

The end of the game

peter beard

The End of the Game: Peter Beard and the Disillusionment of the 1970s Peter Beard, a name synonymous with the wild, untamed spirit of the 1970s, found his own personal "end of the game" during this turbulent decade. His life, a tapestry woven from exotic locales, legendary figures, and a relentless pursuit of the visceral, ultimately unravelled under the weight of personal demons and societal shifts. This delves into the complexities of Beard's decline, exploring the factors that contributed to his disillusionment and the lasting impact of his story on the broader cultural landscape.

The Zenith of the "Wild Man": Beard's Early Life and Influence

Peter Beard's early life was marked by privilege and a profound connection to the natural world. Born into a wealthy New York family, he was exposed to a world of artistic expression and intellectual curiosity. This upbringing, however, was intertwined with a

rebellious streak. He sought out adventure, documenting his experiences through photographs and writings, portraying a distinctly anti-establishment aesthetic. He developed a fascination with Africa, forming close relationships with influential figures, often capturing them in a style that was both evocative and controversially sensationalistic. His early works were critically lauded, and he gained immense recognition for his raw and often provocative style. (Insert a visual here - a collage of Peter Beard's early photographs, highlighting subjects and locations.)

The Erosion of Ideals: The 1970s and its Impact

The 1970s brought about significant shifts in society, and Beard's worldview, deeply intertwined with the '60s counter-culture, began to fray. The era witnessed economic uncertainty, social unrest, and a growing disillusionment with the previous generation's ideals. Beard, initially a proponent of a certain freedom, started showing signs of isolation and a descent into paranoia.

The Disintegration: Personal Demons and the Loss of Focus

Several factors contributed to Beard's personal disintegration. These included:

- **Substance abuse:** His documented struggles with alcoholism and drug use became increasingly evident, impacting his judgment and potentially contributing to paranoia.
- **Mental health struggles:** While less documented, there's reason to believe mental health issues played a crucial role. The intense lifestyle and pressures of fame could have exacerbated underlying vulnerabilities.
- *Financial difficulties:* Beard's extravagant lifestyle and sometimes questionable business ventures likely led to financial instability, adding to the mounting pressures.
- **Creative Block and Loss of Vision:** The once prolific photographer and writer seemed to lose a part of his creative spark.

A Lost Legacy? Examining the Potential Advantages

It's crucial to note that Beard's life, while ultimately tragic, left a lasting, though complex, impact. His work undoubtedly captured a specific time and mood with unflinching honesty.

- **Unflinching Honesty:** His work frequently challenged conventional perceptions,

offering a glimpse into the realities of a specific time.

- **Unique Perspective:** His unique perspective on people and places captured a specific energy. •

Documenting a Era: Beard's photographs serve as a historical document of a particular period and culture.

Alternative Perspectives: Societal and Cultural Context

Beyond Beard's personal struggles, his story is deeply connected to the cultural landscape of the 1970s.

The Rise of Anti-Establishment Sentiment

The 1970s saw a rise in anti-establishment sentiment. Beard's early work, with its rebellious spirit, became a symbol of this movement, attracting followers who shared his desire for authenticity and freedom.

The Loss of Faith in Utopian Ideals

The idealistic visions of the 1960s gave way to disillusionment in the 1970s. Beard's journey

mirrored this transition, as he seemed to lose faith in the possibilities he had initially embraced. (Insert a data visualization here – a timeline of key events in Beard's life and significant societal events of the 1970s.)

Case Studies: Parallels in Artistic and Cultural Declines

While Beard's experience is unique, it's useful to look at parallels in the lives of other artists who experienced similar declines. Examining the factors leading to their struggles can offer valuable insights. Illustrate this point with examples from literature, film, or other art forms.

Actionable Insights for Content Creators and Individuals

Beard's story offers crucial lessons for those navigating their own creative journeys and societal shifts. • **Embrace Authenticity:** Focus on self-expression, but acknowledge the complexities of maintaining integrity and authenticity in challenging circumstances. • **Manage Expectations:** Recognise that societal pressures and personal demons can profoundly impact one's creative trajectory. • Seek

Support: Cultivate strong support networks to navigate difficult periods and maintain a healthy balance. • **Embrace Self-Reflection:** Regularly evaluate one's own values and motivations to avoid a loss of vision.

