

Over the top a raw journey to self love PDF

Over the Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love

Embarking on a journey toward self-love can often feel overwhelming, raw, and deeply personal. It's a process that requires vulnerability, patience, and unwavering commitment to oneself. In a world saturated with unrealistic standards and curated images, embracing your authentic self is more important than ever. This article explores the transformative journey of over the top self-love—a raw, unfiltered experience that encourages embracing your true self, overcoming obstacles, and cultivating lasting self-acceptance.

Understanding the Concept of Over the Top Self-Love

What Does Over the Top Self-Love Mean?

Over the top self-love is about going beyond societal expectations and superficial affirmations, diving into a deep, unfiltered appreciation of oneself. It involves celebrating your flaws, embracing imperfections, and recognizing your worth without shame or hesitation. It's a bold, unapologetic stance that prioritizes your mental, emotional, and physical well-being.

Why Is It Important?

The importance of over the top self-love lies in its ability to:

- Build resilience against external criticism
- Foster a healthy self-image
- Improve mental health and reduce anxiety
- Encourage authentic relationships
- Promote personal growth and empowerment

The Raw Journey to Self-Love: Step-by-Step

1. Confront Your Inner Critic

The first step in this journey involves recognizing and challenging your inner voice that undermines your confidence. This inner critic often manifests as negative self-talk, doubts, or shame.

Practical Tips:

- Keep a journal to track negative thoughts
- Challenge these thoughts with evidence of your strengths
- Replace criticism with compassionate affirmations

2. Embrace Your Flaws and Imperfections

True self-love requires acceptance of all aspects of yourself?flaws, scars, quirks, and vulnerabilities.

Ways to embrace imperfection:

- Write down what you dislike about yourself and reframe it positively
- Share your vulnerabilities with trusted friends or therapists
- Practice self-compassion daily

3. Set Boundaries and Prioritize Self-Care

Protecting your energy and well-being is crucial. Over the top self-love involves setting healthy boundaries and engaging in self-care routines.

Self-care ideas include:

- Regular physical activity
- Mindfulness and meditation
- Adequate rest and nutrition
- Engaging in hobbies that bring joy

4. Celebrate Your Achievements and Progress

Acknowledge every victory, no matter how small, to reinforce your sense of worth.

Ways to celebrate:

- Create a success journal
- Share your achievements with supportive friends
- Treat yourself to something special

5. Practice Authentic Self-Expression

Expressing your true self in your style, opinions, and emotions fosters authenticity and confidence.

Tips for genuine self-expression:

- Wear what makes you feel confident
- Share your thoughts honestly
- Engage in creative outlets like art, music, or writing

Overcoming Challenges on the Self-Love Journey

Dealing with External Criticism

Criticism from others can be a major hurdle. Developing resilience involves:

- Recognizing that others' opinions are a reflection of them, not you
- Cultivating a strong inner voice
- Surrounding yourself with positive influences

Overcoming Self-Doubt

Self-doubt often creeps in during vulnerable moments. To combat it:

- Practice affirmations daily
- Recall past successes
- Seek support from mentors or communities

Managing Setbacks and Relapses

Setbacks are part of the process. When they happen:

- Be gentle with yourself
- Reflect on lessons learned
- Recommit to your journey

The Role of Mindfulness and Self-Compassion

Mindfulness as a Tool for Self-Love

Practicing mindfulness helps you stay present and aware of your thoughts and feelings without judgment.

Mindfulness practices include:

- Meditation sessions
- Deep breathing exercises
- Body scans

Self-Compassion Strategies

Being kind to yourself during tough times accelerates healing and growth.

Strategies include:

- Writing compassionate letters to yourself
- Using gentle language during inner dialogue
- Allowing yourself to rest and recharge

Building a Supportive Environment

Surrounding Yourself with Positivity

Your environment influences your self-perception. Cultivate spaces and relationships that uplift and empower you.

Suggestions:

- Unfollow toxic social media accounts
- Engage with communities that promote self-love
- Spend time with supportive friends and family

Seeking Professional Help

Sometimes, the journey requires external support.

