

Night Elie Wiesel Summary Chapter 2

Night, Chapter 2: A Descent into the Depths of Indifference and Despair Elie Wiesel's **Night**, a harrowing account of the Holocaust, paints a stark and unforgettable picture of human suffering. Chapter 2, focusing on the initial days of the prisoners' transition from village life to the concentration camp, provides a crucial window into the insidious nature of dehumanization and the breakdown of societal structures. This chapter, while intensely personal, offers powerful insights into the psychological and social dynamics of oppression. **Summary and Analysis:**

Chapter 2 opens with the villagers' forced departure from their homes, a scene steeped in the loss of normalcy and the crushing weight of uncertainty. The narrative shifts from the familiar rhythms of daily life to the chaotic reality of mass displacement. This is no longer a village or a family, but a group of individuals reduced to their essential humanity – numbers on a list, nameless faces in the crowd. The narrative powerfully illustrates the transition from civilian life to the harrowing experience within the camp. **Key Themes and Their Implications:** •

Indifference and Dehumanization: The chapter highlights the chilling indifference of both the guards and fellow prisoners. The lack of empathy and the overwhelming sense of despair are depicted through the systematic stripping of their identities and dignity. This resonates profoundly with current-day societal issues of apathy and prejudice. The concept of "othering" and the dehumanizing act of assigning numbers instead of names – which strip individuals of their identity – highlights the dangers of unchecked prejudice. • **Loss of Faith and Meaning:** The disruption of the familiar routines, the senseless violence, and the pervasive fear erode faith in a just world. This is echoed in the increasingly desperate cries of faith and the dwindling sense of purpose. This can be directly related to the impact of crisis situations on the mental health and well-being of individuals. • **Loss of Community:** The chapter describes the fragmentation of community as individuals are separated and forced into a brutal system. The sense of shared identity and collective experience breaks down. This phenomenon is directly analogous to the breakdown of social structures during political crises and societal shifts. **Visual**

Representation: | Stage of Transition | Characteristics | Impact | |||| | Village Life | Established routines, family bonds, faith in community. | Sense of security, normalcy, social identity | | Forced Relocation | Mass displacement, loss of property, separation from family. | Loss of security, disorientation, disruption of normalcy, and loss of faith. | | Camp Life | Assigned numbers, dehumanization, loss of identity, violence. | Diminished self-worth, loss of faith, erosion of community ties, and psychological trauma. | **Real-World Application:** The themes of indifference, dehumanization, and the loss of faith and community in chapter 2 of **Night** resonate deeply with contemporary social issues. The indifference witnessed in the face of human suffering, particularly in refugee crises, echoes the lack of compassion depicted in the narrative. The psychological effects of forced displacement and the breakdown of social structures are directly paralleled by situations like war zones, refugee camps, and even large-scale disasters. The urgent need for empathy and compassion in the face of human suffering is highlighted by this narrative. **Conclusion:** Chapter 2 of **Night** is more than just a historical account; it's a powerful allegory for the destructive consequences of indifference, prejudice, and the erosion of human dignity. The narrative serves as a stark reminder of the fragility of human rights and the imperative to safeguard human compassion. By exploring the themes of

dehumanization, loss of faith, and the breakdown of community, Wiesel compels us to contemplate our own responses to suffering and the urgent need for empathy and active resistance against injustice. *Advanced FAQs:* 1. **How does the author's use of language contribute to the psychological impact of the chapter?** 2. *What are the parallels between the social dynamics in the concentration camp and contemporary forms of social marginalization?* 3. **How does the narrative's focus on individual experiences contrast with the collective trauma of the Holocaust?** 4. **In what ways does Wiesel utilize symbolism in chapter 2 to underscore the loss of identity?** 5. **How does a study of the psychological dynamics portrayed in this chapter provide insight into conflict resolution and the prevention of atrocities?** This analysis provides a nuanced understanding of chapter 2, not just as a historical document but as a potent critique of human behavior in the face of adversity. It underscores the timeless relevance of Wiesel's work and its enduring ability to provoke reflection on the moral and ethical dimensions of human experience.