Advanced FAQs

1. *How did Beard's portrayal of African subjects impact cultural perceptions?* His photographs often drew criticism for their perceived sensationalism and sometimes insensitive portrayal. 2. **What role did the changing economic climate play in Beard's decline?** The economic uncertainties of the 1970s likely contributed to stress and instability. 3. **Were Beard's struggles unique to his era, or are there parallels in contemporary artistic movements?** The pressures on artists and the pursuit of fame are timeless concerns. 4. How does Beard's story contribute to a broader understanding of the complexities of human experience? His story underscores the importance of understanding the interplay between personal circumstances and cultural context. 5. What can contemporary audiences learn from the historical context surrounding Beard's life and work? Understanding the societal pressures of the 1970s enhances our interpretation of his work

and its place in the history of art and culture. This has offered a multifaceted view of Peter Beard's life and work. It explores not only his personal struggles but also the cultural and societal forces that shaped his trajectory. Ultimately, the story serves as a reminder of the complexities of human experience and the interplay between personal demons and societal currents.

The End of the Game: Peter Beard's Unflinching Gaze on a Vanishing World

Peter Beard. The name itself conjures images of raw, untamed Africa, of majestic creatures teetering on the brink of extinction, and of a life lived vibrantly, if not always conventionally. For decades, Beard, the American artist, photographer, filmmaker, and diarist, dedicated his life to documenting a world that was rapidly changing, a world where the wild was giving way to the encroachment of humanity. His magnum opus, often referred to as "The End of the Game," is not just a collection of stunning photographs and meticulously crafted collages; it's a powerful elegy, a desperate plea, and a stark,

unflinching portrait of ecological collapse. This isn't just about pretty pictures of elephants and rhinos, though those are certainly present, rendered with Beard's signature intensity. "The End of the Game" is a deep dive into the complex, often brutal realities of conservation, the devastating impact of poaching, and the tragic beauty of a world losing its most iconic inhabitants. It's about the profound sadness of witnessing something magnificent fade away, captured through the lens of an artist who felt its loss as a personal tragedy.

A Life Dedicated to the Wild

Peter Beard's fascination with Africa began early. Born into a wealthy Connecticut family, his privileged upbringing belied a restless spirit and an insatiable curiosity. He first visited Kenya in his teens and was instantly captivated by its raw beauty and the sheer abundance of wildlife. This initial encounter sparked a lifelong obsession, leading him to establish his legendary studio at Hog Ranch near Nairobi. This was more than just a home; it was a hub of creativity, a sanctuary for the wild, and a stage for Beard's unique brand of artistic expression. He immersed himself in the landscape, not just as an observer, but as an active participant. He formed deep bonds with local

people, learned about the intricate ecosystems, and, most importantly, bore witness to the escalating threats facing the continent's wildlife. His journals, filled with sketches, photographs, and poetic observations, became the bedrock of "The End of the Game." These weren't just casual notes; they were a visceral record of his emotional and intellectual engagement with the unfolding crisis.

The Art of Witnessing: Photography as a Weapon

Beard's photographic style was as distinctive as his personality. He wasn't interested in pristine, perfectly composed shots. Instead, he embraced a more chaotic, visceral approach. His images are often grainy, overexposed, or deliberately blurred, reflecting the turmoil and urgency of his subject matter. He frequently overlaid his photographs with drawings, text, and even the fur and feathers of dead animals, transforming them into complex, multi-layered artworks that demanded more than a fleeting glance. His iconic shots of elephants, often captured in moments of profound stillness or dramatic action, are imbued with a sense of immense power and vulnerability. The sheer scale of these creatures, contrasted with the encroaching human presence –

the barbed wire fences, the discarded tires, the looming threat of extinction – creates a haunting tension. He saw the elephant not just as an animal, but as a symbol of a wildness that was being systematically dismantled.

Beyond the Image: The Environmental Narrative

"The End of the Game" is more than just a visual experience; it's a narrative of environmental decline. Beard meticulously documented the impact of human activities, from the colonial era's unsustainable hunting practices to the relentless pressure of population growth and habitat destruction. He was one of the first artists to truly grasp the magnitude of the ecological crisis unfolding in Africa, and he used his art to force others to confront it. His work often highlights the stark contrast between the majestic beauty of the natural world and the often-ugly realities of human intervention. He showed the devastating consequences of ivory poaching, the tragic fate of rhinos hunted to near extinction, and the shrinking habitats that forced animals into ever-smaller corners of the continent. The "end of the game" wasn't just a metaphor for the cessation of hunting; it was a chilling prophecy for the entire

ecosystem.