When to seek help:

- Persistent feelings of worthlessness
- Severe anxiety or depression
- Trauma or past experiences hindering self-acceptance

Types of support:

- Therapy or counseling
- Support groups
- Coaching or mentorship

Maintaining Your Over the Top Self-Love Long-Term

Consistent Practice and Self-Check-Ins

Self-love is an ongoing process. Regularly evaluating your progress helps maintain momentum.

Methods:

- Weekly reflection prompts
- Celebrating milestones
- Adjusting self-care routines

Integrating Self-Love into Daily Life

Make self-love a daily habit.

Daily practices:

- Affirmations upon waking
- Gratitude journaling
- Mindful moments throughout the day

Embracing the Evolution

Understand that your journey is unique and ever-evolving. Be open to growth, change, and new facets of yourself.

Conclusion: The Power of Over the Top Self-Love

Embarking on an over the top, raw journey to self-love is transformative. It's about more than superficial positivity; it's an act of rebellion against societal pressure and an affirmation of your inherent worth. By confronting your inner critic, embracing imperfections, setting boundaries, and practicing self-compassion, you create a foundation of authentic love for yourself. This journey demands courage, resilience, and honesty, but the rewards—inner peace, confidence, and genuine happiness—are well worth the effort. Remember, self-love is a continuous adventure—embrace every step with openness and kindness.

Keywords: over the top self-love, journey to self-love, self-acceptance, self-care, self-compassion, authentic self-expression, mental health, resilience, personal growth, self-esteem, mindfulness

Over the Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love

Embarking on a journey toward self-love is arguably one of the most profound and transformative experiences an individual can undertake. It's a path paved with raw honesty, vulnerability, setbacks, triumphs, and ultimately, a deep understanding and acceptance of oneself. This journey is rarely linear; it is complex, layered, and deeply personal. In this piece, we explore the multifaceted process of cultivating self-love, emphasizing its raw and unfiltered nature, and offering insights into navigating this profound voyage.

Understanding Self-Love: The Foundation of Personal Fulfillment

Before diving into the "how" of self-love, it's essential to understand what it truly entails. Self-love is often misunderstood as superficial confidence or vanity, but in reality, it is a deep, unwavering appreciation for oneself that encompasses acceptance, compassion, and respect.

What Self-Love Is and Isn't

- Self-love is not narcissism or arrogance. It's rooted in humility and genuine regard for oneself.
- It is not about perfection. Accepting flaws, imperfections, and vulnerabilities is central.
- It involves boundaries. Respecting your needs and limits is a form of self-respect.
- It's an ongoing process. Self-love is cultivated daily, not achieved overnight.

The Core Components of Self-Love

- Self-Acceptance: Embracing who you are, including your imperfections.
- Self-Compassion: Being kind to yourself during failures and setbacks.
- Self-Respect: Setting boundaries that honor your well-being.
- Self-Trust: Believing in your own judgment and abilities.

- Self-Awareness: Recognizing your thoughts, feelings, and motivations honestly.

The Raw Reality of the Self-Love Journey

Embarking on this voyage is often messy and uncomfortable. It involves peeling back layers of societal conditioning, past trauma, and self-imposed limitations. Here's a candid look at what this process entails.

Confronting the Inner Critic

Many people carry a relentless inner voice that criticizes, belittles, or doubts their worth. Listening to this voice is painful but necessary to understand the origins of self-hate or insecurity.

- Identify the Critic: Notice the negative self-talk and patterns.
- Understand Its Roots: Often, this voice stems from childhood experiences, societal standards, or past failures.
- Challenge Its Validity: Question whether these criticisms are true or exaggerated.
- Reframe the Narrative: Replace harsh judgments with compassionate words.

Facing Vulnerability and Shame

True self-love requires exposing your vulnerabilities, which can be terrifying and shame-inducing.

- Acknowledge Your Shame: Recognize what makes you feel unworthy or flawed.
- Share Your Feelings: Speak with trusted friends or therapists about your vulnerabilities.
- Practice Self-Compassion: Offer kindness to yourself for your imperfections.
- Understand That Vulnerability Is Strength: It fosters genuine connection and growth.

Dealing with Societal and External Pressures

External influences—media, peers, cultural norms—often impose unrealistic standards of beauty, success, and happiness.

- Unplug from Toxic Influences: Limit exposure to social media or environments that undermine self-esteem.
- Create Your Own Standards: Define what success and happiness mean to you.
- Surround Yourself with Supportive People: Seek relationships that uplift and validate you.

