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**LIVING BY STARLIGHT**  
**an Astrological Newsletter**

**AUTHOR'S NOTES:**

I was lucky enough to be on a rooftop in Manhattan during the Great American Solar Eclipse, with a dear friend and a pair of official Bill Nye Eclipse Glasses, and got to witness this wondrous event. While we only saw about 75% of it here in the Northeast, it was still awe inspiring. I can only imagine what people in the distant past must have thought as the Moon ate up the Sun. And while some of the magic and amazement has lessened, as we better understand the scientific dynamics of the event, it still is something that I will never forget and I'm so very happy to have shared in. As an astrologer, this occurrence has a deeper meaning and perhaps a more profound effect, still the physical happening was both exciting and a bit scary. What is scarier however, is what I believe this signifies for our nation and the world. We are standing at a crossroads, as we all now know, and what path we take as a culture will have a long-term effect on us all.

Eclipses literally block out the light. And when you turn off the overhead lamp you can more readily see what's in the shadows. The events at Charlottesville that took place in-between the two eclipses brought many things out of the background and put them in the forefront for us all to see.

When there's an infection in the body, there's usually pain. The pain is present to alert the body that something is wrong. Often there's inflammation and some outward signs of that infection so the body can respond accordingly and fight off the invasion. The same is true in the collective. There's a deep and festering infection in America that has been oozing since our inception, and while it has subsided at times, it always returns. In astrology Neptune rules infections. America has a Mars-Neptune square in its chart. That aspect implies that there is something festering in the undercurrent that must be eliminated or it will eventually drain us of our power and energy. That infection can be called many things. But ultimately it is hate, an illness that may destroy our great country in the end.

These eclipses have blocked out the light so we can see what's in the shadows. Donald Trump isn't the cause of the problem. It existed long before he ever dreamed of being president. But he has been the impetus for bringing it out into the light. It was time for this to come out, and so we elected this man so we could finally see and confront the issues that have been hidden for so long. Trump's Mars is 28 degrees Leo and his Ascendant is 29 degrees Leo. The eclipse on Monday was at 28 degrees Leo. America's Moon is at 27 degrees Aquarius in opposition to that eclipse. The Sun in the New York Stock Exchange chart is

29 degrees Taurus in square to that eclipse. This is a time of confrontation and radical change in our country. It won't happen overnight, but it is happening. And as we approach 2020 we will see many things take place.

America has much racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, etc. and has a conflicting self-image. On one level we're the leaders of the world, the strongest, richest and most assertive nation since ancient Rome. But on another level we are insecure, selfish, spoiled and petulant. There are so many "groups" in America it's hard to keep track of them all. But there is, and always has been a side to our collective that is blind to the sufferings of others, only concerned for personal wealth and security.

The violence we saw in Charlottesville Virginia may be only the beginning. The path of the Great American solar eclipse that occurred on August 21<sup>st</sup> literally cut through the middle of America, a clear example of just how divided this country is. The explosive nature of what's happening politically and in the streets was easily predictable. You didn't have to be an astrologer to see the handwriting on the wall. When Donald Trump was elected after campaigning on a platform of racism, xenophobia, separatism and isolationism there was little doubt that this is where we could head.

In 2020, we will see a tremendous buildup of force. Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto will conjunct in Capricorn on America's Pluto, after opposing Venus, Jupiter and Mercury in our nation's chart. This is potentially a very dangerous time when there will be a release of hidden anger and resentment. In a country with more than 300 million guns and assault rifles in the hands of private citizens we are essentially an armed nation always potentially on the verge of civil war. **Let's not let that happen.** Do whatever you can to promote communication and find a common ground. Otherwise we all will lose.

The stock markets are shaky, but they aren't crashing. At least not yet. I've been saying that a correction is due, and it's certainly in the air. But it will not be a crash. The reason for the coming correction has to do with a number of issues, not just the fear generated by world events, such as North Korea, Afghanistan and Iran. We are dealing with domestic problems that will require our attention for some time. These include the debt ceiling, the devalued dollar and the unsure state of this administration, as well as world events, and we are going to see a lot of volatility.

