

# THE VILNIUS JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

thinking  
outside the  
books

# THE VILNIUS JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

**I. Introduction**

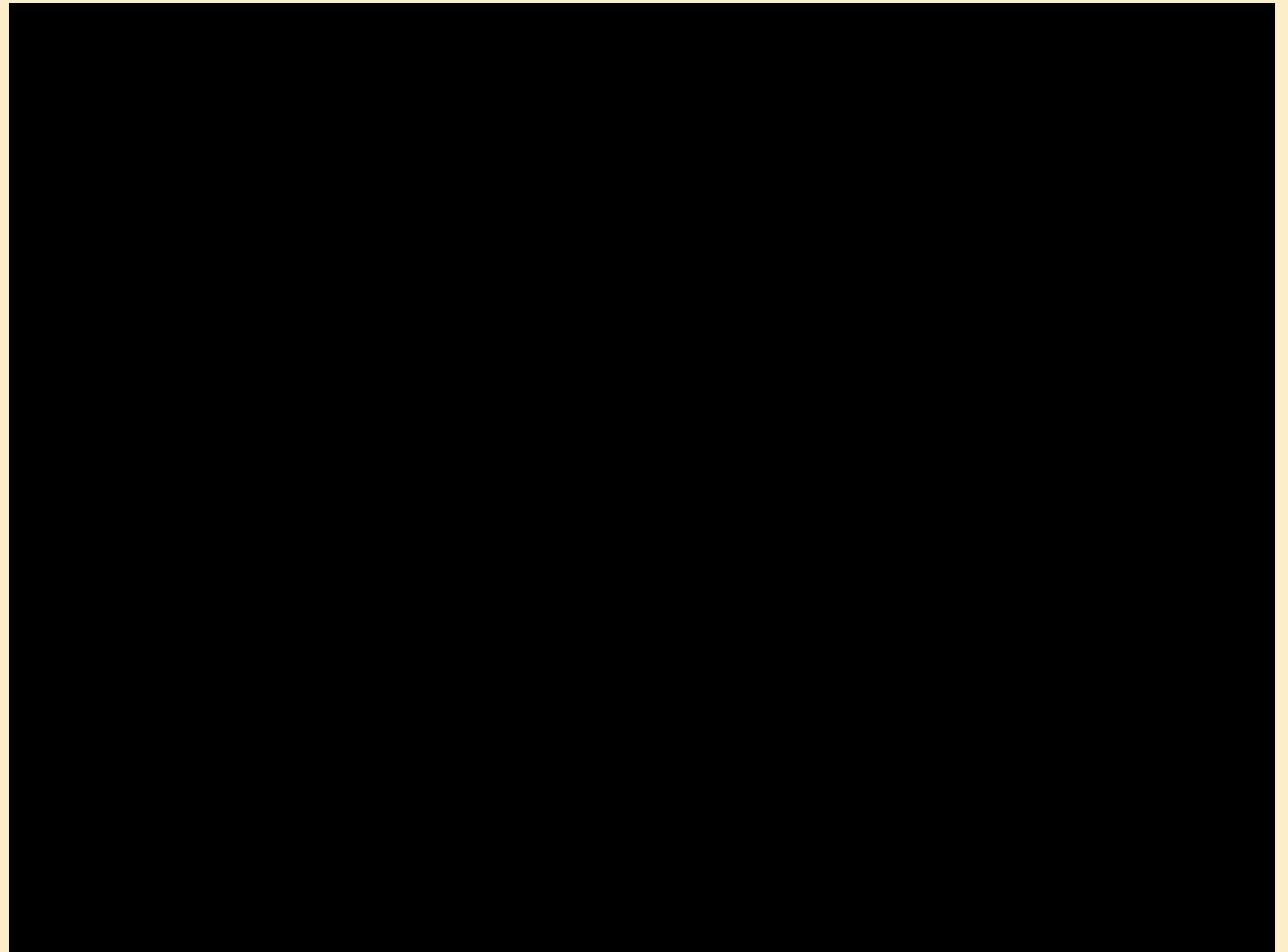
**II. Lithuania – a historic overview**

**III. The founding of the VJPL**

**IV. Q&A**

# THE VILNIUS JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

## I. Introduction



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## II. Lithuania – a historic overview



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## II. Lithuania – a historic overview



Annals of Quedlingburg (1009)  
16th century copy (Dresden)

