

THE VOYAGES AND TRAVELS OF  
**SINDBAD THE SAILOR.**

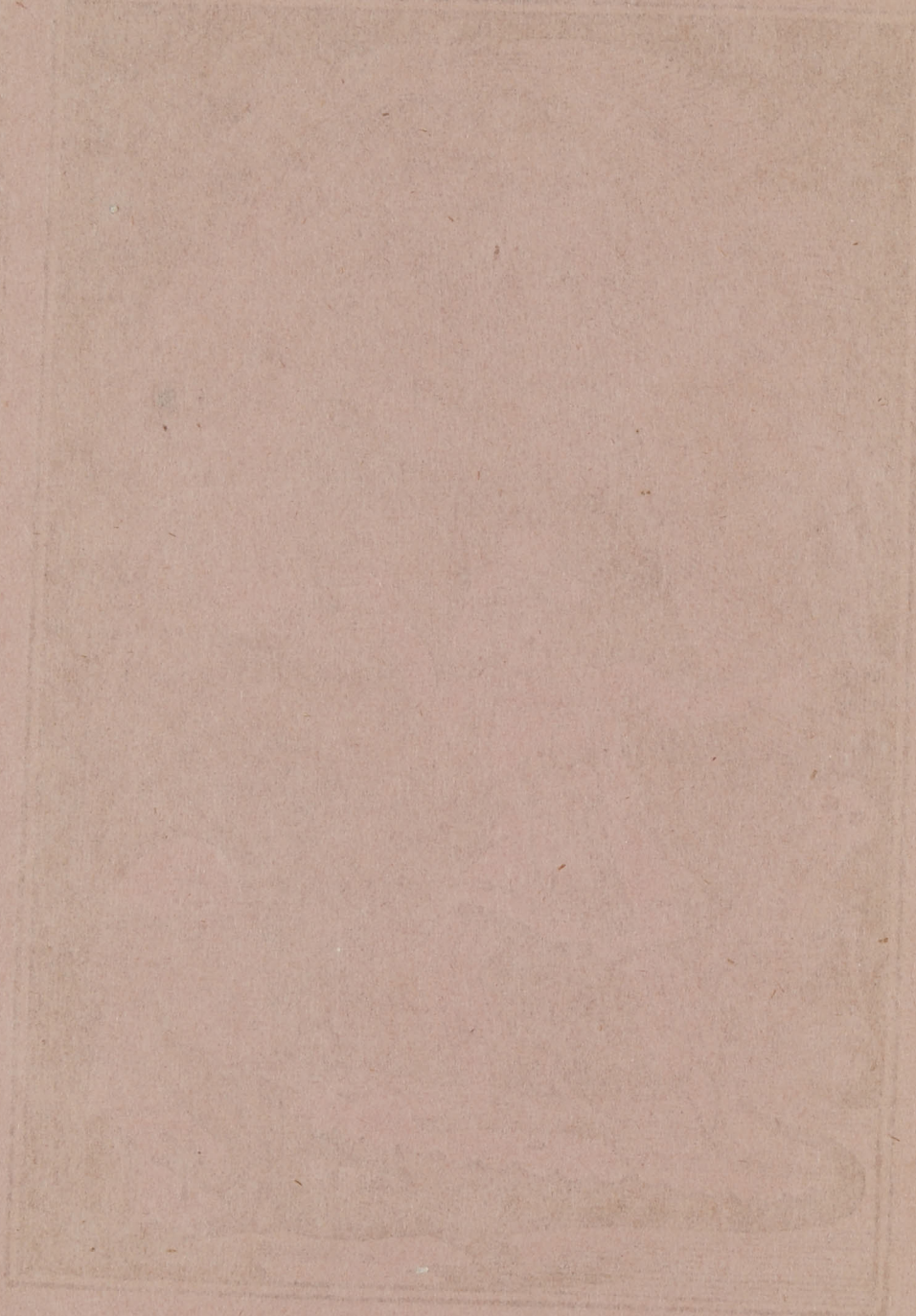


Sindbad discovering a means of egress from the dismal cavern in which he had been buried alive with his wife.