Night: A Deep Dive into Chapter 2 of Elie Wiesel's Haunting Memoir

Elie Wiesel's "Night" is a searing testament to the horrors of the Holocaust, a memoir that has etched itself into the conscience of humanity. For anyone seeking to understand the devastating impact of antisemitism and genocide, reading "Night" is an essential, albeit emotionally taxing, journey. Among its many pivotal chapters, Chapter 2 stands out for its visceral portrayal of the initial stages of persecution and the shattering of normalcy for the Jewish community of Sighet.

If you're looking for a "Night Elie Wiesel summary chapter 2" that goes beyond a simple plot recap, you've come to the right place. We'll explore the key events, the emotional landscape, and the underlying themes that make this chapter so profoundly impactful. Understanding Chapter 2 is crucial for grasping the full scope of Eliezer's (Elie's) transformation from a devout, inquisitive young boy into a witness burdened by unimaginable trauma.

The Gradual Erosion of Rights: From Annoyance to Apprehension

Chapter 2 doesn't begin with the immediate deportation to concentration camps. Instead, Wiesel masterfully illustrates the insidious, creeping nature of oppression. It starts subtly, almost as a nuisance, before escalating into a palpable sense of dread. The initial decrees, the segregation of the Jewish population, and the forced wearing of the yellow star are presented not as sudden, cataclysmic events, but as a series of increasingly restrictive measures that gradually erode the Jewish community's freedom and dignity.

The yellow star, a symbol of shame and separation, becomes a tangible marker of their otherness. Wiesel describes how initially, it was just another inconvenience, another burden to bear. However, the emotional weight of this imposed identity begins to take its toll. It's no longer just a piece of cloth; it's a brand that isolates them from their neighbors, from the world

they once knew. The "Night Elie Wiesel summary chapter 2" often highlights this shift from an external imposition to an internalized sense of marking.

The community's initial reactions are a mix of resignation, confusion, and a desperate attempt to maintain a semblance of normalcy. They try to adapt, to find ways to circumvent the new rules, to hold onto their routines and their faith. This is a common thread in Wiesel's narrative – the human capacity for adaptation, even in the face of escalating adversity. However, this adaptation is a double-edged sword, allowing the oppressors to tighten their grip incrementally.

The Ghettoization of Sighet: A World Within a World

One of the most significant developments in Chapter 2 is the forced relocation of Sighet's Jews into ghettos. Wiesel vividly describes the overcrowding, the scarcity of food and resources, and the suffocating atmosphere within these confined spaces. It's a literal shrinking of their world, a deliberate act of dehumanization that strips them of their homes, their businesses, and their sense of belonging.

The ghettos become microcosms of the larger tragedy to come. Within these cramped quarters, friendships are strained, families are tested, and the bonds of community are both strengthened and fractured by the shared hardship. The narrative captures the desperate attempts to maintain some semblance of social order and humanity amidst the chaos and fear. This isolation also serves to cut them off from any potential outside help or information, making them more vulnerable to the systematic extermination that is rapidly approaching.

When people search for "Night Elie Wiesel chapter 2 summary," they often want to understand the psychological impact of this confinement. It's not just physical imprisonment; it's the psychological toll of being herded together, stripped of privacy, and subjected to constant uncertainty and hunger. The sense of helplessness begins to solidify, paving the way for the deeper despair that will characterize later chapters.

The Loss of the Familiar: From Religious Devotion to Growing Doubt

Eliezer's deep religious faith is a cornerstone of his character in the early parts of "Night." He is fascinated by the Kabbalah and spends his time studying Jewish mysticism with Moshe the Beadle. Chapter 2 marks a subtle but significant shift in this devotion. While the faith is still present, the escalating persecution and the seemingly indifferent silence of God begin to plant seeds of doubt.

The suffering he witnesses, the injustice he experiences, and the seemingly powerless God begin to create a dissonance within him. How can a loving, all-powerful God allow such atrocities to occur? This internal conflict is a crucial part of Eliezer's journey and foreshadows the profound spiritual crisis he will undergo. The "Night Elie Wiesel chapter 2" summary needs to acknowledge this budding spiritual struggle, as it is integral to understanding his later existential questions.

Moshe the Beadle, who had been deported and miraculously returned to tell his tale of horror,

serves as an early warning sign that the community largely ignores. His fragmented accounts of mass shootings and atrocities are met with disbelief and skepticism. This disbelief, while understandable in its attempt to cling to a rational world, becomes a tragic blind spot that prevents them from fully comprehending the imminent danger.