The Weight of Grief: Loss and Legacy

There's an undeniable melancholy that permeates much of Beard's work. He felt the loss of these magnificent creatures deeply, and this grief is palpable in his art. He wasn't a detached observer; he was a man who loved the wild and mourned its passing. His collages, in particular, often convey a sense of overwhelming entropy, of beauty succumbing to decay and destruction. His legacy is complex. While lauded for his groundbreaking artistic vision and his prescient environmental warnings, he also courted controversy. His bohemian lifestyle, his association with the rich and famous, and his sometimes-provocative approach to his art often overshadowed the profound message at the heart of "The End of the Game." Yet, the enduring power of his work lies in its ability to provoke, to disturb, and ultimately, to inspire a deeper appreciation for the natural world and the urgent need for its preservation.

Conservation in the Face of Despair

Beard was not a passive observer; he was an active

participant in conservation efforts. He worked with organizations and individuals dedicated to protecting wildlife and their habitats. His art served as a powerful fundraising tool and a catalyst for dialogue about the critical issues facing endangered species. He understood that awareness was the first step towards action. The title, "The End of the Game," is a powerful statement that resonates even today. It speaks to a critical juncture in our relationship with the natural world, a point where our actions have pushed many species to the brink. Beard's work serves as a stark reminder that the game is indeed ending, and the consequences of our inaction are dire. His art is a timeless testament to the beauty of what we stand to lose and a desperate plea to change course before it's too late.

The Enduring Relevance of "The End of the Game"

In an era where environmental concerns are more pressing than ever, Peter Beard's "The End of the Game" remains remarkably relevant. His unflinching gaze forces us to confront the realities of our impact on the planet. His art is a potent reminder that the wild is not an inexhaustible resource, but a fragile ecosystem that requires our protection. The images of

dwindling wildlife populations, of vanishing habitats, and of the ever-present threat of human encroachment are not just historical records; they are urgent warnings. Beard's unique artistic vision, his raw emotion, and his deep connection to the natural world created a body of work that continues to inspire, to educate, and to challenge us to be better stewards of this planet. "The End of the Game" is not just a collection of art; it's a vital conversation starter, a visual manifesto for a world teetering on the precipice, and a testament to the enduring power of art to bear witness and to advocate for change. It's a profound and often heartbreaking exploration of what happens when the wild begins to disappear, captured by an artist who understood its immense value and the devastating implications of its loss.

The End of the Game: Reflecting on "The End of the Game Peter Beard"

The phrase "The End of the Game Peter Beard" evokes a moment both symbolic and deeply resonant, marking more than just a conclusion but a reflective chapter in a cultural narrative shaped by visionary

storytelling and artistic legacy. Peter Beard, renowned for his evocative photography and literary work, left behind a body of work that transcended mere documentation, offering profound insights into the intersection of nature, human ambition, and time. His exploration of the end of a game—whether literal or metaphorical—invites audiences to contemplate impermanence, legacy, and the enduring power of visual language.

A Visionary Lens on Transition and Transformation

Beard's body of work often portrayed worlds in flux—landscapes altered by human presence, ecosystems shifting under the weight of progress. In pieces often associated with "The End of the Game" narrative, he captured scenes where nature and civilization met at a crossroads, embodying the tension between preservation and change. This thematic focus went beyond mere observation; it was an invitation to witness transformation. Rather than presenting endings as final, Beard framed them as transitions—moments rich with meaning, urging viewers to recognize the impermanence inherent in all systems. His images served as quiet chronicles of transformation, where every fading shadow and

eroded coastline whispered stories of loss and renewal.

Key Insights: The Poetics of Impermanence

At the heart of Beard's approach was a deep philosophical understanding of impermanence. He understood that every "end of a game" carries within it the seeds of new beginnings. Through his lens, the end was never an absolute but a pause—a breath between cycles. This insight resonates powerfully in an era defined by rapid change and ecological uncertainty. By portraying environments and lifestyles on the cusp of transformation, Beard encouraged a contemplative stance: to acknowledge endings not with resignation, but with awareness. His work teaches that recognizing the transient nature of any phase fosters deeper appreciation and more intentional action.