We are heading towards a possible financial crisis that will take about 2 years to come to a head. I believe that the next possible crash will be as we approach 2020. Of course, I'm a believer in free-will astrology and it's possible that we can avoid the coming problems if the collective pays attention. Most of the time though we are all too busy paying rent, taking in the laundry and walking the dog to put too much effort into changing the world. During the coming months we'll see the markets rally and fail over and over.

As we approach 2020 the underlying causes will become more evident. The years of easy cheap money are over. The Feds will continue to raise interest rates, which will make it harder for Americans to finance the purchase of new homes, cars and business expansions. The effects will be felt in all areas, and the economy could begin to get quite unstable. The world has always turned towards the US dollar and bonds during periods of stress. Now they're losing faith in our system, in large part because of the erratic behavior

and policies of our president. The result may very well be a crisis in the dollar. Trump believes that a cheaper dollar will stimulate international business for the US, but many don't agree. While the import-export balance will be more equitable with a cheaper dollar, the underlying insecurity that it will create will be devastating. And the continued debt problem will eventually lead us to a point where we can no longer even pay the interest on what we owe. If the U.S. defaults because of political infighting, it will damage our standing in the international community.

We are currently heading into a period over the next year when a number of planets will change signs. While the inner, faster moving planets go through the signs quickly, the outer slower moving planets, beginning with Jupiter, take longer to transit a sign, so when they change signs it has a deeper impact on our society.

**Jupiter will enter Scorpio on October 10<sup>th</sup>, where it will stay for a year.**

**Saturn will enter Capricorn on December 19<sup>th</sup> for the next 2 years.**

**Uranus will enter Taurus on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

The combination of these changes will redirect a great deal of the energy we are emitting. I'll be writing about all of these alterations over the coming months. For now let me just say – we are at the tail end of one period and beginning a new cycle. This will take some time to establish exactly what all of this means. But as we are heading towards that great stellium in Capricorn (see my article on “2020” at my website) there will be many signs showing us what to expect.

Make the most of the end of this period by completing things that are left unfinished. Once this paradigm shift occurs it will be harder to go back and put the final touches on it all.

### **NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Monday August 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 P.M. EDT at 28 degrees Leo 53 minutes. This is not only a, eclipse, but the Moon goes Void of Course right after the conjunct to the Sun.** As most of you know this is the Great American Eclipse whose path is cutting right through the center of our nation. This is a powerful event that is setting a number of things into motion. We have seen some more radical changes in Washington. Some people have lost their position of power, and there is a shift in the attitude about many things. The Trump administration continues to be dysfunctional, and because this eclipse falls so prominently in the charts of the president, the NYSE and the nation, I expect some very serious event to unfold over the next few months. There is a planned escalation in the war in Afghanistan, already the longest war in America's history. Many of the closest advisors to the president are now military men, not civilians.

On a personal level this eclipse can be very positive for the individual, especially if it sets off your chart. All New Moons are a chance to begin a new cycle, and while the eclipse does denote an underlying energy that may be hard to handle, it in no way implies that only bad things will occur. Sometimes we need to end

something, but our resolve isn't up to the task, so the universe gives us a shove. That's some of what an eclipse can do. It will push someone to make a change that they normally would hesitate to do.

There are a number of things coming to a close now, including marriages, businesses, and other projects and relationships. But whenever there are endings, there are also beginnings. Be optimistic and proactive, and try to make the most of this time. If something has outlived its usefulness, maybe you should just let it go.

### **MARS TRINES SATURN:**

**On Tuesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:20 A.M. EDT** this firm and concentrated aspect will allow us all to get a lot of work done. The energy of Mars is being focused by Saturn and we can aim it in the direction we need. This is a very positive and productive day, although it may not be terribly exciting or adventurous. There's a very realistic attitude in the air, and our approach to work and responsibilities is strong. Use this aspect to clean up any unfinished business and complete projects.