Key Events and Their Significance in Chapter 2

1. **The Introduction of Anti-Jewish Laws:** This section details the gradual stripping away of rights, from limitations on movement to the prohibition of certain businesses.
2. **The Yellow Star:** The forced wearing of the yellow star is a powerful symbol of dehumanization and segregation.
3. **The Evacuation of the Houses:** Families are forced to leave their homes and move into the newly established ghettos.
4. **Life in the Ghetto:** The chapter depicts the squalid living conditions, overcrowding, and scarcity within the ghettos.
5. **Moshe the Beadle's Return:** His harrowing account of his deportation and escape serves as a disturbing prophecy, though largely dismissed by the community.
6. **The Growing Sense of Fear and Uncertainty:** The chapter culminates in an atmosphere of apprehension as the true extent of the Nazi regime's intentions begins to dawn, albeit slowly and hesitantly.

The Impact of Chapter 2: Setting the Stage for Horror

Chapter 2 of "Night" is not just a narrative progression; it's a carefully constructed descent. Wiesel uses vivid imagery and poignant observations to convey the psychological and emotional disintegration of a community under siege. The sense of normalcy is systematically dismantled, replaced by fear, suspicion, and a gnawing sense of powerlessness.

The lessons learned from "Night Elie Wiesel summary chapter 2" extend beyond understanding the plot. They offer insights into the human capacity for denial, the insidious nature of prejudice, and the devastating consequences of indifference. This chapter serves as a crucial prelude, a stark reminder that the most horrific atrocities often begin with seemingly minor infringements on human rights and freedoms.

By detailing the initial stages of persecution, Wiesel forces us to confront the reality that the Holocaust wasn't an overnight event. It was a process, a gradual erosion of humanity that, in retrospect, feels almost incomprehensible in its execution. The seemingly mundane details of daily life under increasing oppression in Chapter 2 are what make the subsequent horrors of the concentration camps all the more shocking and profound.

Conclusion: A Foundation of Foreboding

In essence, Chapter 2 of "Night" is a chapter of profound foreshadowing. It's where the idyllic life in Sighet begins to unravel, and the first, chilling tendrils of the Nazi regime reach into the lives of its Jewish inhabitants. It's a testament to Wiesel's skill as a storyteller that he can evoke such a powerful sense of foreboding and dread, even as he recounts events that, to a modern

reader, are tragically inevitable.

If you're studying "Night" for academic purposes, or simply seeking a deeper understanding of this monumental work, delving into a comprehensive "Night Elie Wiesel summary chapter 2" is an indispensable step. It lays the groundwork for the unimaginable suffering that is to come and underscores the importance of vigilance against all forms of hatred and discrimination. The chapter's quiet despair is, in many ways, more chilling than the explicit horrors that follow, for it highlights the slow, agonizing death of innocence and hope.

