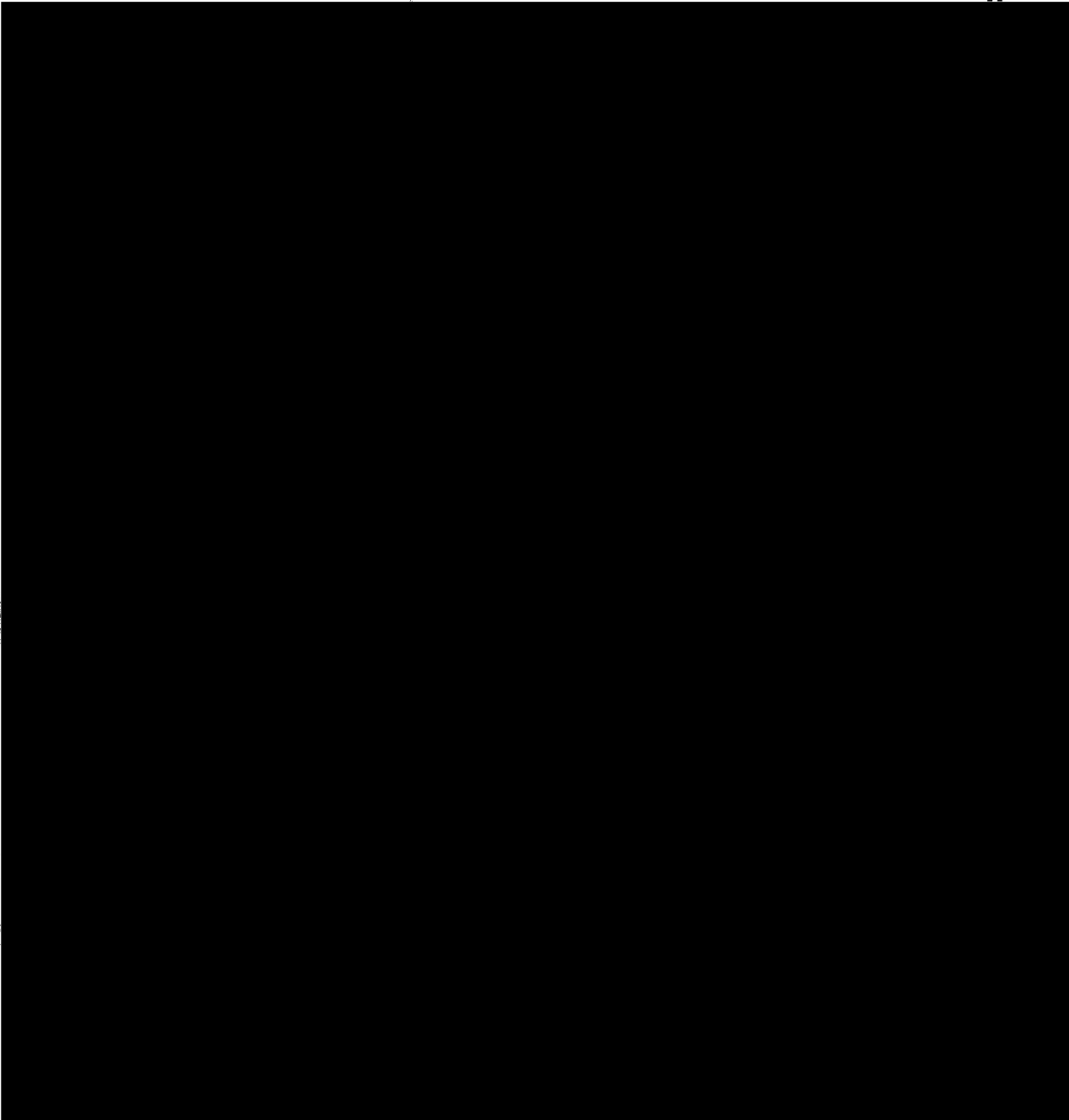
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