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THE VOYAGE OF  
MADONNA THE SAILOR



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THE  
VOYAGES AND TRAVELS

OF

SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

(As related by himself.)



THE FIRST VOYAGE.

SINDBAD ON THE WHALE'S BACK.

MY father dying while I was very young, and leaving me a considerable fortune, I fell into a course of dissipation that injured my health and destroyed my fortune. My riotous companions then forsook me, and I was left alone to struggle with my diseases, and to endure the severity of remorse for a misspent youth. At length I recovered from my illness; and resolving never to return to my former course of living, I collected together the remains of my fortune, and embarked with several merchants on board a ship, which we had jointly laden with merchandise, for the port of Balsora.

One day we were becalmed near a small island almost level with the surface of the water, and which resembled a beautiful green meadow. The captain ordered his sails to be furled, and the merchants, among whom was myself, determined to carry our provisions, and dine upon the little island. While we were in the very midst of preparation for dinner, the island began to move, and at the same moment those who were left in the ship called to us to re-embark instantly, or we should all be lost, as what we had taken to be an island was only the back of a monstrous whale. The nimblest sprung into the sloop; but for my part, I had only time to catch hold of a broad piece of wood that had been brought out of the ship to serve as a table. On this piece of wood I floated, but the current carried me away from the ship; and the captain having received on board those who were in the boat, and picked up one or two of the swimmers, he concluded that I was lost. A favourable gale just then springing up, he hoisted the sails, and pursued his voyage.

I struggled to save myself all the rest of the day and the following night. Next morning I found my strength gone, and I despaired of my life, when happily a wave threw me against an island. Every part of the shore abounded with enormous sea-snakes, and of fishes that are an hundred and two hundred cubits long, some having heads like owls, and others with human faces; but I found these sea monsters perfectly harmless, for, on my rattling two sticks together, they dived into the sea, and I saw no more of them. I supped upon fruit, and climbed the branches of a high tree for my lodging.

On the third day, to my great joy, a party of men landed on the island, who were completely astonished to find me there. They gave me some provisions, and then informed me they were the grooms of King Mihrage, and that the island upon which I was thrown was called Cassel, and belonged to the warlike genius Degial, who visited it every night with drums and trumpets, the music of which instruments I had every night heard, but the performers were invisible. On account of the rich pasturage of the island the king's colts were trained on it.

The grooms took me with them to their royal master, who ordered me to be lodged in his own palace, and well entertained.

One day, having walked to the principal quay, several seamen were busily employed in unloading a ship newly arrived in the harbour. As I cast my eye on some of the bales of goods that were landed, I perceived them, by the marks, to be the same that I had put on board when I embarked for Balsora. The captain, coming ashore, soon recognised me, and delivered up my property, from which I selected some valuable presents for the king, and exchanged the rest to my advantage.

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## THE SECOND VOYAGE.

### SINDBAD IN THE VALLEY OF DIAMONDS.

After a short time home lost its charms, and I went once more to sea. One very sultry day we landed on a shady island, loaded with trees, bearing delicious fruits. After eating, I stretched myself in the shade, and fell asleep; on awakening, I found my friends gone, and not the least signs of the vessel. I tore my hair, and ran about like a madman. On looking around, I perceived a large white substance. As I was examining it, I beheld an enormous bird approach: it was what the sailors called a roc, and the white oval thing was its egg: the bird, having alighted on the ground, sat over it to hatch it. I crept close to the roc, and with the cloth of my turban bound myself to one of the bird's legs, which was as thick as the trunk of a small tree, in hopes that, when the roc again took flight, she would carry me out of the desolate island. Next morning, the bird rose high in the air, so that I could not see the earth, and then descended so rapidly that I lost my senses; but, on recovering, I found the roc on the ground, when I freed myself from her. I was not bettered by this change; I was now in a deep valley, encompassed on every side with rocks, so steep, that it was impossible to ascend them. I observed the ground was strewed with diamonds; I was startled by something falling

close to me : it was a large piece of fresh meat, and presently other pieces were hurled from the rocks. I had often heard talk of the Valley of Diamonds, and the schemes used by the merchants to get the jewels from that inaccessible place. I filled a small bag with diamonds, which I tied to my girdle, and then tying a large piece of meat on it, I lay down to wait the event. Soon after a large eagle pounced upon the meat, and carried me up with it to its nest. The merchants began shouting till they scared the eagles from their nests, that they might secure the diamonds which stuck to the meat. They were surprised to find a living man, but, on hearing my story, they were very kind to me.