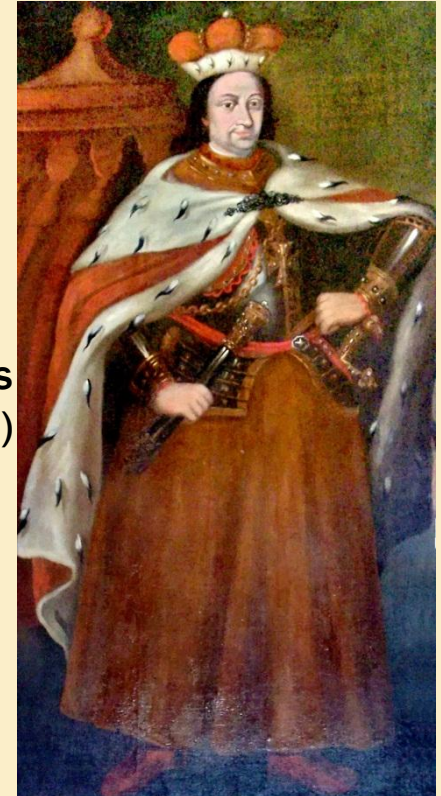
- First Jews in Lithuania: 8th century

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## II. Lithuania – a historic overview



**Grand Duke Gediminas (1275-1341)**



**Grand Duke Vytautas  
(1350-1430)**



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## II. Lithuania – a historic overview

**Casimir the Great (1310-1370)  
King of Poland**



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## II. Lithuania – a historic overview

**Alexander Jagiellon (1461-1506)**  
Grand Duke of Lithuania  
Later King of Poland





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## II. Lithuania – a historic overview

- **1569: Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth**
- **1795: Lithuania became part of the Russian Empire**
- **1918: independent republic under German occupation**
- **1939: secret Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact**
- **1941: Nazis invaded Lithuania**

→ total support from the Lithuanian population

→ 90% of the Jewish population was murdered with the help of Lithuanians

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## III. The Founding of the VJPL

### Baptist From Virginia Toils for Jewish Library in Vilnius

By Rebecca Spence

Published November 28, 2007, issue of November 30, 2007.

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**San Diego** — If one longtime San Diego resident fulfills his life's dream, Vilnius, Lithuania, will once again emerge as a capital of Jewish life in Eastern Europe.

But the man in question is a strange candidate for the task: He is neither a Yiddish scholar nor a Holocaust survivor, nor is he a descendant of the Vilna Gaon — the great 18th-century talmudic scholar of Vilna — looking to resurrect an ancestral legacy.

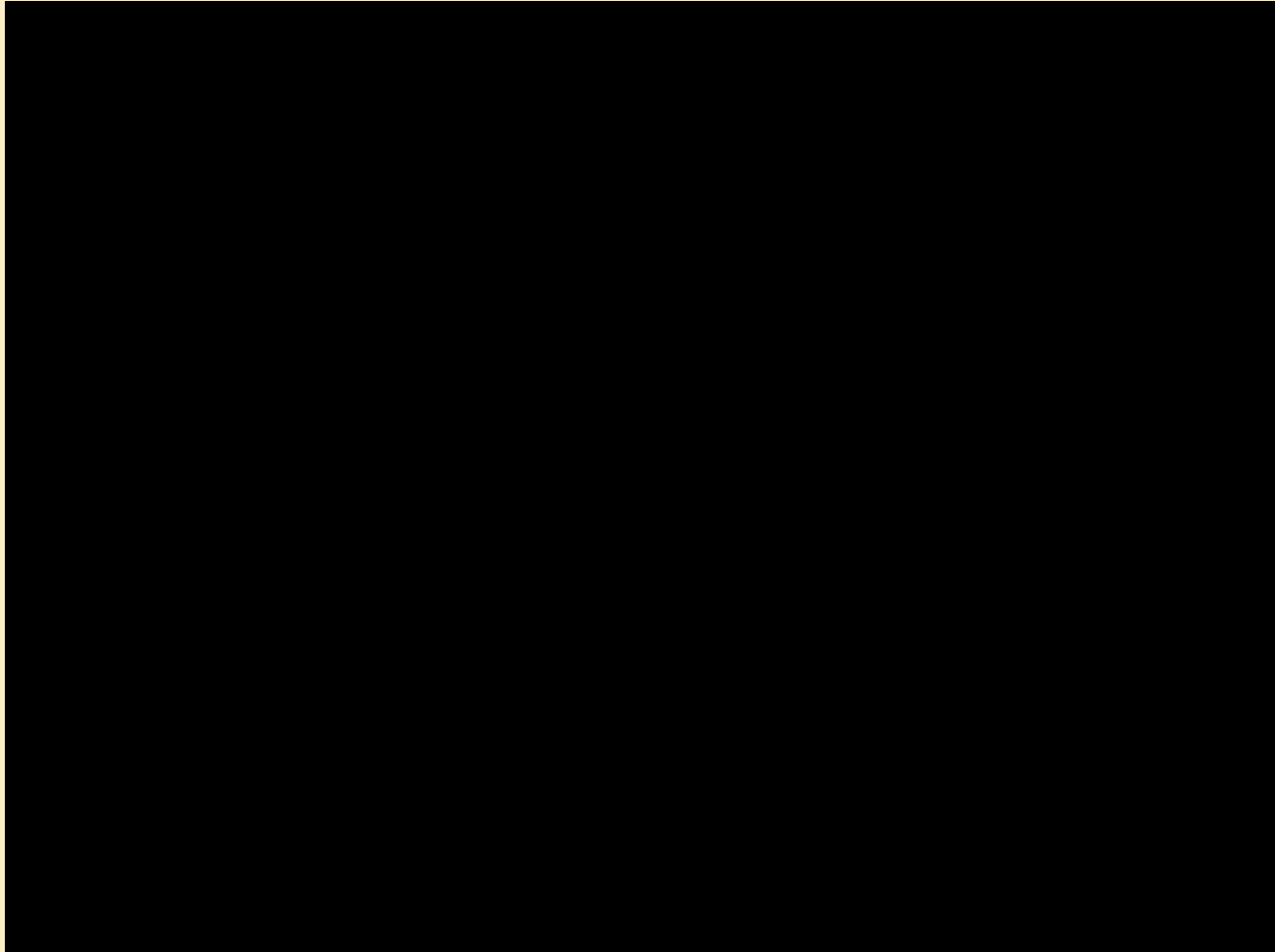
In fact, Wyman Brent isn't even Jewish.

