

A scenic view of a winding asphalt road through a forest at sunset. The road curves through dense trees, with a warm, golden light filtering through the canopy. The text "WHILE I HAVE THE MIC" is overlaid in a large, white, stylized font with a hatched shadow effect. The text is centered horizontally and spans across the middle of the image. The background shows a road with a yellow dashed center line and white edge lines, curving into the distance. The trees are lush and green, with some hints of autumn colors. The sky is a soft, hazy orange and yellow, suggesting the time is either sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

WHILE I HAVE
THE MIC



WHILE I HAVE THE MIC

STRONG AND WEAK: THE PARADOX OF
FLOURISHING



Shalom: a *flourishing* and abundant relationship, not lacking in anything...

...with God (spiritual)

...with each other (social)

...with nature (physical)

...with ourselves (psychological)

WHILE I
HAVE
THE MIC

Copyrighted Material

ANDY CROUCH

Author of Culture Making

STRONG
AND WEAK



EMBRACING A LIFE OF LOVE,
RISK & TRUE FLOURISHING

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WHILE I
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Here's the paradox: flourishing comes from being both strong and weak.

Flourishing requires us to embrace both authority and vulnerability, both capacity and frailty...both life and death.

– Crouch, *Strong and Weak*

IV

I

EXPLOITING

FLOURISHING

AUTHORITY

VULNERABILITY

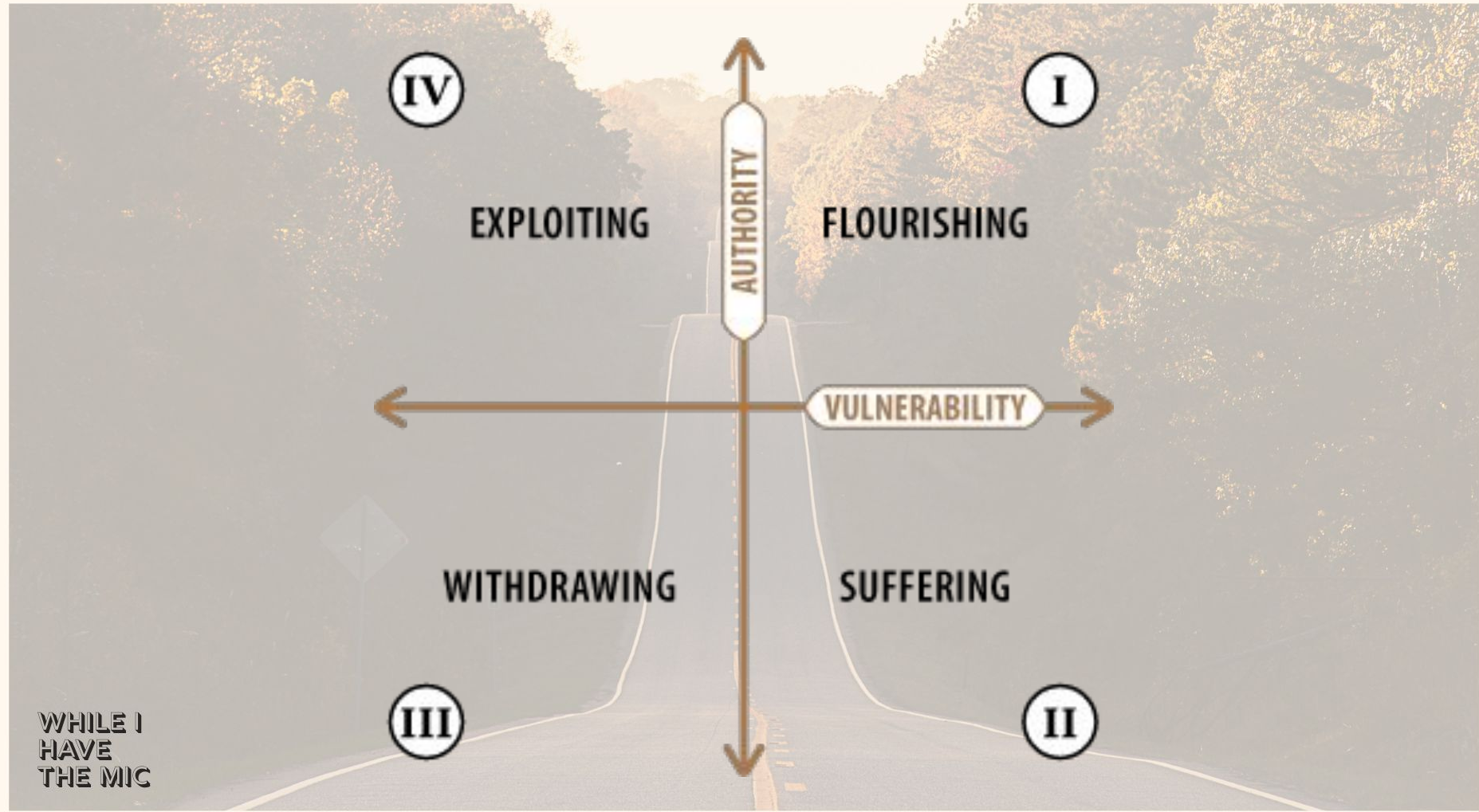
WITHDRAWING

SUFFERING

III

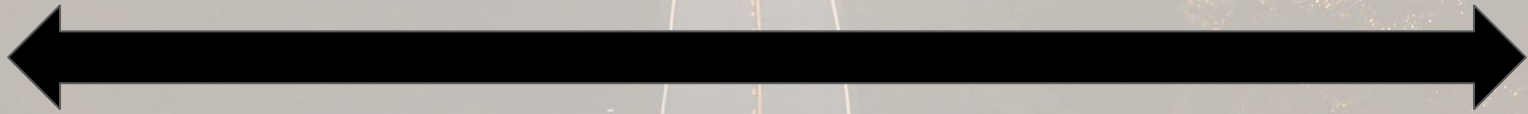
II

WHILE I
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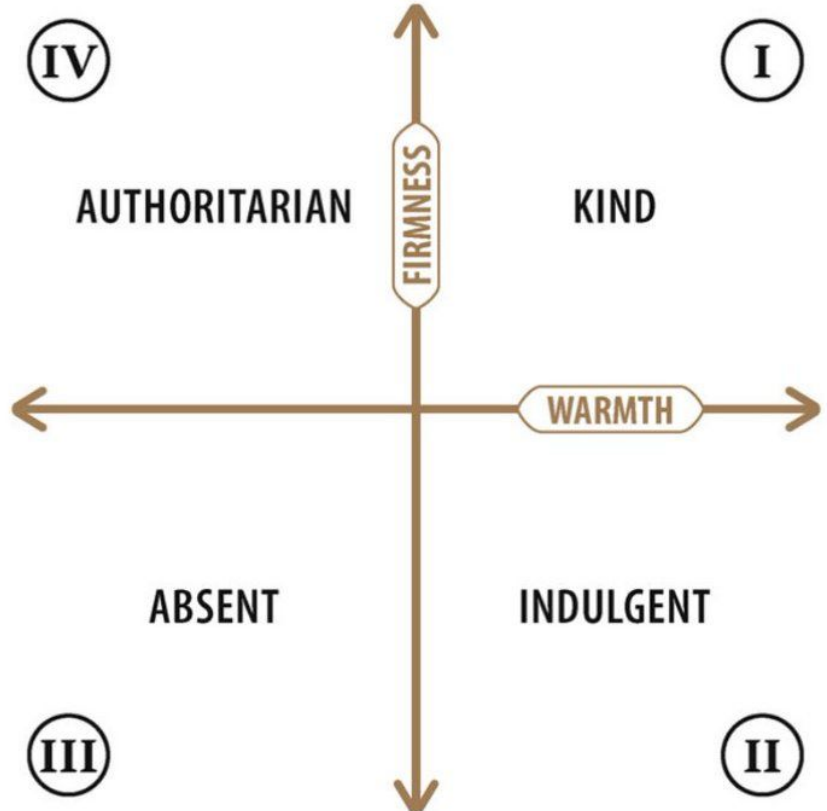