Practical Steps Toward Self-Love

While the emotional and mental aspects are critical, actionable steps help transform intention into practice.

1. Cultivate Mindfulness and Self-Awareness

- Practice daily meditation or journaling to connect with your inner self.
- Observe your thoughts without judgment, noting patterns of negativity.
- Recognize your emotional responses and what triggers them.

2. Engage in Self-Care Rituals

- Prioritize activities that nourish your body, mind, and soul.
- Develop routines like skincare, exercise, reading, or creative expression.
- Remember that self-care isn't indulgent; it's necessary.

3. Set Boundaries Ruthlessly

- Learn to say no without guilt.
- Protect your energy by distancing from toxic relationships.
- Communicate your needs assertively.

4. Practice Affirmations and Positive Self-Talk

- Use empowering statements like "I am worthy" or "I deserve love."
- Counteract negative thoughts with evidence of your strengths and achievements.

5. Seek Support and Professional Help

- Therapy or counseling can provide a safe space for exploration and healing.
- Join support groups or communities focused on self-love and personal growth.

The Challenges and Setbacks: Embracing the Rawness

The journey to self-love is riddled with hurdles, and embracing these challenges is part of the

process.

Common Obstacles

- Relentless Self-Doubt: Persistent feelings of inadequacy.
- Fear of Change: Resistance to stepping outside comfort zones.
- Recurrent Negative Patterns: Old habits of self-sabotage or self-criticism.
- External Negativity: Critics or unsupportive environments.

Strategies for Overcoming Challenges

- Practice Patience: Self-love is a marathon, not a sprint.
- Celebrate Small Wins: Recognize and reward progress, no matter how minor.
- Maintain a Growth Mindset: View setbacks as opportunities for learning.
- Stay Committed: Reaffirm your intention to prioritize your well-being.

The Power of Vulnerability and Authenticity

One of the most profound truths about self-love is that vulnerability is the gateway to authenticity. Showing up as your true self, unfiltered and imperfect, fosters genuine self-acceptance.

- Share Your Story: Be open about your struggles and victories.
- Accept Compliments Gracefully: Internalize positive feedback rather than dismissing it.
- Express Your True Feelings: Honesty with oneself and others reinforces self-respect.

Transforming Self-Love into a Lifestyle

Self-love isn't a fleeting phase but a sustained way of living.

Embedding Self-Love in Daily Life

- Start each day with a moment of gratitude for yourself.
- Make daily affirmations a routine.
- Regularly reflect on your progress and adjust your practices.
- Celebrate your uniqueness and progress without comparison.

Creating a Supportive Environment

- Curate your social circles to include uplifting individuals.
- Decorate your space with affirmations and symbols of self-worth.
- Engage in communities or activities that reinforce your values.

Conclusion: An Ongoing, Courageous Voyage

The raw journey to self-love is indeed challenging, often uncomfortable, and deeply personal. It demands courage to confront internal voices, face vulnerabilities, and defy societal expectations. Yet, it is also profoundly rewarding—a path that leads to inner peace, resilience, and authentic happiness.

Remember, self-love is not a destination but an ongoing practice. It requires patience, persistence, and compassion. Embrace the imperfections, celebrate the progress, and honor your unique journey. In doing so, you transform your relationship with yourself, unlocking a wellspring of strength, joy, and genuine fulfillment that sustains you through life's inevitable ups and downs.

Your journey to self-love, with all its rawness and authenticity, is a testament to your resilience and a declaration of your worth. Embrace it fully—you are deserving of love, especially from yourself.

QuestionAnswer What inspired the creation of 'Over the Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love'? The series was inspired by real-life stories of individuals overcoming personal struggles and embracing their authentic selves, highlighting the importance of self-love and mental health awareness. How does 'Over the Top' address mental health and self-acceptance? 'Over the Top' candidly explores the characters' emotional journeys, challenges societal expectations, and offers honest conversations about vulnerability, resilience, and the power of self-acceptance. Who is the target audience for 'Over the Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love'? The series primarily targets young adults and anyone interested in mental health, personal growth, and authentic storytelling that encourages self-reflection and empowerment. What makes 'Over the Top' stand out among other self-love narratives? Its raw, unfiltered portrayal of real struggles, combined with diverse perspectives and honest storytelling, sets it apart as a genuine and relatable journey toward self-love. How can viewers apply the lessons from 'Over the Top' to their own lives? Viewers are encouraged to embrace vulnerability, prioritize self-care, challenge societal pressures, and foster a positive relationship with themselves, inspired by the series' empowering messages.