This unlikely champion of a Jewish renaissance in Vilnius, which in pre-Holocaust days was

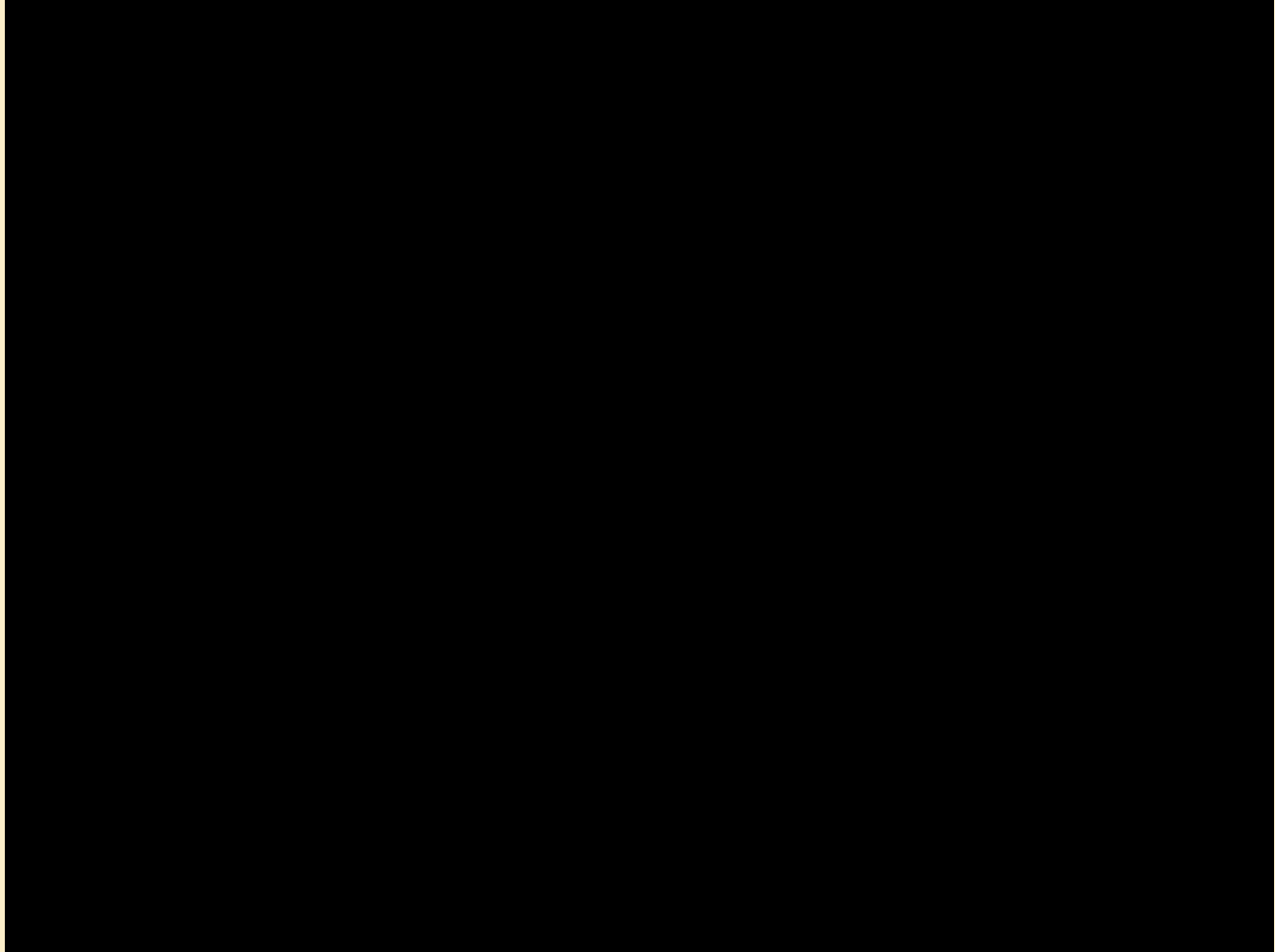


- 2004: idea for the library
- 2007: 4,500 items
- 2008: items shipped over to Lithuania
- 2009: three offers for a space for the library fell through
- 2010: offer from the Lithuanian government

