

Exposing Mystery Babylon

An Attack On Lawlessness

A Messianic Jewish Commentary

By P.R. Otokletos

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[About P. R. Otokletos](#)

The author Andrew A. Cullen has been writing under the pen name of P. R. Otokletos since 2004 when he began writing/blogging Messianic Jewish/Hebraic Roots commentaries across a broad range of topics.

The author is part of an emerging movement of believing Jews as well as former Christians recapturing the Hebraic roots of the Messianic faith. A movement that openly receives not just the redemptive grace of the Gospel but also the transformational lifestyle that comes with joyful pursuit of G_D's Sacred Torah ... just as it was in the first century Ce!

Despite a successful career in politics and business, the author is driven first and foremost by a desire to understand the great G_D of creation and humanity's fate. To this end the author has spent years studying the Hebrew and Greek Holy Scriptures, in a Hebraic context in order to get past the delusions of mainline religions ... to get at the truth!

In 2005 the author completed his first book "The Seven Churches of Asia - The Path of the Chosen Revealed". A work which provides a Messianic Hebraic look into the Revelation of Jesus Christ (Yeshua HaMashiach in Hebrew/Aramaic) respective to the seven church messages found in the Book of Revelation.

His most recent book "The Biblical Festivals - Messiah's Aliyah of Glory" was completed in 2014. In this work the Traditional and Messianic Hebraic perspectives relative to the Sacred Festivals are surfaced, discussed and reviewed in order to reveal the glory of G_D through the awesome fulfillment and perfection of the Festivals by, in and through Messiah Yeshua. This work essentially reveals Yeshua's great "aliyah" (ascent) to glory and consequently the great aliyah of Mashiach's faithful community ... a.k.a... Israel!

In this his second full length book completed in 2013 "Exposing Mystery Babylon - An Attack On Lawlessness", a broad sweeping overview is provided regarding how G_D's adversary works against the children of men through confusion, lies and deceit to keep people from the truth of the Gospel Message and the Covenantal relationship offered by G_D. The work exposes the false framework of wisdom woven into this temporal world (olam hazeh) and the genuine solution for humanity (Grace and Torah) provided by G_D through Yeshua HaMashiach. This

work undertakes a broad overview of the Torah Commandments and present day applicability within a Messianic context provided to us by Yeshua ... The Master Rebbe and Lord!

The author is convinced that nearly two thousand years of wayward understanding of the Biblical texts and man-made doctrine has significantly shrouded humanity's view of G_D ... his Messiah ... and even the very Gospel message itself. Consequently the author has dedicated his time and efforts to offer humanity a different perspective of the G_D of Israel ... a different perspective of Messiah Yeshua ... a different perspective of the Gospel message in the hopes that some might be awakened to and pursue a relationship with G_D as defined within Holy Scriptures.

There is indeed a veil of ignorance that thickens all around us and is keeping us from our destiny ... from our restoration. Like others who can see past this shroud, the author labors for no other reason than to give G_D the glory he is due and G_D's just due comes by way of the Hebraic bias ... as the reader will soon see!

The author hosts a web-site " <http://pr.otokletos.org/> where numerous Messianic Hebraic materials are provided free of charge.

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Preface

Over the course of the last decade, and then some, this author has been navigating a road not very often traveled. It is a road that was extremely difficult to find despite the fact that it sits right beneath our very noses. It is a road that runs backwards and not forwards while at the same time enables a traveler to conduct everyday business ... but not as usual. It is a road that transcends time and existence and allows a person to travel this world but not be conformed to this world. This road is what Jesus the Christ called the narrow path. This path is what Messiah's earliest believers called "The Way". This way is the heritage of every one of G_D's children ... every Israelite, be they natural born or grafted in ... every individual who earnestly desires to make a place for G_D's Spirit to dwell in. This way dear reader is nothing less than G_D's word ... this way is G_D's eternal and holy Torah given to Israel as a fundamental component of the everlasting covenant between G_D, Israel and unto all the Nations.