Night, Chapter 2: A Descent into the Abyss – A Screenwriter's Perspective ** *Imagine a world bathed in the stark, unforgiving light of a gas lamp. A world where the whispers of fear echo louder than the chirping crickets. This is the world Elie Wiesel plunges us into in Chapter 2 of *Night*. It's a world of sudden, brutal dehumanization, where innocence is shattered and the very fabric of humanity seems to unravel. This chapter isn't just historical record; it's a visceral experience, a cinematic portrayal of terror and despair. As a screenwriter, dissecting this chapter reveals powerful storytelling techniques, demonstrating how Wiesel meticulously crafts a harrowing journey from hope to profound despair. (The Brutality of the Unexpected) Chapter 2, in a narrative sense, feels like a perfectly crafted pre-climax. The initial feeling of vulnerability is not the result of a grand . It's a gradual, unsettling escalation of fear. The initial dehumanization occurs through subtle shifts in language, demeanor, and social environment. The transition from a seemingly peaceful village to one on the brink of war is not a theatrical explosion but a suffocating crawl towards catastrophe. Imagine a scene: the familiar sound of village life—farmers returning from the fields, the murmur of children's laughter—is shattered by the abrupt arrival of the German soldiers, their faces obscured by shadows, their actions devoid of human connection. This creates a powerful sense of helplessness, and the film audience is drawn into the characters' terror. Case Study: Think of how *Schindler's List* uses similar techniques. The film doesn't immediately plunge into the horrors of the camps. It builds tension with images of ordinary life, highlighting the insidious nature of the rising persecution, making the final acts of barbarism even more impactful. (The Loss of Identity: The "Othering" Process) The chapter highlights the systematic effort to dehumanize the Jewish population. This is crucial to understanding the horrors. This "othering" process begins subtly. It isn't a grand statement; it's a constant barrage of small indignities—the forced removal from homes, the segregated living quarters, the uniform dress—each act stripping away the identity of individuals. This gradual de-personalization is a key cinematic technique; it shows the insidious nature of oppression. **Case Study:** Consider the cinematography in *The Pianist*. The stark contrast between the pre-war Polish streets and the claustrophobic confines of the ghettos visually emphasizes the loss of personal space and freedom. (The Unseen Enemy: The Role of Silence and Inertia) **The silent, watchful anticipation felt by the Jewish community in chapter two is arguably the most terrifying aspect. The Germans aren't just acting violently; they are manipulating the inaction and fear of the villagers. It is a testament to the power of silence—the deafening absence of protest. Their slow, deliberate cruelty is as frightening as any overt act of violence.** Example: A scene in the film could show the Jewish villagers observing the systematic confiscation of their possessions, their faces etched with fear and helplessness but their voices silent, offering nothing more than fleeting glances of anguish. This creates a potent emotional impact. **(The Importance of***

Human Connection in the Face of Despair)* Even within the suffocating atmosphere, there are glimpses of humanity. Brief moments of solidarity, whispered promises, and shared sorrow illuminate the human capacity for resilience. Example: The shared experience of fear, the unspoken understanding between individuals facing similar trials, creates powerful cinematic connections. Consider the scene in **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas** where the young boys share a bond despite the physical boundaries. **Benefits of Screenwriting Approach** • Deeper understanding of historical context • Enhanced empathy and emotional impact • Skills in creating atmosphere and suspense • Development of characters through action and response **(Insights and Conclusions)** Wiesel's masterful storytelling in Chapter 2 reveals the devastating impact of dehumanization, highlighting the crucial role of empathy and resistance. The chapter's narrative structure mirrors the psychological breakdown of the characters. It demonstrates the importance of visual storytelling in conveying the subtle shifts in power dynamics and the insidious nature of oppression. The power of the chapter lies not just in the events but in the emotional echo they produce in the reader/viewer. **(Advanced FAQs)* 1. How can a screenwriter use metaphorical language in Chapter 2 to amplify the themes of dehumanization? 2. What cinematic techniques can be used to portray the transition from normal village life to the oppressive atmosphere of the ghetto? 3. How can the emotional weight of the chapter be conveyed through character development and dialogue? 4. How can the contrast between the villagers' passivity and the German soldiers' calculated cruelty be effectively visually represented? 5. What are the most compelling ways to show the gradual psychological breakdown of the characters, emphasizing their loss of identity?**

Night: Elie Wiesel's Harrowing Descent into Darkness - Chapter 2 Summary and Analysis

Elie Wiesel's seminal memoir, "Night," is a testament to the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust. While the entire work is a profound exploration of faith, identity, and the erosion of humanity, Chapter 2 marks a crucial turning point in young Eliezer's journey from the familiar streets of Sighet to the terrifying abyss of the concentration camps. This chapter meticulously details the initial stages of the Nazi occupation and the systematic stripping away of the Jewish community's freedoms, foreshadowing the unimaginable suffering to come. This detailed analysis will delve into the events of Chapter 2, its thematic significance, and its SEO-friendly keywords that illuminate this pivotal section of Wiesel's enduring narrative.