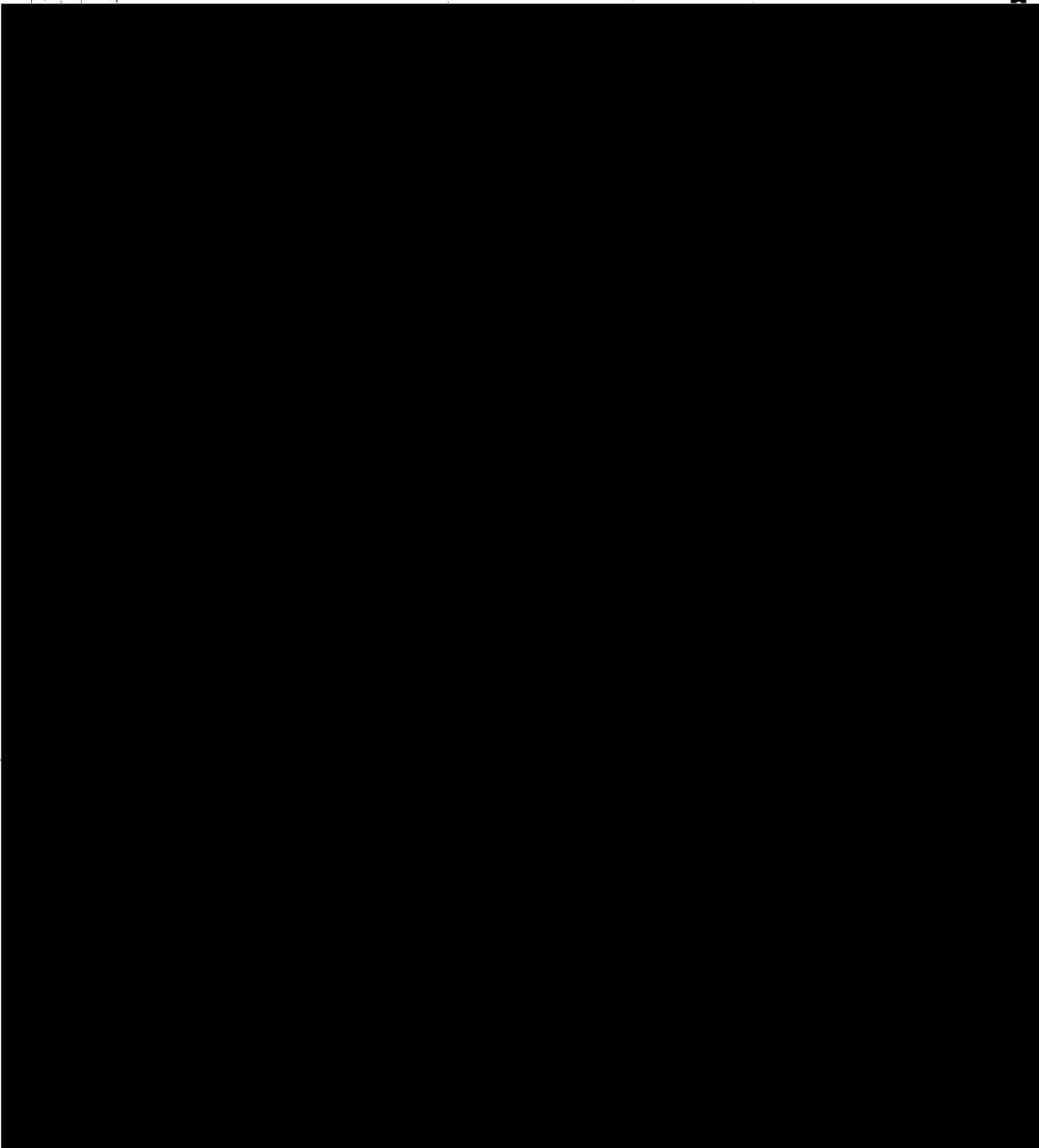
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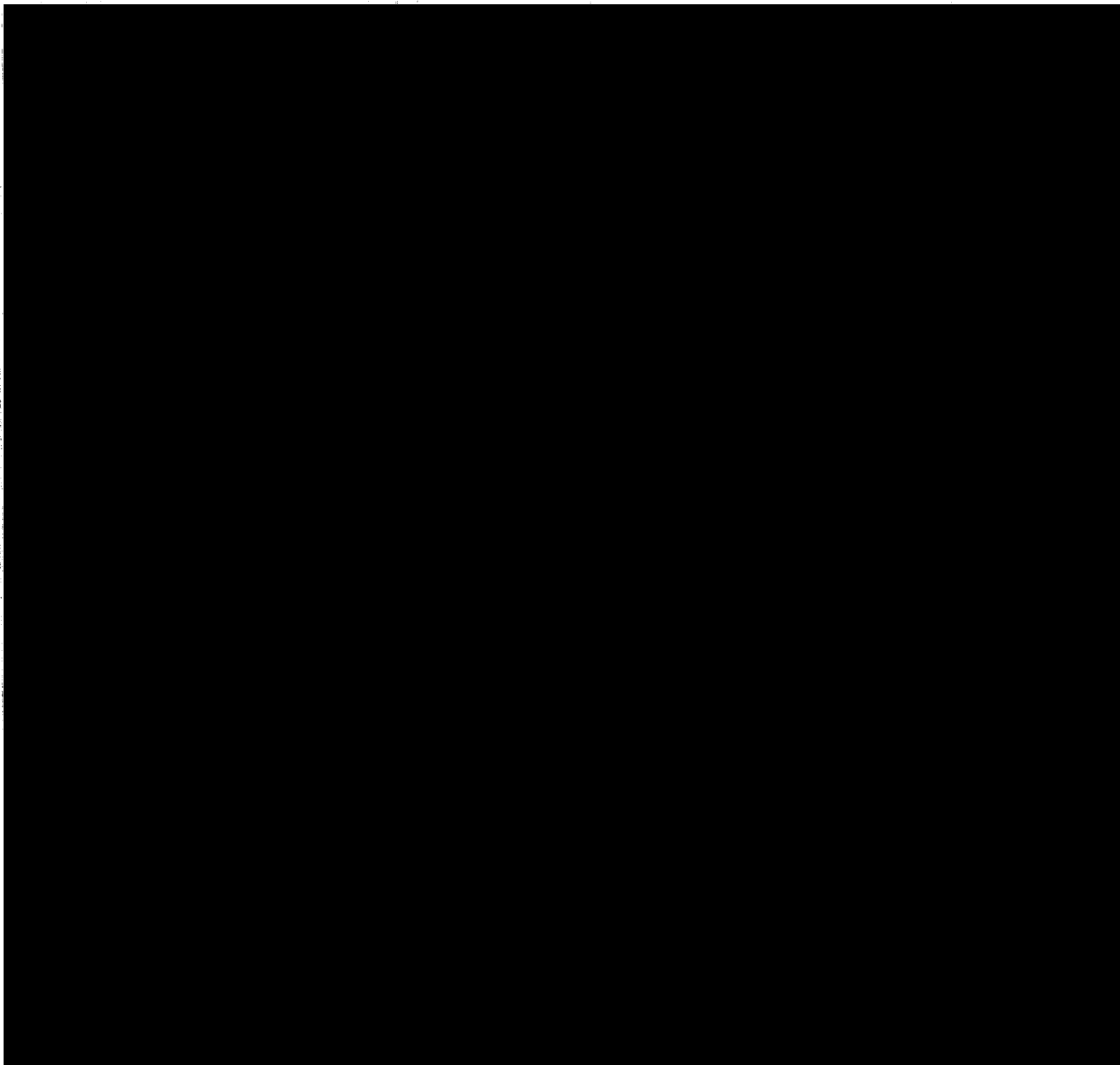