Being invited to dine on board a vessel, a storm arose, and we were driven out to sea ; lightning struck the ship, and it took fire. The boat was hoisted out, and immediately became overloaded. "Push off!" cried I, who saw our danger. The boat was upset, every soul perishing but myself, who had the good fortune to meet with a hen-coop. I called to mind that I had in my coat pocket a case bottle of a fine cordial. I drank some of it, and it had a most reviving effect. I kept my hold of the coop, and next morning was cast on a very small island, not above four yards wide, in the midst of the sea. I now again indulged in a plenteous draught out of my friendly bottle. While I was drinking I heard a great noise over my head : looking up, I saw two large birds fighting : the contest was lucky : one of them dropped a sea biscuit ; this I eagerly seized, being more than half-famished ; I almost emptied my bottle, and fell into a profound sleep. On awakening, a dreary prospect presented itself : except a small spot of earth on which I was seated, not a trace of land appeared ; and, to render my situation the more afflicting, the weather was piercingly cold, and I was drenched with rain. The remainder of my bottle was soon gone ; hunger caused me to despair, and heavy sighs burst from my aching breast, until sleep again stole over my senses. When I awoke, I looked anxiously towards every point of the compass, and in a few minutes beheld a sail to the eastward : it appeared to be rapidly approaching. I began preparing a signal, and remained with my eyes fixed on the cheering sight of a vessel coming to my deliverance, when, alas ! she tacked about, and was presently out of sight. The pangs of hunger and thirst added to my despair. "Why should I remain here," said I to myself, "to undergo such cruel tortures, only

to meet a lingering death? No: I will die at once!" Thus saying, I made a leap, to throw myself into the sea; but faintness caused me to stumble backwards, and I received such a severe contusion on my head that I lay insensible and bleeding on the ground. It pleased Providence, however, to preserve me for future voyages. On my recovery, I found myself lying in a neat cot, on board a ship; but whether in the power of enemies, or in the hands of friends, I had to ascertain. For this miraculous preservation, however, I returned thanks to heaven. At length a sailor entered the cabin: "Where am I?" said I, "I mean, in what ship, and whither bound?" "To Algiers," answered the man. "One of our crew," continued he, "having been guilty of a great crime, the captain beat about for an island on which to leave him: we came to that on which you laid bleeding from a new wound in your head: we left our man and took you on board." I recovered rapidly, and was soon able to go on deck. One day I espied a large sail bearing towards us; it was a sloop of war, belonging to the Commander of the Faithful, the Caliph Haroun Alraschid. The Algerines prepared for action, and I was ordered to the bread-room. The conflict was long and obstinate, but the pirates were compelled to yield, and I regained my liberty. I was taken on board the Caliph's vessel, and arriving at Balsora, journeyed over land to my native city, Bagdad.

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### THE THIRD VOYAGE.

#### SINDBAD AND THE ONE-EYED MONSTER.

The pleasures and comforts I now enjoyed made me forget my past difficulties. I was still in the prime of life, was of an active disposition, and had a great desire to see new curiosities, so that I very soon resolved upon a third voyage; and with a cargo of the richest merchandise of Egypt I once more took shipping at the port of Balsora.

After we had been at sea some weeks we were overtaken by a dreadful storm, and at last we were obliged to cast anchor before an island, from which the captain had vainly endeavoured to steer. He now informed us that this and several other neighbouring islands were inhabited by savages, covered with hair, who would speedily attack us in great numbers.

We soon found the captain's information to be true; for a multitude of frightful savages, about two feet high, and covered all over with red hair, came swimming towards us, and boarded our ship, chattering a language of which we could not comprehend a word. In an instant they took down our sails, cut the cable, towed the ship to land, and, having made us all get out they carried off our ship in triumph to another island.