### **THE SUN ENTERS VIRGO:**

**Also on Tuesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:21 P.M. EDT** the Sun enters the mutable earth sign. While we tend to think of Labor Day as summer's end, in actuality we are just entering the last third of that season. The mutable signs represent the changeability as we slowly morph into autumn. This sign has the reputation of being rather critical and somewhat demanding, but that's because of its ability to focus on detail. It can be a bit picky and can get caught up in the smallest of minutiae so try to keep an open mind and see the bigger picture.

### **VENUS SQUARES URANUS:**

**On Thursday August 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M. EDT** romance will take on a rather erratic and unpredictable air. If it sets off your personal chart, this square can at times bring someone different into your life. While this person may be exciting the relationship is often unstable and upsetting. If you've been stuck in a rut lately, this may be just what you need. But give it some time to shows its true nature before you commit too much. This is a day to explore and seek out new and unusual people, events and ideas. It's not a good day to sit in front of a computer or to follow your usual path. Try something new. A different restaurant, type of music or any other activity that opens your consciousness a bit will be rewarding. Venus also rules our finances, and this is a day to watch your money. It's easy to spend without thinking under this influence, and you might be tempted to purchase something that is very expensive and not that important. Take a day or so and think about it. Of course what may happen under this aspect is that you will see something on sale just for today and react impulsively.

### **SATURN GOES DIRECT:**

**On Friday August 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:09 A.M. EDT** this intense planet will begin going forward once again. Many projects and decisions have been on hold for some time. Now that Saturn is turning around they will begin

to move forward once again. That doesn't mean that everything will suddenly come to fruition overnight, but the energy is changing and you should try to take advantage of it. If you've had something on the back burner for a while, now is a good time to dust it off and look at it with a fresh perspective. This is particularly true in business dealings, but it will also have that effect on your relationships and personal decisions.

I have found that the change of direction of the planets have a powerful effect on our culture, though it may take place more in the collective unconscious and not be as obvious at first. Saturn is the planet of responsibility and the overall sense of duty we as a species feel. When it was in retrograde it tended to direct that sense of obligation inward and reflective. Now it will be displayed in the outside world and decisions will be made that have a strong reaction. This will be seen in our politics, finances and military. Expect to see reversals in some of these areas. We are reaching a stretching point in this bull market in the stocks, and there will be several events that will test its durability. As I've said before, I expect a correction in the equities based on a number of issues.

### **VENUS ENTERS LEO:**

**On Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 A.M. EDT until September 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 P.M. EDT** Venus will travel through this fire sign. Leo rules the stage, and you can expect romance to have a more dramatic attitude for a while. Don't take everything that occurs during this period to heart. There may be some discussions or actions taken that are overly histrionic and may pass without you reacting to it. If you're trying to get someone's attention now you probably should act out a bit or you will be overlooked. But if you are too outrageous it can have the opposite effect and push someone away.

### **JUPITER SEXTILES SATURN:**

**On Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:16 A.M. EDT** this very important transit completes. Jupiter wants to expand without limitations. Saturn represents those limitations. When these two work well together we have the ability to enlarge our perspective and projects in a controlled and logical fashion. This is a few days when you can put your projects in perspective and move them forward slowly and carefully.

This sextile has been effective since November 2016, and has had much to do with the radical rise in stock prices and the continued enthusiasm in our culture, despite the chaos in Washington. Now that this is completing I suspect that we will see that confidence wane and the markets top out. I expect that this, plus the reversal of Saturn's direction, and the recent eclipses will result in a correction in the stocks.

### **MERCURY ENTERS LEO:**

**On Thursday August 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:29 A.M. EDT until September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:52 P.M. EDT** Mercury will retrograde back into Leo for about 2 weeks where it will join Venus and Mars. During this period we will all tend to speak with more authority and force. As I said earlier Leo rules the stage, and the already rather dramatic attitude will prevail. Try to keep things in perspective and don't blow something out of proportion. It's easy to overstate your case and delve into histrionics with so much Leo energy.