Naturally to individuals, thoroughly enamored in our modern Western culture and mainstream religious traditions, such a notion might seem radical or even downright outlandish. The author for the record belongs to the small but growing population of believers traditionally referred to as "Messianic Jews" or members of the "Hebraic Roots Movement". In all reality however we are just individuals who have come out of the various strains of Judaism, Christianity and other religions wherein the combination of Jew, Gentile, Mashiach, Grace and Torah will simply not be found.

Sadly for the mainstream Jewish brethren a partial blindness, keeping them from the truth of Mashiach, plagues their communities. Sadly for Christianity it also is plagued with a blindness that keeps them from their Israelite heritage handed down to them as part of the Gospel ... the Torah. Ultimately the Messianic Jewish community of today seeks to return to the roots of the Jewish faith of 2,000 years ago; a faith that has both the Grace of Mashiach and the Torah of Mashiach. A faith that does not seek to eradicate the Jewish tradition but uphold the Jewish tradition! A faith that does not separate Mashiach from Israel but accepts their inseparable nature! A faith that does not seek to exclude the goyim (the nations) but rather usher those who are willing into the fullness of the heritage gifted to us by Messiah Yeshua!

During the last decade this author has personally witnessed the growth of the body of Messianic believers across the globe. Over the course of the last decade this author has been blessed beyond belief with the realization that G_D is with us ... here and now! He is powerful and he will transform us if we so desire. He will set us free from the bondage of this world ... and if we listen closely enough we can hear his call right through the invisible cloak that is Mystery Babylon! He surely is calling!

Ah ... to the point ... Mystery Babylon! Yes dear reader this author's journey, which began in Mystery Babylon and to this day treads down the narrow path, created a deep burning desire to know how a person could get into a place without knowing about it ... it being Babylon! It just did not make any sense ... until G_D intervened ... until such time that I returned to G_D's word without blinders ... until such time that I sought fellowship from others who are traveling the same path. This work then dear reader is about identifying Mystery Babylon and understanding the cure for this murderous disease. It will be an eye opening and frightening ride most assuredly ... but trust me ... it is worth it! Trust me ... you are worth it ... beloved children of G_D MOST HIGH!

This work then emanates from a desire to expose in detail the systems employed by G_D's adversary and conversely to depict G_D's holy Torah in a proper Messianic light since there consistently seems to be so much misunderstanding with respects to G_D's Torah ... by both Jew and Gentile!

The ultimate endeavor of this work is to present the true Gospel message in a proper Hebraic context and expose the challenges of receiving this message faced by our modern culture.

It is the author's intent herein not to offend or belittle anyone. This work has been undertaken strictly out of concern and love for humanity in order to expose the truth. Sadly at times however we will indeed see where the truth hurts ... sometimes deeply!

Certainly G_D's Torah needs no defense from the likes of this author ... all the same it is deemed imperative that humanity hear from even the least who are willing to deliver the message which G_D has put upon their hearts in these later days.

Before we commence to the work however there are some who are owed thanks ... for their patience, knowledge, hard work, wisdom, love and faith. Sincere gratitude is given to the following individuals:

Dr. Phillip Goble; Professor Skip Moen; Rabbi Robert Tippie; Rabbi Mark Shulman; Professor Timothy Hegg and my brother in Mashiach Joseph Kresefsky.

All of these men share in common one critical trait ... they are faithful because they preach the love of Mashiach without degrading his glorious character. They are faithful because they are good and loyal servants ... doing what they can ... with what G_D has provided to prepare for his coming ... and in so doing give others like this author the opportunity to be better prepared for his coming and experience the fullness of our faith and heritage with the unedited truth of Mashiach's Gospel.

These men have nurtured this author's mental and spiritual framework throughout the last decade and in all sincere humility this work would probably not have been possible without their collective influence.

This by no stretch of the imagination should infer that all of the assertions and assessments put forth herein should be super imposed upon them ... nor does this mean the author would patently agree with all of their teachings/views. This author however can only hope that this work ... like their own comings and goings ... sheds light on the truth for the glory of G_D ... for Yeshua ... THE SALVATION OF G_D!

* * * * *

Introduction

Greetings of shalom (peace) and simcha (joy) to all believers in the G_D of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob ... May his HOLY NAME be upon you!