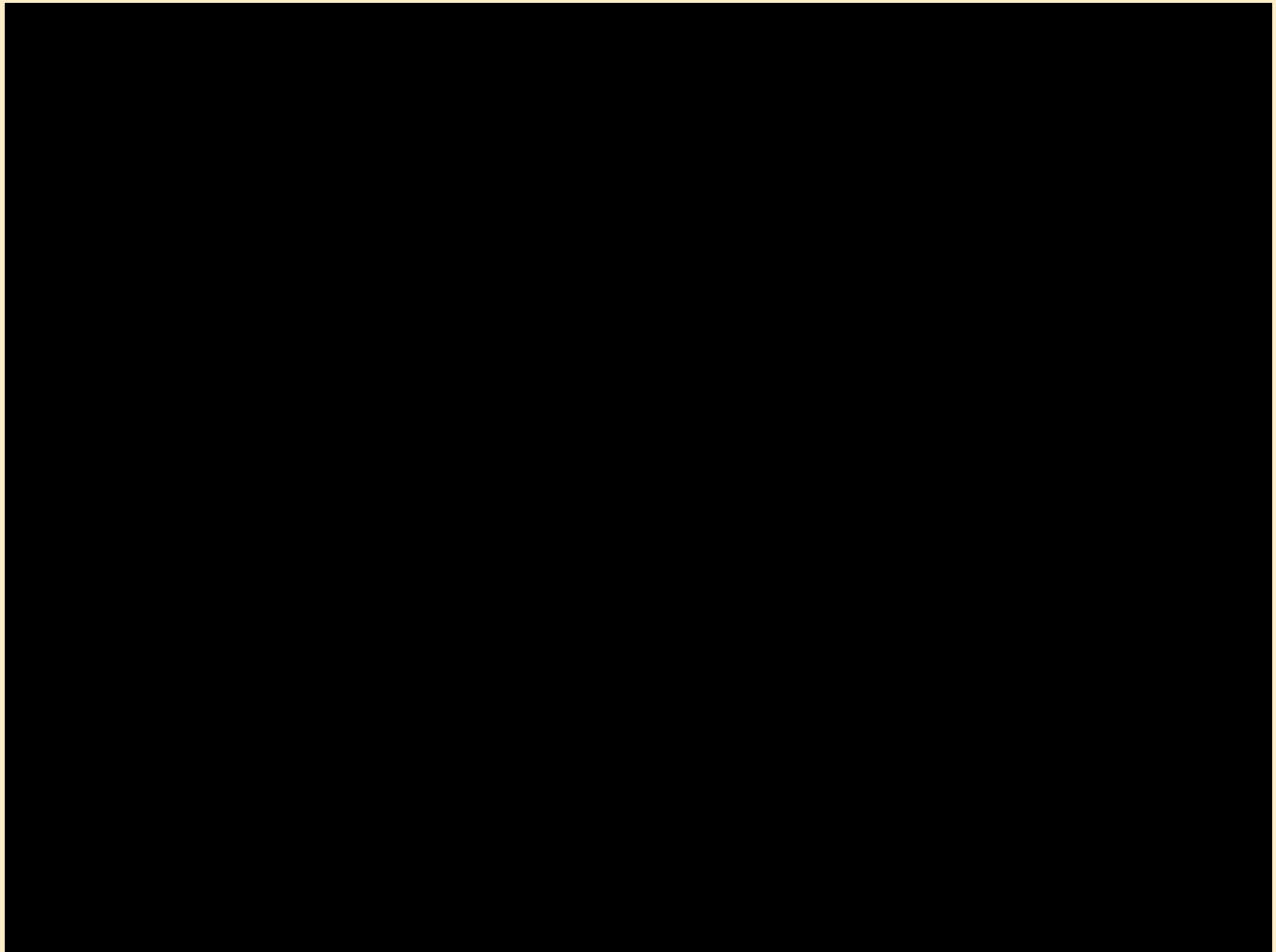
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