We went forward into the island on which we were landed in deep dismay, expecting nothing but death. When we had got a little way we beheld a huge pile of building, and made towards it. We found it to be a lofty palace, with a folding gate of ebony, which we pushed open, and entered a spacious court, that led to a vast apartment with a porch, having on one side a great heap of human bones, and on the other a number of roasting spits. At this terrible spectacle our legs trembled under us, and we fell to the ground, where we lay motionless with fear, thinking we might share the same fate.

Presently the gate of the apartments opened, and there came out a black monster as tall as a palm tree. He had but one eye, which was in the very middle of his forehead, and looked like a ball of fire. His fore-teeth were long and sharp, his under lip hung down upon his breast, his ears resembled those of an elephant, and covered his shoulders, and his nails were long and crooked.

At the sight of so hideous a giant we could scarcely keep from swooning, while he sat down in the porch gazing upon us. At length he advanced, and taking me up by the skin of the neck, as I would take up a kitten, and having viewed me well, and perceived that I was nothing but skin and bone, he threw me on the ground with disdain. He took up all the rest, one by one, whom he examined in the same manner, and the poor captain, being the fattest amongst us, fell a victim to his savage appetite; he was presently killed, roasted, and eaten by the dreadful monster.



When the one-eyed giant had finished his savage meal, he stretched himself upon a great stone bench in the portico, and fell asleep, snoring louder than thunder, when nine of the most resolute of us got up very softly, and taking nine spits we held the points of them in the fire till they were red hot, and then thrusting them all at once into the monster's eye, we blinded him. The pain occasioned him to utter a frightful scream, and he began to grope about with his hands to catch us, that he might sacrifice us to his rage, but we took care to keep out of his reach, and having sought for us some time in vain, he opened the ebony gate, and went out of the palace howling.

We did not stay long behind him, but hastened to our floats, and waited only for day-light to embark upon them; but scarcely was the first dawn of day visible when we beheld our monstrous enemy approaching the shore, led on by others of the same species. We immediately jumped upon our floats, and pushed them from the shore as fast as possible, and the tide assisted us greatly; but the giants seeing us likely to escape, tore great pieces of rock from the cliffs, and wading into the water up to their waists, hurled them at us with all their might, and instantly sunk every float but the one I was upon, and all my companions, except the two with me, were drowned.

For two days we were tossed about at sea, and were at last cast ashore on a pestilential island; both my companions were devoured by the serpents which infested it. I espied a sail at no great distance, and made a signal, which was observed by the captain of the ship, who sent a boat to fetch me. It so happened that this captain was the same I had sailed with on my second voyage. He had preserved all my bales of goods, which he honourably restored to me. I continued my voyage with the honest captain, and sold my merchandise very advantageously, and at length returned to Bagdad with vast increase of riches.



## THE FOURTH VOYAGE.

## SINDBAD'S MARRIAGE.

Still undaunted, after a year's rest, I joined with some other merchants on a speculation to Persia: we were wrecked; four others and myself got to shore on a plank: we were soon surrounded by blacks, carried to their settlement, and fed on fish and boiled rice; but grief threw me into a languishing disorder. This saved my life; for these blacks, being men-eaters, devoured my companions, but reserved me till I should be in better health. I feigned to be more sick than I actually was, so that they became negligent in watching me, and one morning, while they were out hunting, I made my escape. On arriving near the seashore I was gratified by the sight of white people gathering spices: they presented me to their king, who listened with wonder to my story. I grew into great favour with the king, insomuch that he gave me one of his ladies of the court in marriage, and we lived in great harmony and contentment.

I had contracted a strict intimacy with one of my neighbours, and one day, as I was sitting down to dinner, I was informed his wife had just died. I immediately hastened to afford him some consolation under his misfortune. "Alas!" said he, "what comfort can I take who have not above an hour to live? It is the established law of this country, that the living husband shall be interred with the dead wife, and the living wife with the dead husband. Nothing, therefore, can save me: and every one must submit to this law."