Applications Beyond Art: Influence on Environmental and Cultural Discourse

The impact of "The End of the Game Peter Beard" extends far beyond photography exhibitions. It has permeated environmental advocacy, cultural

preservation efforts, and educational curricula focused on sustainability. Environmentalists cite Beard's imagery as a catalyst for empathy, reminding audiences that behind every statistic on habitat loss lies a visual truth—one he captured with both precision and poignancy. His work inspires narratives that bridge science and emotion, making complex ecological challenges accessible and urgent. In classrooms and policy discussions, Beard's visual storytelling serves as a bridge between data and human experience, fostering meaningful dialogue.

Benefits: Inspiring Action Through Awareness

The enduring value of Beard's perspective lies in its ability to inspire thoughtful action. By framing change as a natural and necessary process, his work helps dispel fear of endings and encourages proactive stewardship. The awareness cultivated through his art nurtures a sense of responsibility—encouraging individuals and communities to engage with their environments not as passive observers but as active participants in shaping future outcomes. This psychological shift from resignation to agency is perhaps the most vital legacy of his contribution.

Looking to the Future: Legacy and Continuity

As we move forward, the message embedded in “The End of the Game Peter Beard” remains profoundly relevant. In an age defined by climate crises, technological disruption, and shifting cultural norms, Beard’s reflective yet forward-looking vision offers a compass. His work reminds us that endings are not simply closures but invitations—to adapt, to innovate, and to honor the interconnectedness of all life. The future, then, is not something to resist but to engage with intention, guided by the wisdom of those who saw the end not as final, but as part of an ongoing, evolving story.

Peter Beard’s artistic journey reminds us that every game has a rhythm—of rise, culmination, and transformation. To witness “The End of the Game” is not to mourn loss, but to embrace change with clarity and courage. In a world always in flux, his legacy endures as a beacon for those who seek meaning in transition.

The End of the Game: Peter Beard's Definitive Swan Song

Peter Beard. The name itself conjures images of untamed wilderness, of raw beauty captured through a lens, and of a life lived on the precipice. For decades, this legendary artist, photographer, and diarist has been synonymous with the African continent, a place he not only documented but deeply embedded himself within. Now, with the poignant exhibition "[The End of the Game](#)," Beard offers a profound and arguably his final, definitive statement on his lifelong obsession and the fragile ecosystem he so passionately advocated for. This exhibition isn't merely a retrospective; it's a powerful elegy, a stark warning, and a breathtaking testament to a singular artistic vision.

Beard's connection to Africa began in his youth, a spark ignited by his family's safaris and a fascination with the continent's majestic wildlife. This fascination would evolve into a consuming passion, shaping his artistic output and personal philosophy. He eschewed the sterile confines of traditional studios, choosing instead the vast, unpredictable canvas of the African landscape. His work is characterized by a unique blend of meticulous observation and raw, primal

energy, often incorporating elements from the natural world directly into his photographic compositions. This inherent connection to the environment is what makes "The End of the Game" resonate so deeply, as it encapsulates the culmination of his life's work and his urgent pleas for conservation.

A Life Immersed: The Genesis of Peter Beard's Vision

Born into a wealthy American family, Peter Beard could have easily pursued a life of privilege and leisure. Instead, he was drawn to the allure of the wild. His early travels to Kenya in the late 1950s were transformative. He befriended iconic figures like Karen Blixen (author of "Out of Africa") and was captivated by the sheer abundance of wildlife. This was a different Africa than the one seen through the eyes of many European colonizers; Beard saw it as a living, breathing entity, teeming with life and undergoing profound, often brutal, transformations.

His artistic practice was inherently interdisciplinary. While known for his striking photography, Beard was also a prolific diarist, filling countless sketchbooks with observations, sketches, clippings, and the detritus of his travels. These journals became an

integral part of his artistic process, a chaotic yet insightful repository of his thoughts and experiences. He often integrated these textual elements into his photographic works, creating layered, complex pieces that invited viewers to delve deeper into his world. This unique approach, blurring the lines between photography, collage, and journaling, set him apart and contributed to his enduring legacy.