Warmth

Firmness



**WHILE I
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IV

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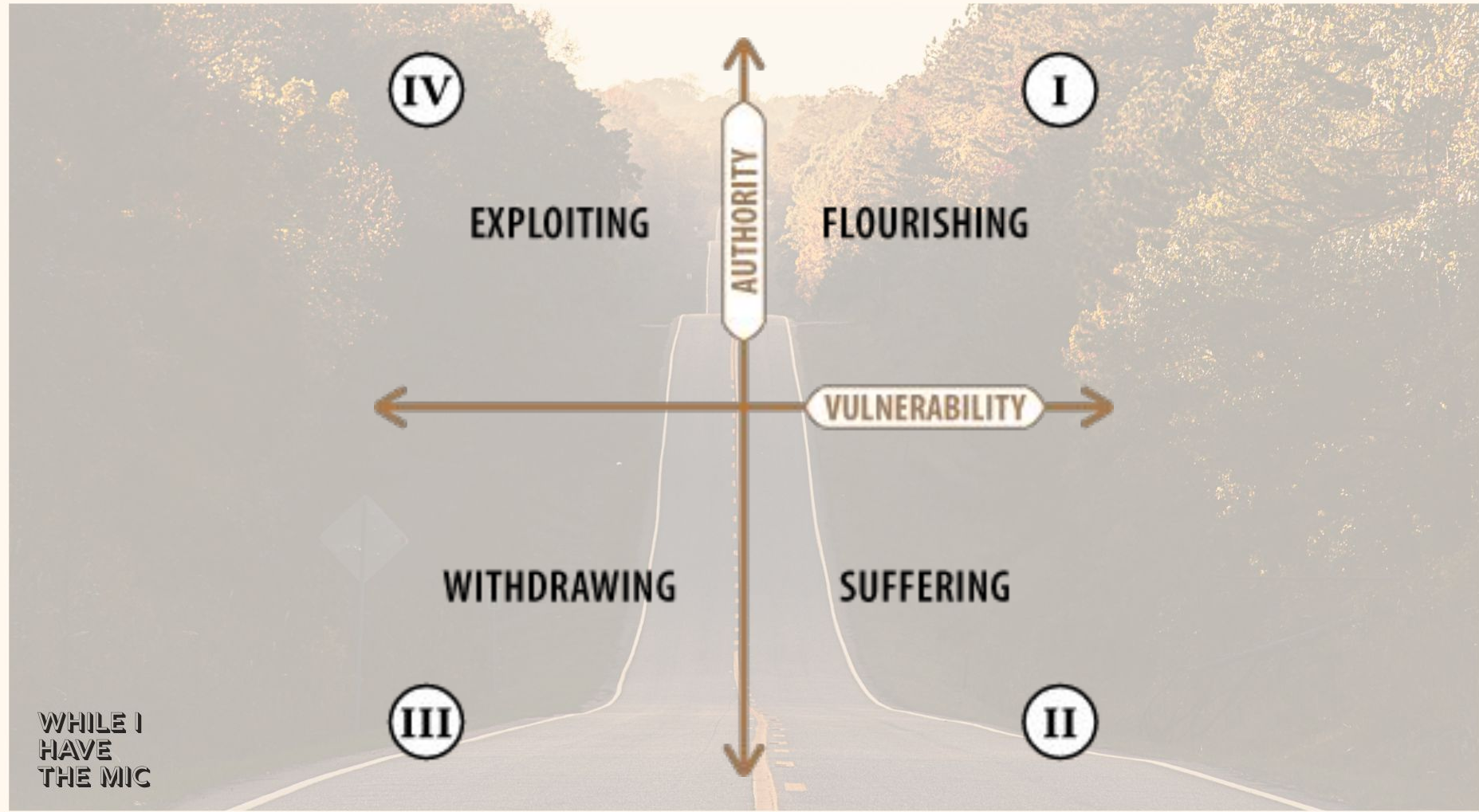
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Authority: The capacity for meaningful action.

“What makes action meaningful? Above all, meaningful action participates in a story. It has a past and a future. Meaningful action does not just come from nowhere, and it does not just vanish in an instant – it takes place in the midst of a story that matters... Perhaps most importantly of all, true authority is always given. (It is) not something we possess on our own. It is something others confer on us.”

– Crouch, *Strong and Weak*

Vulnerability: Exposure to meaningful risk.

“The vulnerability that leads to flourishing requires risk, which is the possibility of loss – the chance that when we act, we will lose something we value... To risk is to open ourselves up to the chance that something will go wrong, that something will be taken from us – without knowing for sure whether that loss will come to pass or not.”

