



Rights & rights

by Joe Escobar - Tuesday, 19 May 2009, 12:57 PM

Rights, rights, rights. Every human being today believes they are entitled to an ever growing list of "rights". Historically, the Declaration of Independence of 1776 states that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The Constitution contains the Bill of Rights, ratified in 1788. After the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, the idea of "separate but equal" was challenged and defeated by using the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1868. African Americans received the "right" to an equal education. Equality has also become a modern day rallying cry, along with human rights. Read, listen, and watch these documents on rights and discuss, prioritize, and scrutinize them.

Read the materials in order, numbered 1 through 10. They are found in the HTD Materials link.

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Re: Rights & rights

by Kacy Durfee - Wednesday, 20 May 2009, 01:40 PM

Rights for animals have been on the for front of leading issues for a long time. There are two sides to this issue. First, the treatment of animals is inhumane. Second, animals aren't humans therefore there treatment isn't inhumane. What side is right should we eat meat or should we not eat meat? We also see a new frontier emerging of the rights of all living organisms(animals and plants). The Swiss are heading the new issue. We watched the music video clip about murdering vegetables. So should we not eat vegetables and only eat meat? The 14th amendment it says, states can not deny life. So which should we choose? Should we kill the cows and not the carrots or should we kill the carrots and not the cows. Either way we are killing life. We could save the cows and the carrots but then we would kill the kids. Both arguments contradict one another. Which right is right, cows or carrots? In the music video a line says were, "political prisoners". Today we are more prisoners than ever. With new issues, laws and measures passed every day we think our rights are expanding when in reality our choices are slowly going away. We need to go back to the basics and keep what we have before our problems consist of one choice we may not agree with.

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Re: Rights & rights

by Colin Kraus - Wednesday, 20 May 2009, 05:16 PM

The belief that certain unalienable rights are endowed by our creator remain philosophically debated, yet to obfuscate the meaning of unalienable rights to promote ulterior agendas i.e "animal rights," "plant rights," and "vegetable rights" promote a disassociation from reality and lead us to the obscure. Animal rights should definitely provided the support to all intelligent living organisms including starving children, not only animals being disposed of in slaughter houses. Moreover, misguided "unalienable rights" find themselves in a definition previously designed to protect homosapiens. Philisophically, the right to all living organism should be upheld, but within the framework of a specific ecosystem, there must be provide a sustainable environment for all species, not solely farm animals being slaughtered. Nevertheless, animal rights groups and it seems "vegetable rights groups" provide the ideological argument that non-human species should have the same protection as human rights. Even though animal and plant abuses continue to this day, people for the ethical treatment of animals should reconsider the polemic they create when they purport to protect the rights of all living organisms , but fail to recognize wealth inequity, racism, and military turmoil that only effects the human population.

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Re: Rights & rights

by Gabriel Pemble - Thursday, 21 May 2009, 12:54 PM

These other-species advocacy groups are going too far, necessarily human needs/desires run counter to the needs/desires of animals and plants, this is often unavoidable and not just a product of poor human stewardship of these other creatures. If other-species rights groups want to put forth a law that mandates humane conditions for the production of livestock for example, or that industrial toxins should properly disposed of, to ensure a livable environment for all species, that is one thing, however, wading into the philosophical stew to advance a spurious notion that all life forms somehow should have equivalent value to the human being and more over, should have equivalent status under human

laws is another.

Speciesism like individualism has its place.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Chelsie Vandehey](#) - Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 11:06 AM

You are absolutely correct. These extremist groups are going a little too far with trying to give plants rights similar to humans. Eating plants and animals is human nature, we cannot be expected to just stop. Treating animals nicely is reasonable, but trying to tell humans not to eat plants and/or animals is like telling a lion not to hunt other animals, or monkeys not to eat plants. It's their instinct, just like eating plants and animals is ours.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Sarah Fritze](#) - Monday, 25 May 2009, 06:04 PM

Right on! Those are absolutely good point I agree completely. Our right are being yanked from under us and we don't even see it. We are supposed to be this "free" country. People come here for the "American dream" the sad truth is this is an a black hole. Hypocrisy is all around.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Kristina LeMoigne](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 10:58 AM

Your so right. Right are a very complicated thing and it would be a lot easier to just go back to the basics. But we cant do that, so theres still the question of the carrot or the cow? and no answer is the right one. Both situation have just become out of control and its to the point where there's nothing you can really do besides just pick a side.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Sarah Brolsma Whitfield](#) - Friday, 22 May 2009, 10:03 AM