Related keywords: self-discovery, personal growth, inner strength, empowerment, vulnerability, emotional healing, authenticity, self-acceptance, transformation, resilience

love is eternal

Love is eternal. This timeless declaration encapsulates a profound truth that has resonated across cultures, religions, and generations. It speaks to the enduring power of love—a force that transcends the boundaries of time, space, and circumstance. Throughout history, poets, philosophers, spiritual leaders, and everyday people have celebrated love's everlasting nature, asserting that true love remains unbroken despite life's inevitable challenges. In this comprehensive exploration, we will delve into the many facets of love as an eternal phenomenon, examining its spiritual, psychological, cultural, and scientific dimensions.

The Concept of Eternal Love in History and Culture

Ancient Civilizations and Their Views on Love

Ancient societies often regarded love as a divine or mystical force. For example:

- The Greeks believed in agape, a selfless, unconditional love that was eternal and divine.
- In Hinduism, the concept of Bhakti emphasizes devotion and love for the divine, which is everlasting.
- In Egyptian mythology, love was seen as a fundamental aspect of the universe, connected with the eternal cycle of life and death.

These beliefs highlight a universal recognition that love is not merely a fleeting emotion but a profound, everlasting connection.

Love in Religious Texts and Spiritual Traditions

Many spiritual traditions emphasize the eternal nature of love:

- The Christian Bible speaks of God's love as everlasting (Jeremiah 31:3) and the love among believers as a reflection of divine love.
- Buddhism teaches that love, compassion, and kindness are qualities to be cultivated eternally, leading to enlightenment.
- Islamic teachings highlight Allah's infinite mercy and love, which are eternal and unchanging.

These spiritual perspectives reinforce the idea that love is an eternal attribute that connects humans to the divine and to each other.

The Psychological Perspective: Love as an Enduring Bond

The Science Behind Love's Longevity

Modern psychology and neuroscience reveal that love involves complex brain chemistry and emotional bonding mechanisms:

- Neurotransmitters such as dopamine, oxytocin, and serotonin play key roles in feelings of attachment and pleasure.
- Long-term relationships are associated with sustained activity in brain regions linked to reward and attachment.

Research indicates that, with effort and commitment, love can deepen over time, transforming from passionate infatuation to a mature, enduring bond.

The Stages of Love and Their Duration

Understanding the natural progression of love helps to appreciate its eternal qualities:

- Initial Attraction ? characterized by excitement and infatuation.
- Deepening Connection ? involving trust, intimacy, and shared experiences.
- Companionship and Commitment ? where love becomes a stable, enduring partnership.

Many couples report that their love, when nurtured, remains resilient and grows stronger over the years, emphasizing its eternal nature.

Love's Eternal Nature in Personal Experience

Memories and Legacy

Love leaves an indelible mark on our lives:

- Memories of loved ones sustain us beyond their physical presence.
- Acts of love and kindness create a legacy that endures through generations.

These enduring memories affirm that love's impact is eternal, shaping identities and relationships long after moments have passed.

Enduring Love Stories

Throughout history, countless love stories exemplify eternal love:

- The tale of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal, whose love inspired the Taj Mahal, symbolizes everlasting devotion.
- The legend of Pyramus and Thisbe illustrates love's unwavering commitment despite obstacles.
- Modern stories of lifelong partnerships showcase how love can withstand time and adversity.

Such stories serve as powerful reminders that love, when true, is timeless.

The Science and Philosophy of Love's Eternity

Scientific Evidence Supporting Love's Endurance

Studies have shown that:

- Couples who maintain strong emotional bonds often report lasting satisfaction and happiness.
- Shared experiences and mutual support reinforce the enduring nature of love.
- Brain imaging studies reveal that long-term love activates similar neural pathways as initial romantic love, indicating a biological basis for love's persistence.