– Crouch, *Strong and Weak*

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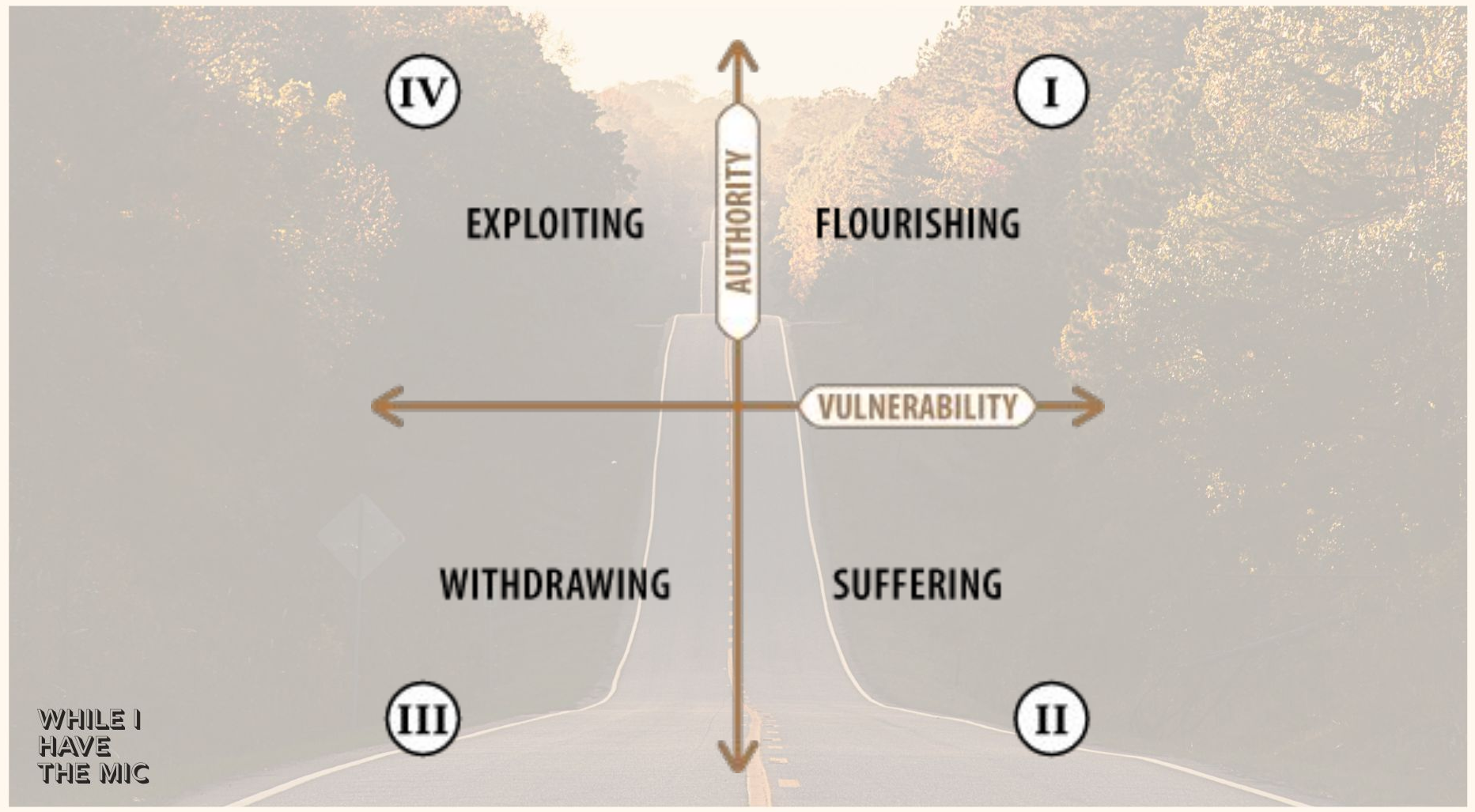
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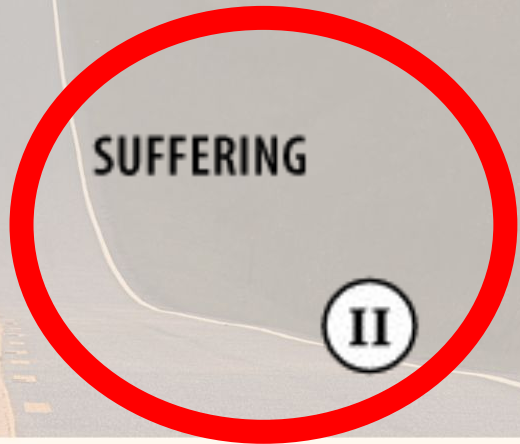
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“Only those who have descended to the dead can be fully trusted to lead – because only they can truly declare vanquished the fear that animates all idolatry and exploitation.”

– Crouch, *Strong and Weak*





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