The Unfolding Nightmare: From Segregation to Deportation

Chapter 2 begins with a chilling narrative of escalating persecution. The relative normalcy of life in Sighet, however fragile, is shattered as the Nazi regime consolidates its grip. Wiesel, as a keenly observant young boy, recounts the gradual imposition of anti-Semitic laws. These decrees, seemingly minor at first, are insidious in their purpose: to isolate, dehumanize, and

prepare the Jewish population for their ultimate fate. The initial restrictions include the prohibition of Jewish presence in public places, the mandatory wearing of the yellow star, and the expropriation of possessions. Wiesel's descriptions are not merely factual; they are infused with the emotional weight of a community grappling with disbelief and dawning terror. The yellow star, a seemingly simple piece of cloth, becomes a visible brand of shame and segregation, marking them as outsiders in their own homeland. The chilling pronouncements and increasingly restrictive measures are met with a mixture of denial and naive hope. Many in the community, including Eliezer's father, hold onto the belief that these measures are temporary, that reason will prevail. This collective delusion, Wiesel later reflects, is a tragic byproduct of their confined existence and their inability to comprehend the sheer barbarity that awaited them.

The Deportation: A Tear in the Fabric of Existence

The most significant event in Chapter 2 is the horrifying deportation of the Jewish population of Sighet. Wiesel masterfully builds suspense, describing the growing unease, the hushed conversations, and the palpable fear that permeates the ghetto. The initial relocation to the two ghettos – the smaller one first, then the larger one – is a deliberate tactic to create a sense of displacement and to further concentrate the population, making them easier to control and transport. The confinement within the ghettos, with their limited space and resources, amplifies the desperation. Yet, even in this dire situation, small acts of resilience and community persist. Wiesel highlights the attempts to maintain a semblance of normalcy, the sharing of meager provisions, and the desperate clinging to hope. The day of the deportation arrives with brutal efficiency. Wiesel's account is visceral and unflinching. He describes the cattle cars, packed to suffocating capacity, the cries of the women and children, and the chilling silence of the men. The sheer inhumanity of the transport, the denial of basic necessities like water and sanitation, is a stark illustration of the Nazis' deliberate intent to inflict suffering and break the spirits of their victims. This forced journey, away from the familiar, marks the irreversible severing of their ties to their former lives and the terrifying plunge into the unknown.

The Erosion of Faith and Humanity: Seeds of Despair

While Chapter 2 is largely about the external forces of persecution, it also lays the groundwork for the profound internal struggles Eliezer will face. The initial shock and disbelief begin to give way to a creeping sense of helplessness. The seemingly omnipotent God, who had always been a source of solace and guidance, appears absent in the face of such overwhelming evil. Eliezer, a devout young boy deeply immersed in religious studies, begins to question his faith. The suffering he witnesses, the helplessness of his community, and the arbitrary cruelty of the oppressors challenge his understanding of divine justice. This nascent doubt, sown in the fertile ground of Chapter 2's harrowing events, will blossom into a profound spiritual crisis throughout the memoir. The chapter also subtly hints at the psychological toll of such dehumanization. The loss of freedom, the constant fear, and the stripping away of possessions begin to erode the sense of self. The individuals, reduced to numbers and objects of transport, are forced to confront their own vulnerability and the fragility of their identity.

Thematic Significance of Chapter 2

Chapter 2 is indispensable to understanding the trajectory of "Night." Its primary functions include:

- * **Establishing the setting and context:** It vividly portrays the initial stages of the Holocaust in Sighet, showcasing the methodical dismantling of a Jewish community.
- * **Illustrating the process of dehumanization:** The imposition of laws, the segregation, and the cattle car deportation are all steps in the Nazis' systematic attempt to strip their victims of their dignity.
- * **Foreshadowing the horrors to come:** The intense suffering and the sense of helplessness described in this chapter serve as a grim precursor to the atrocities of the concentration camps.
- * **Initiating Eliezer's spiritual crisis:** The questions of faith and the apparent silence of God begin to surface, setting the stage for his profound spiritual journey.
- * **Highlighting the collective denial and hope:** The chapter captures the tragic human tendency to cling to hope even in the face of overwhelming evidence of impending doom.