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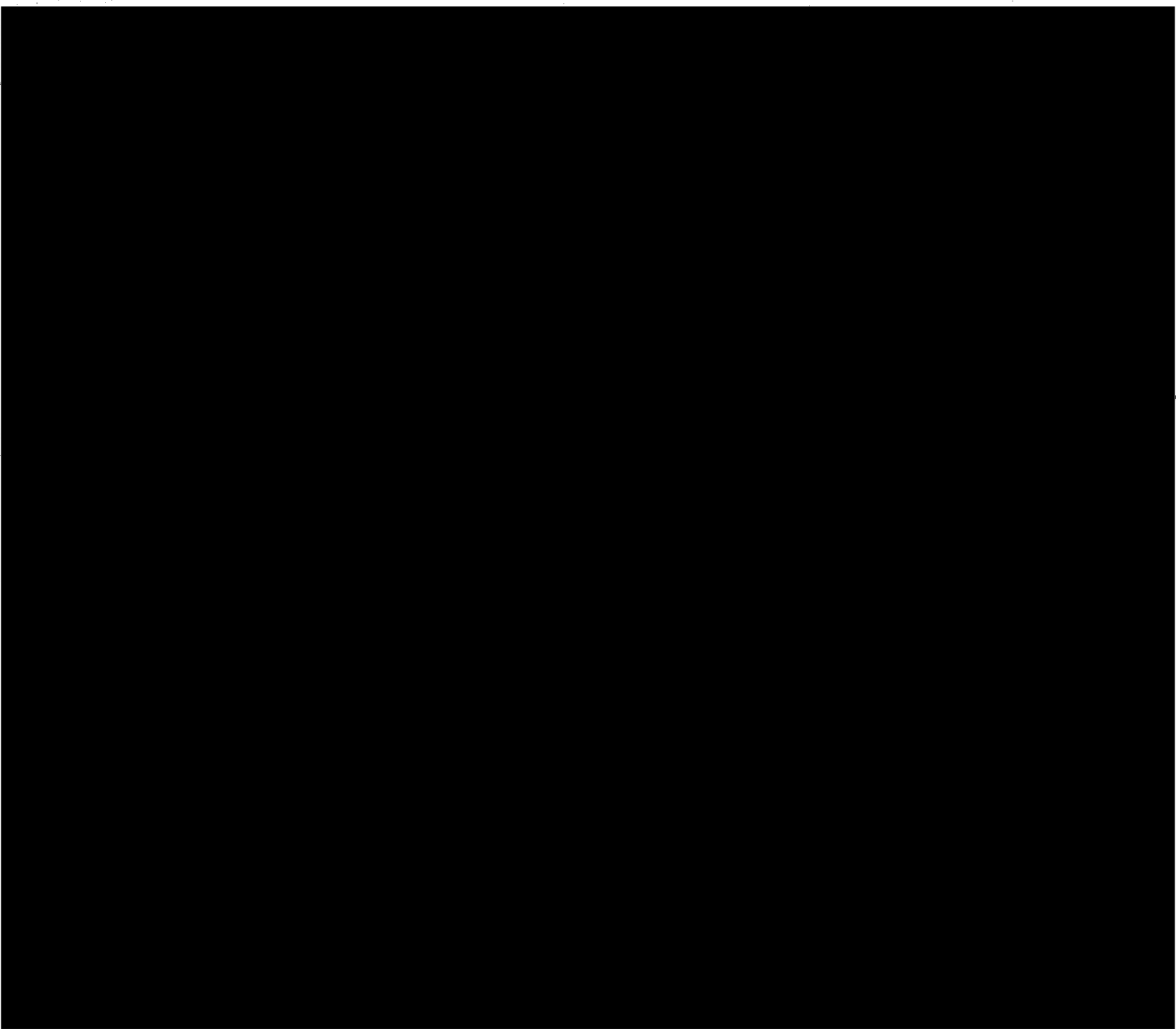
