.. note::

When evaluating :ref:`Variable References` of the form ``${VAR}``, CMake

first searches for a normal variable with that name. If no such normal

variable exists, CMake will then search for a cache entry with that name.

Because of this, \*\*unsetting a normal variable can expose a cache variable

that was previously hidden\*\*. To force a variable reference of the form

``${VAR}`` to return an empty string, use ``set(<variable> "")``, which

clears the normal variable but leaves it defined.