Let us presume that most believers share a knowledge that our lot in this life, as a peculiar people, is not to conform to the system(s) of “this world” ... a.k.a. "Olam Haze" ... which is Hebrew for this “temporal world” in which we live! ... We are to be in this world but not be of this world declares Mashiach Yeshua! But ... what does this really mean for any of us? What really accounts for acceptable separation between G_D's system and this world's system? These are the questions that should interest every believer!

For many years this author believed that the question and the answer were subject to the individual and personal understanding and interpretations seen fit to apply to such musings at any given time. Naturally the author like most people operate under a personal impression that we ourselves are: objective, learned, introspective, honest and “spiritually in-tuned” and as such are quite capable of answering our own ponderings! But something happened to me ... something that was quite outside my own control ... something that was quite unexpected ... something that would awaken me and change my perspective ... my world view and ultimately my life.

What happened? ...

In short I was driven to my knees out of sheer necessity and hopelessness because I came to realize that I was incapable of extricating myself from what was controlling me. I came to realize that I needed to be saved from myself and the way I had come to view life in general. I needed to be awakened to the truth and I needed to be able to see and hear what I was incapable of seeing and hearing. I needed a way to positively understand and discern what it is that G_D expects of me! Frankly ... I was scared out of my wits because I came to the realization that my understanding of G_D was completely awry. I came to the realization that I was in Biblical terms ... a sleeper. I came to realize that I was enslaved by something that I could not even define. I came to realize that my soul was in jeopardy every waking moment. I consistently went to bed at night with death and fear on my mind!

Well dear reader ... I am now awake and out of the Matrix. Oh ... like the movie you might ask ... well something like that; let me explain by using some sample scene quotes from that famous 1999 movie.

But first a brief summary ... The movie is set within a futuristic post-apocalyptic world following a devastating war between intelligent machines and people. It is a time when people have been conquered and now unconsciously serve the machines as their primary source of power. A time where people are from birth subjected to a captivity of mental subconscious delusion! A time when people are kept permanently asleep inside a vast and complex system of control! A time when people are simply part of a programmatically controlled environment intended to make these same people believe they are living a real life ... in the real world. A time when people are ensnared inside the Matrix and not even aware of its very existence!

In this story a character named Morpheus is a leader in the resistance against the machines and has successfully been extricated from the Matrix. He subsequently was able to pull Trinity, another freedom fighter, out of the Matrix as well. The resistance works against the machines and attempts when possible to pull others from the Matrix. As for Neo ... he is in the matrix and searching for answers because he knows that something is simply wrong with the world.

The excerpted dialogue:

Trinity: "I know why you're here, Neo. I know what you've been doing.. why you hardly sleep, why you live alone and why night after night, you sit by your computer. You're looking for him. I know because I was once looking for the same thing. And when he found me, he told me I wasn't really looking for him. I was looking for an answer. It's the question that drives us, Neo. It's the question that brought you here. You know the question, just as I did."

Neo: "What is the Matrix?"

Trinity: "The answer is out there, Neo, and it's looking for you, and it will find you if you want it to."

And later on in the movie ...

Morpheus: "I imagine that right now, you're feeling a bit like Alice. Hmmm ... Tumbling down the rabbit hole?"

Neo: "You could say that."

Morpheus: "I see it in your eyes. You have the look of a man who accepts what he sees because he is expecting to wake up. Ironically, that's not far from the truth. Do you believe in fate, Neo?"

Neo: "No!"

Morpheus: "Why not?"

Neo: "Because I don't like the idea that I'm not in control of my life!"

Morpheus: "I know exactly what you mean. Let me tell you why you're here. You're here because you know something. What you know you can't explain, but you feel it. You've felt it your entire life, that there's something wrong with the world. You don't know what it is, but it is there, like a splinter in your mind, driving you mad. It is this feeling that has brought you to me. Do you know what I'm talking about?"

Neo: "The Matrix."

Morpheus: "Do you want to know what it is?"

Neo: "Yes!"

Morpheus: "The Matrix is everywhere. It is all around us. Even now, in this very room! You can see it when you look out your window or when you turn on your television. You can feel it when you go to work... when you go to church... when you pay your taxes. It is the world that has been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth."

Neo: "What truth?"