I went home, deeply affected, and day and night I thought of nothing but how to effect my escape. But while I was forming a thousand projects to escape this evil, my worst fears were verified—my wife fell sick and died. You may easily judge of my distraction when I beheld the preparations for my own funeral, at which the king and his whole court, to show their regard for me, intended to assist.

The corpse, richly dressed, was placed in a coffin, and the cavalcade began. I went next the corpse, with my eyes full of tears and my heart bursting with despair. I knelt down, and entreated the king to take pity on me as a foreigner; all I said

was useless: I was forced into an open coffin, with seven small loaves and a bottle of water, and let down into a kind of cavern. The opening was covered with a large stone, and my ears were shocked by hearing the funeral train depart.

It appeared as if there was a general mortality in the city, for a number of bodies were let down, day after day, the living with the dead: in order to sustain my own life, I dispatched the former as quickly as possible, to get their bread. One day I heard something walking close to me, panting very hard; I started it up, it ran away, and I pursued it until I observed a glimmering of light. This inspired me with hope, and I found, on going towards it, an opening in the rock: the creature which had alarmed me was a sea-monster, that had entered to prey on the dead bodies.

I returned to the cave, and, groping about, collected all the jewels and valuables I could get from the coffins. I then watched for a ship, and espied one, which attended to my signal. I told the captain I had been wrecked. I had a prosperous voyage, and was joyfully received by my friends.

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## THE FIFTH VOYAGE.

### SINDBAD AND THE TROUBLESOME MAN.

I soon embarked on another enterprise. After being at sea several weeks, we landed upon a desert island in search of fresh water, where we found a roc's egg, equal in size to that I formerly mentioned. The merchants and sailors gathered around it in great amazement, and though I entreated and conjured them not to meddle with the egg, they would not forbear, but making a hole in it with their hatchets, they picked out the young roc, piece after piece, and roasted it.

Scarcely had they made an end of their treat, when there appeared in the air, at a distance, two great clouds. I knew it was the rocs belonging to the young bird, and calling the people together, I made them embark and set sail.

The two rocs alighted, and seeing their eggs destroyed, made a most frightful noise. Presently they took flight and disappeared. It was not long before they returned, with stones, or rather rocks, of a monstrous size, between their talons. When they came directly over my ship, they hovered, and one let his stone drop, but it missed us and fell into the sea. The other roc threw the stone so exactly in the very middle of the ship that it split into a thousand pieces. The mariners and passengers were all killed or thrown into the sea. The latter was my fate, but I fortunately caught hold of a piece of the wreck, which carried me to an island whose shore was very deep.

This island seemed to me to be a delicious garden, abounding in the finest fruit trees of every description.

On advancing further into the island, I beheld an old man on the banks of a river, of whom I asked several questions; but the old man replied only by signs, intimating a wish to be carried across the river to gather some fruit from a tree. I took him upon my back, and the old man, clasping his legs firmly around my throat, caused me to convey him about, while he ate the best fruit, and gave me the refuse. He never quitted me a moment. When I laid down at night he lay down with me, his legs always fast about my neck.

One day I found in my way several dry calabashes; I picked up a large one, and pressed into it some juice of grapes, which made an excellent wine. I gave the old man the calabash, and the liquor pleasing his palate, he drank the whole of it, and became completely drunk. By degrees he loosened his legs from my neck, so that I was able to throw him upon the ground, where he soon fell into convulsions, and I had the satisfaction to witness his death. I soon after embarked on board a ship that touched at the island for water.

When we arrived at the harbour of a great city, the captain gave me a large bag, telling me to follow the ship's crew, and do as they did. We proceeded through the city to a forest abounding with cocoa-nut trees, and swarmed with apes: the sailors pelted the apes with stones, who in return threw coconuts at them. I collected my share of them, and went every day to the forest till I procured a sufficient quantity of nuts to raise me a large sum of money, when I returned to Bagdad.