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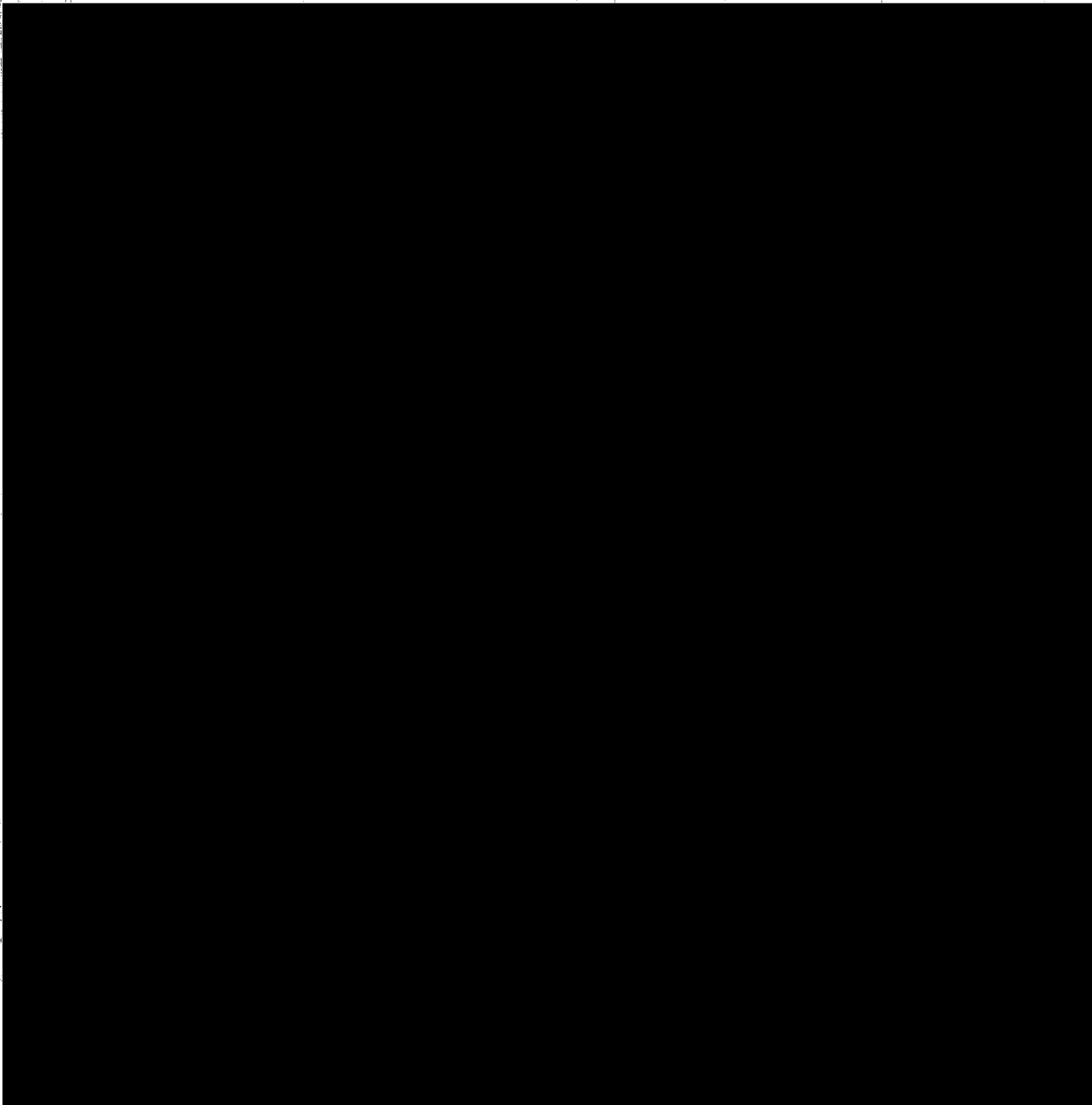
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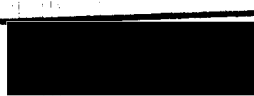
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