It says in our constitution that everyone is endowed the unalienable rights of "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." This goes straight along with equality and the idea of being equal to others can be happiness. The right to vote and be able to go in any place and not be denied by the color of their skin is happiness for African American people before and during the Civil Rights movement. During World War II, to not be discriminated against and sent away to camps because of their Japanese heritage was incriminating on their right for the pursuit of happiness. Today for people denied marriage because they want marry someone of the same sex is going is against their pursuit of happiness. Before Title IX, a girl's dream and happiness was basketball and she couldn't ever play on a team because she was female. I agree with what Charlie Richardson says in the article of money and blind people. He states, "To actually be discriminated against is to have something denied to you," Richardson said. "We're not denied the use of money." I never thought of money being difficult to use for blind people and I understand their point. To change all money in circulation, cash registers and other money machines, and much more seems a little extreme. Like what Richardson sad they aren't denied the right to use money it just becomes more difficult.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Sarah Fritze](#) - Monday, 25 May 2009, 06:07 PM

Time and time again we have proved that our county is not completely equal becasue there are so many case of people getting the the way of other peoples rights. And what is truly done about those situations? Nothing!

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Pedro Luna](#) - Tuesday, 26 May 2009, 09:29 AM

I feel that a lot has been done about those situations. To simply say that we are a country that feeds off of minority, or suppressed harassment is just simply not true. We have an electoral system that was created to give the minority a chance to vote and get their voice heard. We as a nation have always as soon as a consensus has been found that something was wrong created legislation to uphold justice and equality in the best way that we can. I view the supreme court ruling of *Adkins vs Children's Hospital* of 1923 to be a good example of this, which actually led to the passing of the 19th amendment, which is another example of when we have stood for correcting injustices. No nation is perfect, but in the words of Winston Churchill, Democracy is the worst form of government, with the exception of all others that have been tried".

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Sarah Brolsma Whitfield](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 06:24 PM

I think things have been done to try and help people who are suppressed, but definitely it is never clearly equality. While much change has been brought to women's and African American's rights and equality there is still discrimination.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Spencer Head](#) - Saturday, 23 May 2009, 08:52 AM

I like the quote saying that being discriminated against is to have something denied to you. I agree that some rights involving plants are a little over board, And I even think that animal rights are a little over the top. There is dogs and cats that get treated better than some humans, even just in the United States. Maybe those animal rights group should put their efforts into helping out the humans, and the country would be a much better place. Plant rights though, those are just outlandish, and if we aren't suppose to kill cows or plants, what do we eat? my diet would be pretty slimmed down.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Spencer Head](#) - Saturday, 23 May 2009, 08:52 AM

I like the quote saying that being discriminated against is to have something denied to you. I agree that some rights involving plants are a little over board, And I even think that animal rights are a little over the top. There is dogs and cats that get treated better than some humans, even just in the United States. Maybe those animal rights group should put their efforts into helping out the humans, and the country would be a much better place. Plant rights though, those are just outlandish, and if we aren't suppose to kill cows or plants, what do we eat? my diet would be pretty slimmed down.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Sarah Fritze](#) - Monday, 25 May 2009, 05:58 PM

The definition of "Rights" was helpful to have, but hard to interpret because it was described as three different rights and the contingent of obligations, legal or moral entitlement. I found my self thinking about how the article try to differentiate from *rights*, *duty*, and *privileges*. I had help understanding and this is what I came up with. We have rights and our duty is to not over step those rights and we have privileges we must not over step our right or our privileges go away. This is a very child like description.

In the article on Inalienable rights it was good information and I think that the argument about that the phrase "We hold these truths to be self-evident" is simply a "more elegant version of 'Because we said so.'" I have to agree because of the era I know we can interpret differently now but when written how do we know that is not what they where thinking.

I think the 14th amendment was one of the best amendments, but I think it took to long to come about. " No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." I just want to say right on and about time!

Eleanor Roosevelt

On the Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

This was an amazing speech so well done and she said it with such knowledge. It was so awesome to have the Declaration of Human Rights put into action. I think it was what we needed as an understanding for the rest of the world.