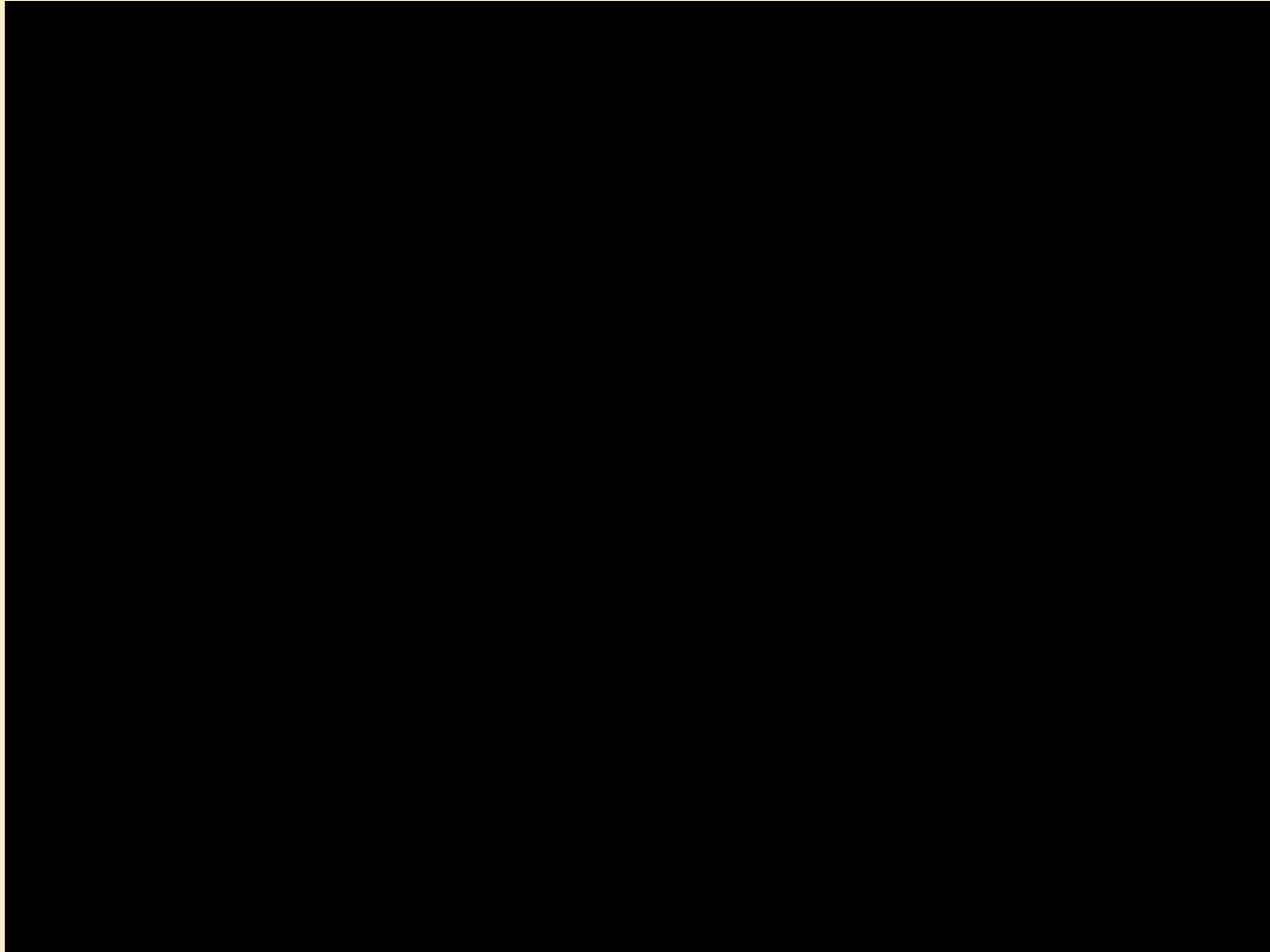
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