The "End of the Game" as a Narrative Arc

The exhibition's title, "The End of the Game," is a masterstroke of poignant irony. For Beard, Africa was never just a playground or a subject for aesthetic contemplation; it was a complex ecosystem facing unprecedented threats. The "game," in this context, refers not only to the majestic wild animals that populated his frames but also to the precarious balance of nature itself, a balance that was, and continues to be, under siege.

Beard's work chronicles this decline with unflinching honesty. His iconic images of elephants, rhinos, lions, and other creatures are not always pristine. They are often presented in environments marked by drought, starvation, and the encroaching presence of human

development. He documented the horrifying culling of elephants, the dwindling populations of rhinos, and the impact of habitat loss with a raw, visceral intensity that is both heartbreaking and deeply moving. The exhibition traces this narrative arc, showcasing Beard's evolving perspective from youthful exuberance to a mature, urgent call to action.

Key Themes Explored in "The End of the Game"

1. The Majesty and Vulnerability of Wildlife

At the heart of Beard's oeuvre lies an abiding love for Africa's wildlife. His photographs capture the raw power and inherent beauty of these animals. Whether it's a herd of elephants silhouetted against a fiery sunset or a lion surveying its domain with regal indifference, Beard's lens reveals a profound respect for his subjects. However, these images are rarely devoid of context. He masterfully juxtaposes moments of breathtaking grandeur with stark reminders of their fragility. Images of starving elephants, their ribs exposed, or rhinos scarred by poachers, serve as potent visual metaphors for the ecological crisis unfolding on the continent. This duality is a hallmark

of Beard's genius – he shows us what we stand to lose.

2. The Intertwined Fate of Nature and Humanity

Beard understood that the "game" of Africa's ecosystem is intrinsically linked to human actions. His work implicitly and explicitly explores the consequences of unchecked development, poaching, and habitat destruction. He didn't shy away from depicting the often-ugly realities of human impact on the natural world. The exhibition likely features works that highlight the encroachment of civilization, the fences that divide territories, and the dwindling spaces available for wildlife. This theme is crucial for understanding the urgency of his message – the fate of the animals is inseparable from the fate of humanity.

3. Art as Activism and Documentation

Peter Beard was never just an artist; he was an advocate. His photographs and journals were his weapons in a lifelong battle for conservation. "The End of the Game" serves as a powerful exhibit of art as activism. By presenting these often-disturbing images, Beard forces viewers to confront uncomfortable truths about the state of the planet.

His unique visual language, incorporating collage and textual elements, acts as a powerful form of storytelling, weaving together scientific observation, personal experience, and artistic expression to create a compelling narrative. His approach to [African art and photography](#) was revolutionary, challenging conventional notions of artistic practice.

4. The Passage of Time and the Ephemeral Nature of Existence

The title, "The End of the Game," also speaks to a broader contemplation of time and mortality. Beard's work often conveys a sense of impermanence, of beauty that is fleeting. The African landscape itself is in constant flux, shaped by seasons, by drought, by the very passage of time. His layered compositions, filled with the ephemera of his life and travels, further emphasize this theme. The exhibition offers a chance to reflect on the impermanence of even the most magnificent creatures and the urgent need to cherish and protect them before they, too, become mere memories or historical footnotes.

Exhibition Highlights and

Interpretations

While specific details of any given iteration of "The End of the Game" exhibition will vary by venue, the core thematic elements remain consistent. Expect to see large-scale photographic works, often meticulously annotated and embellished. These are not mere prints; they are artifacts, bearing the weight of Beard's physical engagement with his subject matter. Expect to encounter the raw power of his elephant graveyard series, a hauntingly beautiful yet devastating exploration of mortality and ecological imbalance. His iconic images of the "White Rhino" series are likely to feature prominently, underscoring his long-standing concern for this critically endangered species.

Beard's use of scale is often monumental, mirroring the grandeur of the landscapes he depicted. The sheer size of his prints can be overwhelming, drawing the viewer into the vastness of Africa and the immensity of the challenges it faces. The inclusion of his diaries and sketches provides an intimate glimpse into his thought process, revealing the intellectual and emotional journeys that informed his artistic decisions. This multi-layered approach ensures that "The End of the Game" is not just an exhibition of

images but an immersive experience, a journey into the mind and heart of an artist deeply committed to his cause.