I have mixed feelings about the blind and money. I am all for making life better for those who want to function in society I am one who needs accommodations. On the other I like to do thing my way and figure things out for my self it make me feel more accomplished. So I do think if people with sight problems want something to help with money they should get it, but it needs to be practical in expense and functionality becasue our country is already in debt and I don't think we could swing an over haul to money system.

Okay and the cave man thing just has nothing to do with reality.

I do think that animals deserve rights but to some limits. Animals needs are different then humans needs and in that alone it is hard to compare them to humans. I think animals have the right to live a happy life and die in a humane way. See the way I see it if we as humans could die in a humane way that is beneficial but assisted suicide is not allowed.

Now the video of the vegetable song was absolutely hilarious but they can't be serious. When pared with the article of "plant rights" I couldn't help but laugh. I don't think plant deserve rights plants don't have feelings. They provide nutrients for us. I think we are more important then plants in the aspect of right. Plants don't care if they are harvested for good or bad reasons. I do think it is wrong that we have so much food and yet people are still dieing of malnutrition. It just comes back to the rights of humans and our obligations and our priority's.

The last video was hard to hear. He was sort of offensive and I felt he was over reacting. He was a bit of an instigator. It is his right to say those thing which makes me mad. Because if anyone speaks out against "US" then there rights are taken away it is a bit hypocritical.

Rights are left to be interpreted usually by those in power as Joe has said "those who know whats best for us"

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Sarah Fritze](#) - Monday, 25 May 2009, 06:13 PM



This is what it is coming to. Next is our plants.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Spencer Head](#) - Monday, 25 May 2009, 08:38 PM

One thing I believe is that there's bigger rights issues then the rights of animals, and I don't really like when humane is associated with animals, they are not humans. I do understand, however, that there are limitations to this idea, like people should not purposely torture animals or anything. But they are animals, and there is much more important things to deal with. As far as talking about defining rights, I agree everything is much easier after you do that. Definitely like the cartoon about the meat all coming from plants, its funny but its so true, what is it that we are supposed to eat, and how do we acquire it. Makes a good point.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Chelsie Vandehey](#) - Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 10:55 AM

The idea of rights are viewed on a very broad spectrum depending on who you ask. In the U.S. people are given many rights, but it does not mean that one may do what ever he/she pleases without the possibility of punishment. We are also "free" in the U.S. which means we can do what ever we choose...however, the behavior we choose also has consequences. Freedom should also imply never ending rights, but instead our freedom has limits, therefore so does our rights.

Animal rights are very diverse. I do not believe animals should be harmed or treated cruelly, but I think it is unrealistic to say that people should not kill them because it is human nature to hunt and eat meat. Don't get me wrong, that doesn't mean I think people should go around killing animals just for fun, that's just wrong. I know killing animals as a sport is considered hunting and it's supposed to be an "ok" thing to do, but it is still sad.

I have never really thought of eating vegetables to be considered a cruel thing to do. It's not like they're going extinct or anything. Plus they are extremely healthy for us, and people are always complaining about Americans being obese so veggies are crucial to the health of the people.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Andrew Godard](#) - Thursday, 28 May 2009, 01:12 AM

Since you brought up hunting, I though I should share my stance on it. From what little you said about hunting, it seems that you don't like hunting, but acknowledge that it is in human nature to hunt and eat meat. What I have to say about hunting is not so much a response to your views, but more of a response to how many people see hunting.

Too often animal rights activists attack hunting as cruel or barbaric, and they focus on people who kill for fun, or because it's there. They seem to ignore the fact that most hunters take the meat and eat it. I like the way native Americans approached hunting, in both the spiritual beliefs, and in that they used so much of the animal, and very little went to waste. Unfortunately, there is very little that we use these days other than the meat, the hide, and the horns, and even with that, the horns and the hide tend to become display items rather than usable items.

I have to say that hunting is *not just* killing for sport. I used to hunt, and both my brother and my father hunt. Never have we ever gone hunting without the hope of getting some meat for our freezer. Some people might say "Yeah, but you could just go get some beef from the store." I look at hunting as an alternative way of getting meat. It is also a way to get back to our roots, and live in a small way, the way our ancestors lived. I realize that some people kill for sport, but not every hunter does this. In fact I doubt there are very many who would leave the animal to rot. When my grandfather was too poor to buy food for the table, he would poach deer to give his family meat. This was back when my father and his sisters were young, and I do not fault my grandfather for this, even though it was illegal, because he had to feed his family somehow. He hunted out of need.