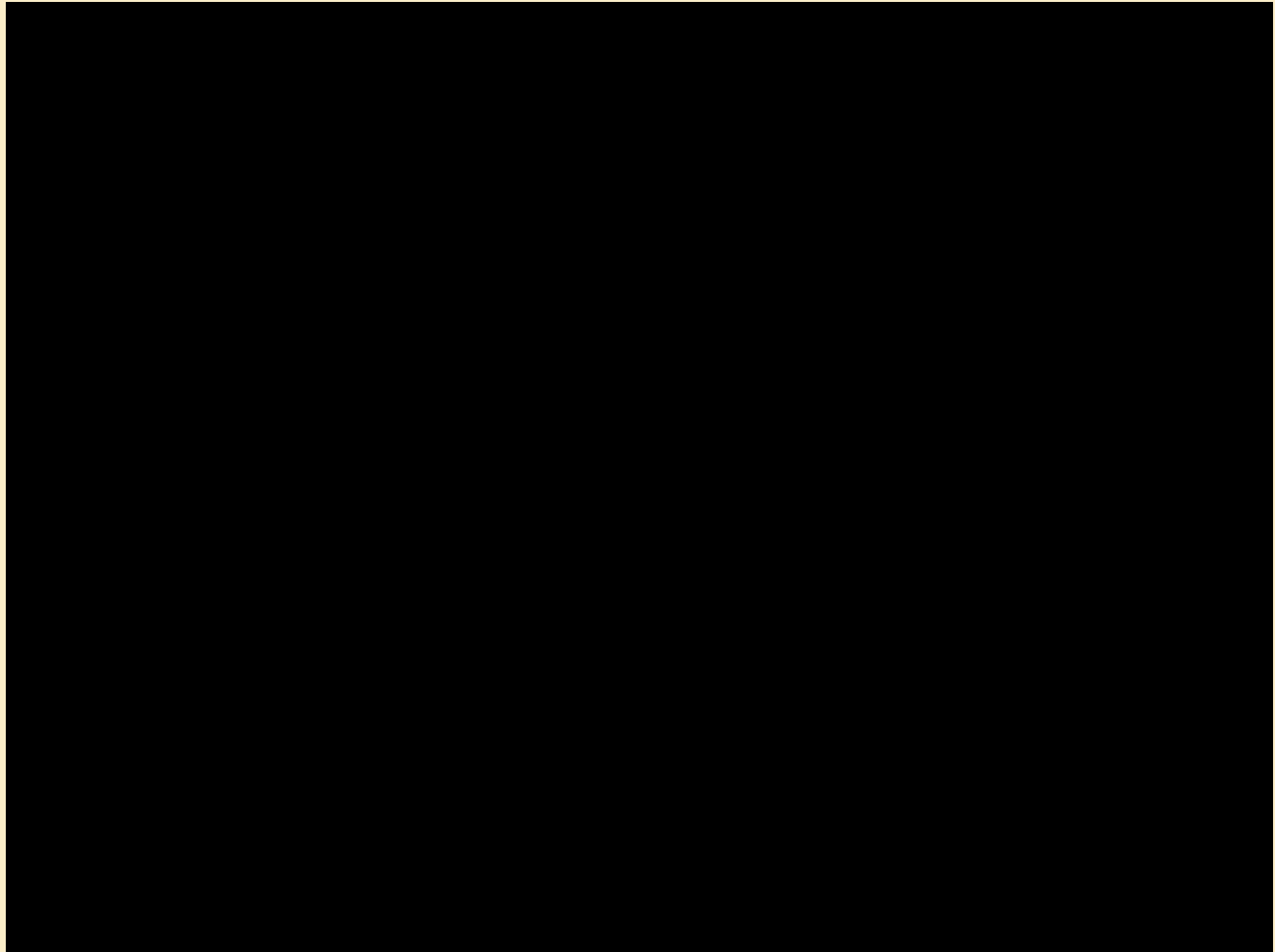




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## IV. Q&A