The exhibition is likely to be accompanied by extensive curatorial notes and interpretive texts, guiding visitors through Beard's complex visual language and the urgent messages embedded within his work. These materials are crucial for understanding the historical context of his work, the specific ecological issues he addressed, and the profound impact he had on the field of wildlife photography and conservation advocacy. The dialogue between the visual art and the accompanying text creates a richer, more nuanced understanding of Beard's legacy.

Peter Beard's Enduring Legacy and the Ongoing Struggle

Peter Beard passed away in 2020, but "The End of the Game" stands as a powerful testament to his enduring spirit and his unwavering commitment. The exhibition is more than a memorial; it is a living testament to the ongoing struggle for conservation. The threats that Beard so eloquently depicted in his lifetime – habitat loss, poaching, climate change – have only

intensified. His work serves as a crucial reminder that the "game" is far from over, and the choices we make today will determine the future of Africa's magnificent wildlife.

Beard's influence on contemporary art and photography, particularly within the realm of [wildlife photography and conservation](#), cannot be overstated. He inspired a generation of artists and activists to look at the natural world with a more critical and engaged eye. His willingness to embed himself in his subjects, to live and breathe the environments he documented, set a new standard for authenticity and commitment. The exhibition, in its comprehensive scope, allows us to appreciate the breadth and depth of his contribution.

In conclusion, "The End of the Game" is a profound and necessary exhibition. It is a celebration of a life dedicated to art and advocacy, a stark confrontation with the ecological realities of our time, and a powerful call to action. Peter Beard's final masterpiece, this exhibition, urges us to look, to understand, and to act before the game, for so many species, truly comes to an end.

Keywords: Peter Beard, The End of the Game, African wildlife, conservation, art exhibition,

photography, diarist, environmentalism, endangered species, wildlife photography, ecological crisis, Peter Beard legacy, African art and photography, wildlife photography and conservation.

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Digital access makes learning more accessible, efficient, and inclusive, empowering individuals to pursue lifelong learning in an increasingly connected world.

Questions & Answers About the end of the game peter beard

No	Question	Answer
1	What does Peter Beard mean by 'the end of the game' in his work?	Peter Beard's 'the end of the game' refers to his profound concern about the destruction of Africa's wildlife and natural landscapes. It highlights the impending extinction of iconic species and the irreversible damage being done to the continent's ecosystems due to human activities like poaching and habitat loss.

2	What inspired Peter Beard's famous 'End of the Game' series?	The series was heavily inspired by Beard's personal experiences and observations in East Africa, particularly his encounters with dying elephants and the devastating impact of colonial hunting practices and unchecked human expansion on wildlife populations. He was deeply moved by the plight of these magnificent creatures.
3	How did Peter Beard visually represent 'the end of the game'?	Beard's iconic style involves meticulously compiling and layering photographs, drawings, text, and natural elements like shed elephant hair or dried blood onto his canvases. This creates a visceral and chaotic aesthetic that mirrors the destruction and urgency he felt about the 'end of the game'.
4	Beyond the animals, what else did Peter Beard lament in his 'End of the Game' concept?	Beard's concerns extended beyond just the animals to the broader ecological and even spiritual loss. He saw the destruction of nature as a symptom of humanity's disconnect from the natural world and a loss of ancient, untamed beauty and wildness that held deep meaning.

5	What is the lasting legacy of Peter Beard's 'End of the Game'?	The 'End of the Game' series is a powerful and enduring artistic statement that brought global attention to conservation issues and the fragility of ecosystems. It continues to inspire dialogue about environmental responsibility and the impact of human actions on the planet.
6	Did Peter Beard advocate for specific conservation actions through his 'End of the Game' work?	While his work is primarily a documentation and artistic expression of concern, it served as a powerful catalyst for raising awareness and has been linked to increased support for conservation efforts in Africa. His art often spoke for itself, urging viewers to consider the consequences of inaction.
7	How is Peter Beard's 'End of the Game' relevant today, years after its initial creation?	The themes of 'the end of the game' remain incredibly relevant. We continue to face critical wildlife extinction crises, habitat destruction, and the need for urgent conservation. Beard's work serves as a timeless and stark reminder of what is at stake and the ongoing fight to protect our planet's biodiversity.

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