Morpheus: "**That you are a slave, Neo. Like everyone else you were born into bondage; into a prison that you cannot taste or see or touch ... a prison for your mind!**"

Morpheus: "The Matrix is a system, Neo. That system is our enemy. But when you're inside, you look around, what do you see? Businessmen, teachers, lawyers, carpenters; the very minds of the people we are trying to save. But until we do, these people are still a part of that system and that makes them our enemy. **You have to understand, most of these people are not ready**

to be unplugged. And many of them are so inured, so hopelessly dependent on the system that they will fight to protect it.”

And at the end ... after choosing to come out of and being fully extricated from the Matrix, Neo issues this warning to the architect of the Matrix and its captives ...

Neo: “I know you're out there. I can feel you now. I know that you're afraid... you're afraid of us. You're afraid of change. I don't know the future. I didn't come here to tell you how this is going to end. I came here to tell you how it's going to begin. I'm going to hang up this phone, and then I'm going to show these people what you don't want them to see. **I'm going to show them a world without you.**”

So you may think dear reader that the author is enamored with a science fiction movie perhaps ... but such is not the case! The intent is to simply use this “Matrix” as a metaphor for the real Matrix which permeates the lives of the children of men. If you are willing to come along for the journey you will find that the real Matrix has a name ... and it can be defined ... and its purpose can be exposed ... and its architect revealed ... and most importantly what it takes to recognize this grand delusion and be extricated from its vile and unclean clutches which attempt to keep people enslaved at all costs!

Are you ready to have your very perspective of reality challenged as never before? Are you ready to peer into the pit and look at the beast head on? Are you ready to find and fulfill your destiny?

If the answer is yes ... then come along ... the light at the end of the tunnel is an invitation to step out of the darkness of the real Matrix and into the light of G_D's truth! It is time to pull back the wool that is covering the eyes of modern civilization for G_D's great glory!

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Part 1- Hellenism ... A Real Matrix

So what is the real matrix if there is such a thing? First let us explore this answer by objectively evaluating the single most evident and widely used tool by its architect!

Hellenism (first coined in 1609 Ce.) is the official and unofficial promotion of supposed Greek ideas in the organization of personal life and civic accomplishment ... as an extremely short definition.

[Hellenistic philosophy is a name for a variety of philosophical options which flourished in the period from the life of Alexander the Great (356-323 BCE) to the late 2nd century CE ... and well beyond! Even before Alexander began his conquest of the known world in 336 BCE, Greek culture had spread throughout the Mediterranean region. Indeed, Alexander was Macedonian, a nationality related to but self-consciously distinct from the Greeks. Alexander was himself a Hellenized person, not least thanks to his tutor, Aristotle. Alexander saw Hellenization as a desirable imperial policy, firstly because he believed Greek culture to be the best and, secondly to build cohesion in his rapidly expanding dominion. To this end, he established a number of conquered cities as 'Greek' cities. These cities were intended as centers of colonial settlement and transformation into the image of Greek cultural, civic and political order.

At Alexander's death, colonization was far from settled; economic and social divisions were immense. Although the Hellenistic culture of the empire did not capture the idealized former splendor of Greece, Hellenistic culture accentuated lowest common denominators among its many diverse citizens and subjects, in a bid to maintain uniformity, peace and facilitate day to day life. So, for instance, the educational ideals of Greek "paideia" were adopted but most Hellenized peoples spoke only koine Greek, a simplified language (and the language of the New Testament by the way) - if they spoke Greek at all. Political crisis was usual, creating an environment of insecurity for ordinary people whose parochial cultures were already under threat from the homogenizing influence of colonial rule. It was a culture that ran on patronage, on 'who knew whom.' Secret societies, professional clubs and mystery cults were popular means of creating communities where people shamed by their deep sense of dislocation and anonymity could receive a measure of honorable recognition.