Philosophical Insights: Love as an Eternal Truth

Philosophers have long debated the nature of love:

- Plato described divine love as a pursuit of eternal beauty and truth.
- Kant believed love is an expression of moral duty that can be everlasting when rooted in goodness.
- Contemporary thinkers see love as an essential aspect of human existence, pointing to its eternal significance.

These insights underscore the idea that love is more than an emotion—it is a fundamental aspect of our spiritual and philosophical understanding of life.

Living a Life of Eternal Love

Practices to Cultivate Everlasting Love

To nurture love's eternal qualities, consider:

- Communication: Open, honest dialogue fosters trust and understanding.
- Compassion and Forgiveness: Overcoming conflicts with kindness sustains love.
- Shared Goals and Values: Aligning visions for the future deepens bonds.
- Continuous Growth: Embracing change together keeps love vibrant.

Maintaining Love Through Challenges

Challenges are inevitable, but they can strengthen love:

- Patience and Resilience: Overcoming difficulties together builds a resilient bond.
- Adaptability: Evolving with each other maintains relevance and connection.
- Reaffirmation: Regularly expressing love and appreciation keeps the relationship alive.

By actively nurturing these aspects, individuals can ensure that their love remains eternal.

Conclusion: The Eternal Power of Love

Love's eternal nature is a universal truth woven into the fabric of human existence. Whether viewed through the lens of history, culture, psychology, or spirituality, love remains a timeless force capable of transcending mortality. It leaves a legacy in memories, inspires enduring stories, and fosters connections that defy the constraints of time. Cultivating love through understanding, compassion, and commitment can help us experience its everlasting power in our lives. Ultimately, embracing the concept that love is eternal encourages us to cherish every moment, nurture our relationships, and believe in the enduring power of love to transform and transcend.

Key Points to Remember:

- Love has been revered across civilizations as an eternal, divine force.
- Spiritual teachings emphasize love's unchanging, everlasting nature.
- Psychological research supports love's capacity to deepen and endure over time.
- Enduring love stories serve as timeless reminders of love's eternal power.
- Practical efforts in relationships can nurture love's persistence through life's challenges.

Embracing the idea that love is eternal not only enriches our understanding of human connection but also inspires us to foster love that lasts a lifetime and beyond.

Love is eternal ? a phrase that resonates deeply across cultures, philosophies, and generations. It encapsulates a universal longing for permanence in a world characterized by change and impermanence. From ancient myths to modern psychology, the idea that love transcends time offers

comfort, hope, and a profound sense of connection that defies mortality. In this comprehensive exploration, we will delve into the various dimensions of love's eternal nature, examining its philosophical roots, psychological underpinnings, cultural representations, and practical implications for our lives today.

Understanding the Concept of Love is Eternal

The Philosophical Perspective

Philosophers have long pondered the nature of love and its supposed immortality. Plato, in his dialogues, particularly the Symposium, presents love as a pursuit of divine beauty and eternal truth. For Plato, true love is not merely physical or fleeting but an aspiration toward the eternal forms – an unchanging reality beyond the material world.

- Eros and the pursuit of the divine: Eros, or passionate love, is seen as a desire to unite with the eternal, to partake in the divine.
- Love as a reflection of the soul's immortality: Philosophers like Socrates suggested that love can serve as a bridge to the eternal, inspiring us to seek higher truths.

The Religious and Spiritual Viewpoints

Many religious traditions emphasize love's eternal nature as a divine principle. For example:

- Christianity: The concept of God's love as everlasting ("My love for you will never fail," Jeremiah 31:3) underscores the belief that divine love is eternal and unchanging.
- Hinduism: The idea of Brahman – the ultimate reality – encompasses infinite love that pervades the universe.
- Islam: The notion of Allah's love being eternal and encompassing all creation.

These perspectives suggest that love, especially divine love, is not bound by mortality but exists beyond it, offering believers hope for an everlasting connection.

Psychological and Scientific Insights

Love and Memory: The Mind's Role

While physical bodies are mortal, memories and emotional bonds can create a sense of permanence. Psychologically, people often experience love as an enduring force through:

- Shared memories: Recollections of love's moments can persist long after physical separation.
- Attachment and bonding: Neurochemical processes (like oxytocin release) reinforce feelings of connection that can feel timeless.