As for those who think hunting is cruel or inhumane, I would say that the animal has lived a whole life in the wild, and has experienced the freedom that the beef we buy in the stores never did. Us hunting and killing the deer is no worse than if it had been caught by a natural predator. In my viewpoint, I believe that while some may find it sad that deer are killed, I find the conditions in which cattle are raised, and the slaughter that follows, to be much more saddening than the free life of a deer taken in the hunt. As long as we respect the deer and appreciate the sacrifice it made for us, I see nothing wrong with the hunt. It may seem silly to some, but after I would bring a deer down, I would pause a moment and reflect on it's life, and thank the spirit of the deer for it's sacrifice. I've always hoped this was enough to please the spirit. On the flip side, I understand that there are some who kill for the joy of it and leave it to rot if the "trophy" is not big enough, and I would agree that such a thing is a horrible desecration of the spirit of the deer.

When I hunt, it is more about the communion with nature. I do not get upset if I fail to catch a deer, because simply being out in the wilderness, and reaching out to connect with nature is rewarding enough. I have seen many animals out in the wild, from deer to cougars, to birds, and many things in between, and I must say that I have more stories about the animals that I saw than the animals I killed. I would say that the one thing that makes the difference between a good hunt and a bad one is "respect."

Well, I guess that is more than enough for now. Thank you for bringing up hunting, and giving me the opportunity to voice my opinions.

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**Re: Rights & rights**by [Chelsie Vandehey](#) - Thursday, 28 May 2009, 01:03 PM

I understand exactly what you are saying about hunting and actually using all or most of the animal. I do not think that every hunter does it just to kill animals and not use the meat, I was referring more to the younger people I've heard talking about hunting. Way too often I'll hear boys and GIRLS talk about just shooting things. For example, a girl I know whose grand parents live in the country have deer come right up to the house and she says she always wants to shoot them, but the neighbor would get mad. She is not the only person I hear say these type of things and I am also not saying only young people think this way, but it has just been on my mind because I have been hearing it so much recently. It just does not seem right at all to just kill animals for the heck of it. I don't even like animals, cats , dogs, nothing. I just think they are gross, but i do not think they should be killed for no reason at all and like i said before, I do eat meat so it's not that i feel people should not eat animals.

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**Re: Rights & rights**by [Gabriel Pemble](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 05:08 PM

It is highly unlikely that this girl aimed to just kill these deer and let them rot. You might ask her what all she intended to do, once she killed them.

A certain number of deer can be killed each year without detrimental environmental effects. Also, there are a variety of non-native species that destroy the habitats of the natives, (in Oregon these include the feral hog, nutria and the starling to name a few); it is beneficial therefore for humans to step in and kill off some of these highly destructive animals. Hunters don't generally do this out of bloodlust, but are seeking to acquire meat and materials from the animal.

Also by reducing the population of one animal species such as the cougar: an adult cougar manages to kill on average two deer a week, in this case, the deer population will rise substantially. Too many deer eating too many plants coupled with rain and you have erosion problems, that are certain to negatively effect aquatic organisms.

In short, humans can have a positive effect on the environment, if they are wise about that interaction.

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**Re: Rights & rights**by [Kristina LeMoigne](#) - Friday, 29 May 2009, 11:18 AM

People are given many rights but like you said there are consequences. The rights of animals is very foggy. I also believe that people should not harm animals or treat the cruelly. But then again there is also the hunting stance on things. People should not just hunt them for the fun of things but only for meat. I think that the rights of vegetables is just ridiculous. They're vegetables....not animals or humans and people should eat them! They are very healthy for you.

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**Re: Rights & rights**by [Andrew Godard](#) - Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 10:01 PM

I suppose the articles that had the most effect on me were the animal rights and the plant rights issues, simply because I thought they were so absurd. I find it difficult to believe that some people actually go this far out. I see myself leaning slightly to the left, and depending on the issue, perhaps a lot to the left, but these people lean so far to the left that they have fallen off the spectrum, and into insanity.

I understand and agree with animals having rights to a point. I believe animal cruelty is wrong, and there are some commercial farming practices that I don't agree with, but to consider giving animals the full rights that humans have would be a farce. If they are suggesting that animals have natural rights, such as the right to life, thus making it wrong to kill an animal, then they should inform the animals, because it's not just humans killing animals, animals kill animals too. The laws of nature conflict with many of these "rights" these people are trying to impose upon nature. In nature, the strong survive while the weak end up as dinner. Cats of all sizes "play" with creatures smaller than themselves, hurting and maiming them even when the hunter is not hungry. A cougar will kill a deer for the thrill of the hunt, only to hide it's body which may eventually go to rot. If you are going to place these rights on the animals, are you going to arrest the natural predators next?