### **MARS TRINES URANUS:**

**On Saturday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:13 A.M. EDT** this positive trine will allow us all to pursue exciting and adventurous activities. This is a few days to reach out and seek the unusual. A trip to a water park, or some other physical activity would be very rewarding. In fact, this is a time to use your muscles and get out into the world. It's not a time to sit in front of a computer or TV screen. That would be a terrible waste of this energy. Look for something different. You may be attracted to events, ideas and people you normally wouldn't be.

### **MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:**

**On Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:39 A.M. EDT** this powerful conjunct completes. This conjunct can create arguments and even physical altercations, so use caution and common sense, especially while traveling. There will be a lot of anger in the air, and you would be wise to act in a defensive way and avoid any direct confrontations. Remember, if you're in a car and you have control over your own temper, the person in the car next to you may not.

This falls exactly where the Solar Eclipse occurred at 28 degrees Leo. Because of that eclipse this will have a stronger effect on our culture. When any planet transits the spot where a full eclipse happened it brings up that energy once again and produces a force that must be reckoned with. As many of you know, this is the degree of Trump's ascendant/Mars, and it is a sensitive point in the zodiac that will affect him and subsequently our nation. There may be an event today somewhere in the world that has a strong reaction in America, but even if there isn't, this is a time when we are heading in a different direction and we will see the results in the months to come.

### **THE SUN OPPOSES NEPTUNE:**

**On Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:28 A.M. EDT** this rather confusing aspect completes. This is a day of misunderstandings and mistakes so double check everything and pay close attention to what you're doing and saying. If you aren't sure about what the other guy is implying, take the time to clarify things. Otherwise even a small misunderstanding can result in a bigger problem. Neptune also rules infections, so if you have any cut or unexplained pain, check it out and take precautions. This is usually a very bad aspect for the stocks, and I'm looking for triggers that may set off a downward movement.

### **MARS ENTERS VIRGO:**

**Also On Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:35 A.M. EDT until October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 P.M. EDT** Mars enters this critical sign. For the next 6 weeks or so people will tend to be overly picky. Egos will be a bit fragile especially after Mars has transited outgoing Leo. This is a good time to work on things that require attention to detail. You will find that you have excessive energy for paperwork and putting things in order. But you may not feel as overly active and athletic as you did the past few months. Well, there's a time and place for everything, and the wise person recognizes what will work best. If you try to act as though nothing ever changes you will have difficulties. If, however, you accept the constant evolution of energies you can avoid

much of the problems and aim your attention where it will do you the most good.

### **MERCURY GOES DIRECT:**

**Also on Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 A.M. EDT** our mischievous little fellow begins to run forward once again. As always, the first few days of Mercury changing direction can be fraught with problems. We are all racing to catch up after 3 weeks of the retrograde, and that can lead to mistakes and miscalculations. Take your time and plan your activities in advance so you don't waste your energy.

Some secrets will be revealed as this planet changes direction. We may hear some surprises regarding Trump and the government in general. As I said in the article I sent out a few weeks ago, on September 3<sup>rd</sup> Mercury and Mars will conjunct exactly where the Solar Eclipse took place at 28 degrees Leo. That may very well be when some news comes out that is shocking and makes us change direction and attention. Keep your eyes and ears open.

### **FULL MOON:**

**This month's lunar peak occurs on Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:03 A.M. EDT at 13 degrees Pisces 53 minutes.** The Pisces Full Moon indicates that we are dealing with completions in preparation for a new beginning. This is a time to finish up anything that is incomplete. Take the time to look around you and see just what must come to an end now. If there are any health issues in your body they may become obvious now. Pisces has much to do with charity, healing and service to others. Anyway that you can aid people will be a blessing not just for them, but for you as well. This is a good time to help out in some way. All Full Moons demand respect, and you should use some caution for a day or two. But Pisces isn't all that active. It works best in the unconscious and behind the scenes. Give something to charity, whether it's money, your time or just your ideas. And help out anywhere you can. We all need help sometimes, and this is a chance to more readily see those who do.