## THE SIXTH VOYAGE.

## SINDBAD IN THE DARK CAVERN.

I determined on another voyage. The pilot lost his course, and the ship was dashed to pieces against a rock. Our lives and merchandise were saved. We saw the coast covered with pieces of ships, human bones, and goods of all kinds. In one of the mountains was a spacious cavern, with a river running through a part of it, which stunned us with its noise, and here all my companions died with grief. I alone survived, and I formed a design of effecting my escape by means of the dark river. I made a float from the wreck, loaded it with goods and provisions, and after floating for a week at the mercy of the current, I sank into a deep sleep. On awakening, I found myself in a delightful country, amidst a number of black men, who set me on a white horse, a party marching behind with my goods, and took me before the king of the country, who gave me leave to return home, saying, "You shall be my ambassador to your illustrious sovereign, Caliph Haroun Alraschid, and bear a letter and some presents to him. I accordingly quitted Serindib, (which was the name of this country) and, after a stormy voyage, arrived at Bagdad.

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## THE SEVENTH AND LAST VOYAGE.

## SINDBAD SHOOTING ELEPHANTS.

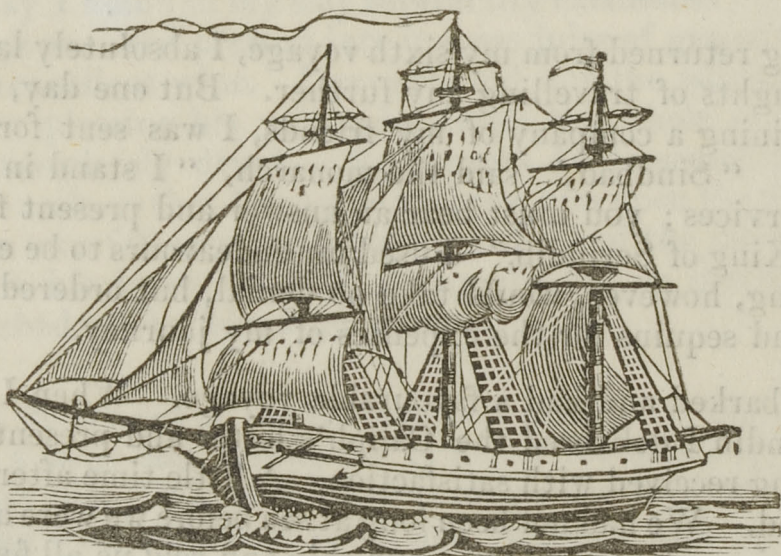
Being returned from my sixth voyage, I absolutely laid aside all thoughts of travelling any further. But one day, as I was entertaining a company of my friends, I was sent for by the Caliph. "Sindbad," said the monarch, "I stand in need of your services; you must bear an answer and present from me to the King of Serindib." I used my endeavours to be excused: the King, however, would take no denial, but ordered me one thousand sequins for the expenses of my journey.

I embarked and had a favourable voyage. When I arrived at Serindib I delivered the Caliph's letter and present, which the King received with satisfaction. A little time afterwards I departed. We had not been long at sea before we were attacked by corsairs, who seized upon our ship and sold us all for slaves. I was bought by a rich merchant, who gave me a bow and arrows, and, taking me to a forest, told me I must wait there till a troop of elephants passed by, when I must shoot at them.

On the following morning I shot an elephant, and immediately hastened to acquaint my master of my success. He commended my diligence, and we went back to the forest, where we dug a pit to bury the elephant in till he decayed, when the merchant intended to take his teeth, for he traded in ivory. I continued this course for two months. One morning a very large elephant wound his proboscis round the trunk of a tree on which I was stationed, and tore it up by the roots: I fell with the tree, and the same elephant, taking me up with his trunk, laid me on his back, and carried me to a hill and left me. I discovered that this hill was strewed all over with the bones and teeth of elephants. It proved to be their burial place, and I could not but admire the sagacity of the animal who had conveyed me thither, in order to show me how to get plenty of teeth without destroying its species.

I returned to my master, and conducted him to the hill, when we loaded the elephant on which we rode with as much ivory as he could carry. My master then gave me liberty to return to my own country. He loaded a ship with a valuable cargo for me, and abundance of provisions.

We set sail, and at last I came safe to Bagdad, and presented myself to the Caliph, to render an account of my embassy. After which, I retired to my home, loaded with riches and honours.





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