Philosophy was one strategy for steadying oneself. When I say ‘philosophy,’ though, don't think of highly refined systematic achievements linked to a Plato, or Aristotle for example. The schools of Plato and Aristotle had lost prestige as a result of their increasingly specialized pursuits, seemingly so detached from the everyday concerns that motivated Socrates and their own founders. Many people were impatient with speculation and relied more on what their senses could tell them. People required philosophies that were portable, easily learned, and plainly engaged with the fortunes and misfortunes of everyday life. Eclecticism (relative decision making) and syncretism (the amalgamation of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought) characterize Hellenistic culture as much as Greek domination. In essence Hellenism is a philosophical framework that revolved around relative tactical stimuli and pressures as opposed to a framework premised upon a known and unchanging standard.

Religion in the Hellenistic world, like philosophy, was a field of mix-and-match. For example, by the time of the birth of Yeshua, Hellenization had already reshaped and significantly damaged Jewish culture. Small groups like the zealots violently resisted colonization while the Herodian kings, ruling as clients/puppets of the emperor, clearly preferred Greek culture over the Jewish heritage. Most Jews lived life as participants in both cultures. Thus the Hellenistic world was the world of the first Christians. To understand this world; at least a few of its philosophical options in any event - is a major step towards understanding the development of Christian thought. This is not to say that Christian thinkers were entirely determined in their thinking by Hellenistic philosophy. However, their expectations, problems and answers are profoundly shaped under the influence of Hellenistic philosophy ... this can't be repudiated and the historical record pointing back to major Greek Philosophical influences within the early Christian Church is well known and understood.

(From a historical perspective one need only review the accounts of the Jewish Maccabean Revolt to fully understand the dangers of Hellenism and how these dangers were viewed in the context of faithful Jews, G_D's chosen people. Hellenism essentially represented a full frontal assault upon G_D's chosen people and his eternal covenant.

Now the average person, even believers in the G_D of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob ... including Christians, may simply respond to this brief summary of Hellenism with a “so what does this have to do with me?”)

To understand this potential impact let us condense Hellenism into a more defined and easy to understand framework and identify those core principles of understanding and beliefs associated with Hellenistic Philosophy and Civics.

Core Convictions

- That the world (cosmos) as a whole requires an explanation;
- That there is an ultimate reality that would enable such an explanation;
- That sensations/emotions certainly are unreliable;
- That reason is the key to understanding what human beings are and our purpose;
- That reason helps determine the good life and good society;
- That reason enables understanding which enables knowledge which enables influence which enables control.

Habits of mind

- Rational argumentation/debate;
- Testing proposed explanations of the cosmos against observational evidence for adequacy and completeness;
- To exercise skepticism when confronted with arguments not supported by empirical data;
- To look to philosophical heroes of the past and build upon their framework ;

* * * * *

So what about Western culture? ... American culture? ... Christian culture?

To answer the basic questions we need to take a brief look at what Hellenism, as a principle framework of understanding human knowledge and comprehension, has spawned upon us people, the adherents and practitioners of Western culture. Practitioners who are in many ways not even aware of these somewhat invisible but very tangible effects!

[The Age of Enlightenment was a cultural movement of intellectuals in 18th century Europe and America, whose purpose was to reform society and advance knowledge. It promoted science and intellectual interchange and opposed superstition, intolerance and in many cases abuses in church and state constructs.

The Age of Enlightenment is often thought of as part of a larger period which includes the "Age of Reason". The term more specifically refers to a historical intellectual movement, "The Enlightenment." This movement advocated rationality as a means to establish an authoritative system of ethics, aesthetics, and knowledge. The intellectual leaders of this movement regarded themselves as courageous and elite and defined their purpose as leading the world toward progress and out of a long period of doubtful tradition, full of irrationality, superstition, and tyranny (which they believed began during a historical period they called the "Dark Ages").

This movement also provided a framework for the American and French Revolutions, the Latin American independence movement, and the Polish Constitution of May 3, and also led to the rise of capitalism and the birth of socialism. It is identified with the high baroque and classical eras in music, and the early neo-classical period in the arts.

Originating about 1650 to 1700, it was sparked by philosophers such as Baruch Spinoza (1632–1677), John Locke (1632–1704), Pierre Bayle (1647–1706), physicist Isaac Newton (1643–1727), and historian Voltaire (1694–1778). The wide distribution of the printing press, invented in Europe in 1440, made possible the rapid dispersion of knowledge and ideas which precipitated the Enlightenment. Ruling princes often endorsed and fostered figures and even attempted to apply their ideas of government in what was known as "Enlightened Despotism".