### **THE SUN TRINES PLUTO:**

**On Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:41 A.M. EDT** this positive trine will allow us all to delve deeply into any subject or relationship that requires our attention. This is a good chance to dig out hidden agendas and uncover the truth. Because this is a trine you can do so without the fear of upsetting things too much. This is a good day for setting the record straight and discussing things that may have been overlooked or perhaps purposely ignored. But remember that when you are seeking facts and actuality you may not always like what you discover. Still, it's better to know what's happening than to stumble in the darkness.

### **MERCURY ENTERS VIRGO:**

**Also on Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:52 P.M. EDT until September 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:42 P.M. EDT,** Mercury reenters the mutable earth sign. This placement is excellent for any detail oriented work, and while the winged god is in this sign it will aid writers, public speakers and anyone who is communicating with the public. There is a somewhat picky side to Virgo, so try to be aware of how you're presenting yourself. Don't

be overly critical, and keep an open mind.

### **THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:**

**On Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:58 P.M. EDT** this restrictive aspect will place limitations on many things, including activities, relationships and plans. This isn't an evil aspect, it's just one that slows us down so we can double check things and make sure there are no mistakes in our ideas and projects. This isn't a very good day for an important date or other social action. Many will feel tired or unenthusiastic, and would prefer a quiet evening at home. It is a good day for looking over your work and making sure that you are focused and heading in the direction you wish to go.

### **VENUS SEXTILES JUPITER:**

**On Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:44 P.M. EDT** this wonderful, but short lived transit will come along. This is a good day for any social outing. A date, party or other activity should go well. People will be outgoing and sociable, and while it isn't a very high energy aspect, it is a very pleasant one. There may not be a lot of oomph in the air, but it would be a shame to waste this lovely transit and not take advantage of it. Travel will be enjoyable, so if possible take a few hours out for a drive, a long walk, or any other trip. Whatever you do today you should include other people and some form of fun or entertainment.

### **MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:**

**On Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:01 P.M. EDT** this powerful conjunct completes once again. We had this aspect on September 3<sup>rd</sup> (see above) and because of the change of direction of Mercury it comes along today. In general this requires some attention. Mars is the planet of ego and force. It is, after all, the god of war. So when it is active it will bring a lot of energy to the planet it is aspecting. Mercury rules the way we communicate, and our short journeys. Pay attention to how you're presenting your ideas. If you're being too brusque or opinionated you should tone it down a bit. Many people will be angry and looking for a fight. Be conscious of that and don't take the bait. When traveling you must also keep in mind that this may be going on, and drive defensively. Let the other guy cut in front of you. What's the difference if you get home a few minutes later? It's far better than letting ego clashes occur while in a two ton vehicle.

Because the last pass of this aspect occurred at the point of the Solar Eclipse, we may see some resolution of an issue that began in August. We may also see the beginning of an argument within the political world that has a more pertinent result than you may expect. In general though, you should sidestep any unnecessary disputes or conflicts. Leave it all until after this passes. If you still wish to take up the discussion you can do so under easier transits that won't put personal and ego pressure on you.

### **VENUS TRINES URANUS:**

**On Monday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:25 A.M. EDT** this positive and exciting trine will give us all a desire to experience new and exciting things. This is a day to step outside your comfort zone and explore. You can do so without the usual concerns. Innovative thoughts are common. It's a good day to seek out new people,



ideas and projects. Any entertainment you pursue should be different than your usual activities. Your tastes are open to uncommon flavors, so try a different restaurant, music venue, or other actions. And look for people who have something new to present to you. You're open-minded and energetic. Romance may pop up in the most unexpected places, so keep your eyes open.