SEO-Friendly Keywords and Analysis

To ensure this detailed analysis is discoverable by those seeking to understand Elie Wiesel's "Night," a strategic selection of keywords is crucial. These keywords, relevant to the content and search intent, include:

- * **"Night Elie Wiesel summary":** The core search term, indicating a need for an overview of the book.
- * **"Night chapter 2 summary":** Specifically targets readers looking for details on this particular section.
- * **"Elie Wiesel Holocaust memoir":** Broadens the reach to those interested in Wiesel's life and the historical context.
- * **"Sighet during WWII":** Pinpoints geographical and temporal interest in the events.
- * **"Nazi persecution of Jews":** Directly addresses the historical crime.
- * **"Deportation of Hungarian Jews":** Specific to the historical event depicted.
- * **"Ghettoization of Jews":** Explains a key strategy employed by the Nazis.
- * **"Cattle car transport Holocaust":** A graphic and critical element of the narrative.
- * **"Erosion of faith in Night":** Addresses the spiritual and philosophical themes.
- * **"Eliezer's spiritual journey":** Focuses on the protagonist's internal development.
- * **"Themes of Night Elie Wiesel":** For users seeking thematic analysis.
- * **"Holocaust survivor testimony":** Positions Wiesel's work within this important genre.
- * **"The yellow star in Night":** A specific, potent symbol.
- * **"Night book analysis":** Broader analytical searches.
- * **"Summary of Night by Elie Wiesel":** Another common phrasing for summary requests.

These keywords are woven naturally into the text, ensuring that search engines can effectively categorize and present this detailed analysis to relevant audiences. Terms like "Holocaust survivor testimony," "Nazi persecution," and "deportation of Hungarian Jews" provide crucial historical context, while "erosion of faith," "spiritual crisis," and "themes of Night" cater to readers seeking deeper understanding of the memoir's profound messages.

Conclusion: A Descent into the Abyss

Chapter 2 of "Night" is not merely a recounting of historical events; it is an evocation of a world irrevocably altered by terror and despair. Elie Wiesel's masterful prose transforms the reader into a witness of this unfolding tragedy. The systematic dismantling of a community, the brutal efficiency of the deportation, and the first tremors of spiritual doubt all coalesce in this pivotal chapter. It is here that the innocence of a young boy begins to be extinguished, replaced by the

dawning awareness of a darkness so profound it would forever shape his life and his powerful testament to the human spirit's resilience and its capacity for profound suffering. Understanding Chapter 2 is essential to grasping the full weight and significance of Elie Wiesel's immortal work, "Night."

The way people interact with information has quietly but fundamentally changed. Knowledge is no longer something that must be searched for physically or accessed through limited channels. With digital technology becoming part of everyday life, downloading **Night Elie Wiesel Summary Chapter 2** has emerged as a natural extension of how modern readers learn, explore ideas, and build understanding over time.

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Questions & Answers About night elie wiesel summary chapter 2

N o	Question	Answer
1	What significant event marks the beginning of Eliezer's journey in Chapter 2 of 'Night'?	Chapter 2 begins with the arrival of the Hungarian police and the subsequent creation of the ghettos in Sighet. This marks the initial segregation and dehumanization of the Jewish population.
2	How does the community's response to the initial anti-Semitic measures evolve in Chapter 2?	Initially, the community, including Eliezer, tries to rationalize or downplay the severity of the new restrictions. There's a sense of disbelief and a hope that things will return to normal, which is gradually replaced by fear and resignation.
3	What is the significance of the cattle car transport at the end of Chapter 2?	The cattle car transport signifies the irreversible step towards the extermination camps. It's the first time Eliezer and his community are forcibly herded into inhumane conditions, stripping them of their dignity and control.
4	Who are some of the key figures Eliezer interacts with in Chapter 2, and what do these interactions reveal?	Eliezer interacts with his family, particularly his father, highlighting their strong bond and shared fear. He also observes the reactions of other community members, revealing a spectrum of emotions from defiance to despair.
5	What is the atmosphere like as the Jewish residents of Sighet are being rounded up in Chapter 2?	The atmosphere is one of chaos, terror, and confusion. There's a palpable sense of dread as families are separated, possessions are confiscated, and the unknown future looms large.
6	How does Eliezer's perception of his faith begin to shift in Chapter 2?	While not as pronounced as in later chapters, Eliezer's faith is tested by the mounting persecution. The inability of God to intervene in their suffering starts to sow seeds of doubt and questioning.
7	What does the creation of the ghettos in Chapter 2 symbolize within the context of the Holocaust?	The ghettos symbolize the systematic isolation and dehumanization of Jews. They are a prelude to further atrocities, designed to strip victims of their rights, property, and community ties before their eventual deportation.

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Night Elie Wiesel Summary Chapter 2 eBooks support standardized learning experiences.

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