The issue of plant rights is even more absurd. I have never heard of a plant that had a brain, and thus the capacity to think. As

far as I know, plants do not have a nervous system, thus they cannot feel pain. With this again, I would go to nature to dismiss these absurd notions. In nature, plants serve to either reproduce, or feed another organism. Their life cycles are not based upon individual lives, but instead as an ecosystem. The plants support and are supported by other plants, and they feed the herbivores which in turn feed the carnivores, which die and feed the insects and the plants. Life is a cycle that goes in circles, and like it or not, humans are a part of that ecosystem.

The only thing that sets humans apart from any other omnivore in the circle of life, is that we possess higher brain function, and opposable thumbs. Unfortunately, not everyone uses their higher brain function in ways that benefit the life cycle. Sometimes people get the idea that they should use their higher brain function to interrupt the circle of life to save the plants from the herbivores, to save the herbivores from the carnivores, and make the world a happy place where the animals sing and the trees dance, and humans die of hunger.

Today I had a Tender-Crisp Garden Salad from Burger King. I supported the murder of both plants and animals. And I liked it.

I found the music video very entertaining. It was obvious to me that it was a joke making fun of either the animal rights extremists, or the plants rights situation in Switzerland.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Jonathon Miner](#) - Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 11:16 PM

What's for dinner (and lunch and breakfast...). Well there's always your mom's breast milk. As long as you keep suckling the mother will continue to produce milk, so *bon appetite*. I guess there becomes a problem when your mom reaches menopause, but then we have drugs to delay that. And it's good thing we don't have an equal rights amendment because we'll probably have to take a few "rights" away from women as it is in order to make sure they don't go on strike for fair compensation.

This does open the door for new industries. New breast pumps can be developed to easy discomfort. And of course we'll have to develop new synthetic salves to prevent chapping (pretty unpleasant, I imagine, to get a scrap of skin stuck in your teeth during your afternoon snack).

All in all, a good plan. Never again will there be arguments over "what's for dinner". And, of course plant, animal and insect rights are preserved.

I hate to bring this up, with everything that's on our minds right now, but please recognize that bacteria have both RNA and DNA and therefore are living, reproducing creatures deserving of rights. Helicobacteria residing in our intestines do a lot of work aiding in digestion with little or no compensation. The Bacterial Union for Global Socialism (BUGS), I'm sure, would like to have a seat at the Organismal Rights table.

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Jonathon Miner](#) - Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 11:19 PM

Gingrich raises a very interesting issue. After our first city is bombed, imagine the civil rights we have now that will be suspended. If we haven't learned anything else, we certainly have seen how in every war we've been a part of, civilian rights went out the door. There is no reason to think it would be different in future wars (at least we don't have to worry about food rationing since we're all going to be chowing on mom's milk).

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Spencer Head](#) - Thursday, 28 May 2009, 11:17 AM

The comment about Nature conflicting with rights is a good one. How can they be rights if there is nothing we can do to stop it. And if an outside influence we have no control over is violating these rights, then what are rights?

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Re: Rights & rights

by [Breea Weigel](#) - Saturday, 30 May 2009, 10:13 AM

I fully agree with human and animal rights being of great importance to our society, however the video about veggie rights is taking it a bit too far.

The article discussing plant rights made a valid point when saying it is inhumane to protect plants while millions are dying of starvation in our world.

The Gringrich video I found very interesting. Although I usually do not agree with the Republican stand point on issues, I found myself agreeing with everything he said. Our society needs huge improvements if we want to continue to be the world's leader. It is very scary what is going on with Iran, the two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the new developments of North Korea's bomb testing.

In conclusion, human rights is something I believe in fighting for. I believe the defeat in California over gay marriage was a big setback in equal rights. We cannot claim Americans are equal when they are not. I do believe however we will see in our lifetime gay's getting the right to marriage. I stand for equality for all people. Who are we to judge anyone else.

I also hope strides are made in the future for human rights in countries all over the world. Equal rights and human rights should never be denied. This is something personally very dear to my heart, and I will contribute a lot of my life to this cause.

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