### **VENUS ENTERS VIRGO:**

**On Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 P.M. EDT** Venus joins Mercury, Mars and the Sun in this sign. There is a plethora of Virgo energy right now. If you take advantage of the good side of this sign you can get a lot done. This is a good period for any work that is detail oriented. We will all be more focused and attentive, and any sort of editing or fact checking will work out well. It's not the best placement for big ideas and schemes, so don't try to take on too much. Focus on one project at a time. This is a good time to create a budget, either for your business or your personal funds. You'll be very realistic and can note expenses that you may otherwise ignore.

### **MERCURY OPPOSES NEPTUNE:**

**Also on Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:50 P.M. EDT** this very confusing and distracting transit comes along right on the dark of the moon. Today you must pay close attention to what's going on. It is easy to miss details, and because we are in the middle of this period of much Virgo energy, details are exactly what are most prominent in the forefront of our minds and plans. If you're not sure what to do, do nothing. Clarity will return once this passes, and you will have a better idea of how to proceed in a day or two. This may be a very bad day for the stocks. We're at the end of the lunar cycle, and because of the confusion this can produce there may be some disturbing news that creates a dip in the equities.

### **DARK OF THE MOON:**

**The next New Moon falls on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 A.M. EDT at 27 degrees Virgo 27 minutes. The day or two leading up to it will be a particularly low energy period. If you tend to be emotional this may be a very trying time each month.** I have found that people with prominent moons or a Cancer Sun, Moon or ascendant respond to the lunar cycles more intensely than others. Spend this time finishing up anything that is incomplete, don't try to initiate new projects on a waning moon, it just won't work out. Once the New Moon hits you begin new projects or attempt a new approach to an existing problem.

If you have been living in a situation or involved in a relationship that is intolerable or has outlived its usefulness this would be the proper time to move on with your life. If you have been working on a project that is almost complete but you seem to lack the energy for the finality, you must push during these low energy days to end the matter once and for all. If you don't, when the New Moon arrives it will bring this "dead" energy along with it and conflict with the newer force being presented. Each month we are offered a chance to clean house, so to speak.

*Note: All aspects are most powerful and effective as they apply. Once the transit has completed, its force is*

*lessened. The further it separates the weaker it becomes.*

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Below is a list of times this month when the Moon is Void of Course and neither important decisions nor purchases should be made during these periods. The Void of Course Moon is a time when we should try to center ourselves and deal with spiritual matters not materialistic ones. Any decisions made on the VC Moon will not turn out the way we had expected.

The Moon is Void of Course from the time it makes its last major aspect in a sign until it enters the next sign. For example, if the Moon squares Mars at 27 degrees Aries and then has no more aspects until it enters Taurus it will be Void of Course for three degrees or about 6 hours. The aspects used are the conjunction, sextile, square, trine, and opposition. All times are Eastern Daylight Time:

August 21<sup>st</sup> 2:30 P.M. – 4:25 P.M.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> 4:02 P.M. – 9:05 P.M.

August 26<sup>th</sup> 1:39 A.M. – 4:53 A.M.

August 28<sup>th</sup> 5:38 A.M. – 3:48 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 10 hours

August 31<sup>st</sup> 12:42 A.M. – 4:18 A.M.

September 2<sup>nd</sup> 12:30 P.M. – 4:06 P.M.

September 5<sup>th</sup> 1:15 A.M. – 1:28 A.M.

September 6<sup>th</sup> 4:29 P.M. – September 7<sup>th</sup> 8:01 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 16 hours

September 9<sup>th</sup> 11:52 A.M. – 12:23 P.M.

September 10<sup>th</sup> 8:54 P.M. – September 11<sup>th</sup> 3:29 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 18 hours

September 13<sup>th</sup> 2:35 P.M. – 6:12 P.M.

September 15<sup>th</sup> 5:23 P.M. – 9:09 P.M.

September 17<sup>th</sup> 8:55 P.M. – September 18<sup>th</sup> 12:52 A.M.

September 20<sup>th</sup> 1:30 A.M. – 6:06 A.M.

September 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:04 A.M. – 1:40 P.M.

September 24<sup>th</sup> 3:33 A.M. – September 25<sup>th</sup> 12:01 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 22 hours

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**New York City**

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