In France, Enlightenment was based in the salons and culminated in the great *Encyclopédie* (1751–72) edited by Denis Diderot (1713–1784) with contributions by hundreds of leading philosophers (intellectuals) such as Voltaire (1694–1778), Rousseau (1712–1778) and Montesquieu (1689–1755). Some 25,000 copies of the 35 volume set were sold, half of them outside France. The new intellectual forces spread to urban centers across Europe, notably England, Scotland, the German states, the Netherlands, Russia, Italy, Austria, and Spain, and then jumped the Atlantic into the European colonies, where it influenced Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, among many others, and played a major role in the American Revolution. The political ideals of the Enlightenment as indicated influenced the American Declaration of

Independence, the United States Bill of Rights, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and the Polish–Lithuanian Constitution of May 3, 1791.

To sum up the movement: In his famous 1784 essay "What Is Enlightenment?" Immanuel Kant defined it as follows: "Enlightenment is man leaving his self-caused immaturity. Immaturity is the incapacity to use one's intelligence without the guidance of another. Such immaturity is self-caused if it is not caused by lack of intelligence, but by lack of determination and courage to use one's intelligence without being guided by another. Sapere Aude! [Dare to know!] **Have the courage to use your own intelligence is therefore the motto of the enlightenment.**"

The Enlightenment flourished until about 1800, after which the emphasis on reason gave way to Romanticism's emphasis on emotion and a Counter-Enlightenment movement gained force.] ii

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[Modernism, in its broadest definition, is modern thought, character, or practice. More specifically, the term describes the modernist movement in the arts, its set of cultural tendencies and associated cultural movements, originally arising from wide-scale and far-reaching changes to Western society in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In particular the development of modern industrial societies and the rapid growth of cities, followed then by the horror of World War I, were among the factors that shaped Modernism. Related terms are modern, modernist, contemporary, and postmodern.

In art Modernism explicitly rejects the ideology of realism, and makes use of the works of the past, through the application of reprise, incorporation, rewriting, recapitulation, revision and parody in new forms. Modernism also challenges the lingering certainty of Enlightenment thinking, as well as the idea of a compassionate, all-powerful Creator.

In general, the term modernism encompasses the activities and output of those who felt the "traditional" forms of art, architecture, literature, religious faith, social organization and daily life were becoming outdated in the new economic, social, and political conditions of an emerging

fully industrialized world. The poet Ezra Pound's 1934 injunction to "Make it new!" was paradigmatic of the movement's approach towards the obsolete. Another paradigmatic exhortation was articulated by philosopher and composer Theodor Adorno, who, in the 1940s, challenged conventional surface coherence and appearance of harmony typical of the rationality of Enlightenment thinking. A salient characteristic of modernism is self-consciousness. This self-consciousness often led to experiments with form and work that draws attention to the processes and materials used (and to the further tendency of abstraction).

The modernist movement, at the beginning of the 20th century, marked the first time that the term *avant-garde*, with which the movement was labeled until the word "modernism" prevailed, was used for the arts (rather than in its original military and political context).] iii

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[Postmodernism describes a range of conceptual frameworks and ideologies that are defined in opposition to those commonly associated with ideologies of modernity and modernist notions of knowledge and science, such as, materialism, realism, positivism, formalism, structuralism and reductionism. Postmodernist approaches are critical of the possibility of objective knowledge of the real world, and consider the ways in which social dynamics, such as power and hierarchy, affect human conceptualizations of the world to have important effects on the way knowledge is constructed and used. In contrast to the modernist paradigm, postmodernist thought often emphasize idealism, constructivism, relativism, pluralism and skepticism in its approaches to knowledge and understanding.

It is not a philosophical movement in itself, but rather incorporates a number of philosophical and critical methods that can be considered post-modern ... the most familiar include feminism and post-structuralism. Put another way, postmodernism is not a method of doing philosophy, but rather a way of approaching traditional ideas and practices in non-traditional ways that deviate from pre-established super-structural modes. This has caused difficulties in defining what postmodernism actually means or should mean and therefore remains a complex and controversial concept, which continues to be debated. The idea of the

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