The Brain and Love's Immortality

Neuroscientific research indicates that love activates specific brain regions associated with reward, motivation, and social bonding. These neural pathways can produce lasting impressions, reinforcing the idea that love leaves an indelible mark on our minds, contributing to the perception of its eternal nature.

The Role of Legacy and Influence

Even after physical death, individuals' love can live on through:

- Children and descendants
- Art, literature, and music inspired by love
- Acts of kindness and remembrance

This influence underscores the idea that love's impact can transcend mortal life, echoing through generations.

Cultural Manifestations of Love's Eternity

Literature and Art

Throughout history, artists and writers have celebrated love's eternal qualities:

- Shakespeare's sonnets: Exploring love's enduring power beyond time.
- Renaissance paintings: Depictions of eternal love, like the romantic allegories in Botticelli's works.
- Modern films: Stories emphasizing everlasting love, such as *The Notebook* or *Titanic*, reflect societal hopes for love's permanence.

Mythology and Folklore

Many myths portray love as an immortal force:

- Orpheus and Eurydice: Their love defies death, emphasizing love's power over mortality.
- Pyramus and Thisbe: A tale of love enduring despite tragic circumstances.

These stories serve as allegories for humanity's desire to believe in love's eternal nature.

Practical Implications: Living with the Belief that Love is Eternal

Cultivating Eternal Love in Relationships

While no relationship is immune to change, embracing the idea that love can be eternal encourages:

- Deep commitment: Valuing growth and resilience over fleeting passion.
- Forgiveness and patience: Recognizing that love's endurance requires effort.
- Shared purpose: Building a connection rooted in mutual values and aspirations.

Honoring Loved Ones Beyond Death

Practices that reinforce the eternal nature of love include:

- Memory preservation: Creating rituals to remember loved ones.
- Storytelling: Passing down stories of love and connection.
- Acts of kindness: Living in a way that honors loved ones' legacy.

Personal Growth and Self-Love

Understanding that love is eternal also emphasizes self-compassion and inner growth, fostering a sense of wholeness that sustains us through life's inevitable changes.

Challenges to the Idea of Love's Eternity

Despite its comforting appeal, the notion of eternal love faces skepticism:

- Transient relationships: Many love stories are temporary, ending naturally or painfully.
- Changing human nature: Personal growth and circumstances can alter feelings.
- Cultural shifts: Societies evolve, redefining concepts of love and permanence.

Acknowledging these realities doesn't diminish love's importance but highlights the need for a nuanced understanding ? one that balances aspiration with acceptance.

Final Reflections: Embracing Love's Eternal Spirit

Love is eternal in many forms – whether as divine presence, lasting memories, or ongoing influence. Its enduring power lies in its ability to transform individuals and societies, offering a glimpse of something greater than ourselves. By cultivating love with awareness of its eternal potential, we can find meaning, solace, and motivation to nurture connections that transcend time. Ultimately, love's eternal nature reminds us that while our bodies may fade, the essence of love persists – a timeless thread woven into the fabric of existence.

Whether through spiritual belief, personal relationships, or cultural narratives, the idea that love is eternal continues to inspire hope and resilience. It encourages us to cherish each moment, leave lasting legacies, and believe in a connection that no death can sever. In embracing this truth, we participate in a timeless dance – one that celebrates the eternal spirit of love in all its forms.

Question What does it mean when someone says love is eternal? It implies that true love endures beyond physical presence, time, and even life itself, emphasizing its everlasting and unbreakable nature. How can love be considered eternal in modern relationships? Through deep emotional connections, shared memories, and committed bonds, many believe love can transcend physical existence and remain forever in the hearts of those involved. Are there cultural or spiritual beliefs that support the idea that love is eternal? Yes, many cultures and spiritual traditions, such as reincarnation beliefs and eternal soul concepts, emphasize that love persists beyond earthly life and continues through different existences. Can love that is considered eternal face challenges or change over time? While external circumstances may change, the core essence of eternal love is often viewed as resilient, capable of withstanding challenges and evolving in depth without fading. How do literature and art depict the concept of love being eternal? Many works portray love as timeless and immortal, symbolizing it through eternal flames, undying stars, or everlasting vows, emphasizing its perpetual and unending nature.

Related keywords: eternal love, timeless romance, everlasting affection, infinite devotion, endless passion, immortal bond, eternal companionship, perpetual tenderness, forever together, timeless connection

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