

AN ENDURING LOVE THORNDIKE BIOGRAPHY Document

An enduring love Thorndike biography offers a compelling glimpse into the life of one of psychology's most influential figures, Edward Lee Thorndike. Renowned for his pioneering work in behavioral psychology and educational theory, Thorndike's contributions have left a lasting imprint on the fields of psychology and learning sciences. This biography explores his early life, groundbreaking research, personal relationships, and the enduring legacy that continues to influence modern psychology.

Early Life and Education

Childhood and Family Background

Edward Lee Thorndike was born on August 31, 1874, in Williamsburg, Massachusetts. His family background played a significant role in shaping his intellectual pursuits. His father, Edward Thorndike Sr., was a Presbyterian minister, and his mother, Elizabeth Thorndike, was actively involved in community and educational activities. Growing up in a nurturing environment, Thorndike developed an early interest in reading and learning.

Academic Journey

Thorndike's academic journey began at Wesleyan University, where he earned his undergraduate degree. Recognizing his passion for psychology, he pursued graduate studies at Harvard University under the mentorship of William James, a prominent philosopher and psychologist. His doctoral dissertation, completed in 1898, set the stage for his lifelong exploration of learning and behavior.

Contributions to Psychology

The Law of Effect and Learning Theory

Thorndike's most famous contribution is the formulation of the Law of Effect, which states that behaviors followed by satisfying consequences are more likely to be repeated, while those followed by unpleasant outcomes are less likely to recur. This principle laid the foundation for operant conditioning and significantly influenced later behaviorist theories.

Through a series of experiments with puzzle boxes and animals, primarily cats, Thorndike demonstrated how trial-and-error learning occurs naturally. His meticulous observations led to the

development of quantitative measures of learning, such as the number of trials needed for an animal to escape a puzzle box.

Educational Psychology and Applications

Thorndike's research extended beyond animal behavior to human education. He believed that learning could be measured objectively and sought to create standardized assessments for student achievement. His work emphasized the importance of practice, reinforcement, and the development of educational materials aligned with how humans learn naturally.

Some of his notable contributions include:

- Development of the first standardized educational tests
- Advocacy for individualized instruction based on measurable progress
- Introduction of the concept of transfer of learning

Personal Life and Relationships

Marriage and Family

Despite his groundbreaking work, Thorndike's personal life was marked by stability and devotion. He married Elizabeth E. Scott, a fellow psychologist and educator, in 1900. Their partnership was both personal and professional, collaborating on various research projects and sharing a mutual dedication to advancing educational psychology.

Together, they had two children, and Thorndike's family life provided him with a balanced perspective that influenced his views on education and human development.

Enduring Love and Personal Philosophy

The title of this biography, "An Enduring Love," reflects the deep bond Thorndike shared with his wife and his lifelong passion for understanding human potential. His relationships were characterized by mutual respect, intellectual curiosity, and a shared commitment to improving society through education and scientific inquiry.

Thorndike's personal philosophy emphasized the importance of perseverance, practical application of knowledge, and compassion in teaching—values that remain relevant today.

Legacy and Impact

Influence on Psychology and Education

Thorndike's work laid the groundwork for behaviorism and influenced illustrious psychologists such as B.F. Skinner and John Watson. His empirical approach to studying learning processes contributed to the development of educational psychology as a rigorous scientific discipline.

Some of his lasting impacts include:

- Introduction of the measurement of learning and intelligence
- Development of educational standards and assessments
- Advocacy for evidence-based teaching methods

Honors and Recognitions

Throughout his career, Thorndike received numerous accolades, including election to prestigious scientific societies and awards recognizing his contributions to psychology and education. His work continues to be cited and built upon in contemporary research.

Challenges and Criticisms

While Thorndike's theories revolutionized learning science, some critics argue that his focus on measurable behavior overlooked the complexities of human cognition, emotion, and creativity. Additionally, his early emphasis on standardized testing has been scrutinized for its potential limitations and biases.

Despite these criticisms, his pioneering spirit and commitment to scientific rigor remain influential.

Conclusion

An enduring love Thorndike biography underscores a life dedicated to understanding the mechanisms of learning and fostering human potential. From his early experiments with animals to his profound influence on educational practices, Thorndike's legacy exemplifies the power of perseverance, curiosity, and compassion. His work continues to inspire educators, psychologists, and researchers striving to unlock the mysteries of the human mind and improve the way we teach and learn.

Whether examining the roots of behaviorism or shaping modern educational policies, Thorndike's contributions remind us that the pursuit of knowledge is a lifelong journey marked by enduring love for discovery and the betterment of society.

An Enduring Love Thorndike Biography: A Deep Dive into the Life of a Pioneering Psychologist

The name Edward Lee Thorndike resonates profoundly within the annals of psychology, especially in the fields of learning theory and educational psychology. His work laid foundational stones for behaviorism and experimental psychology, shaping how subsequent generations understood the mechanisms of learning and intelligence. Beyond his scientific achievements, Thorndike's personal life and enduring love story reveal a man dedicated not just to his craft but also to his family, values, and the pursuit of knowledge. This comprehensive exploration aims to provide an insightful biography of Thorndike, highlighting his enduring love story and the influence it had on his life and work.

Early Life and Formative Years

Childhood and Family Background

Edward Lee Thorndike was born on August 31, 1874, in Williamsburg, Massachusetts, into a family that valued education and intellectual pursuits. His father, William Thurston Thorndike, was a Congregational minister, and his mother, Elizabeth Palmer, was deeply involved in community service. Growing up in an environment that emphasized moral integrity, curiosity, and perseverance, Thorndike developed an early fascination with learning and human behavior.

Educational Foundations

Thorndike's academic journey began at the State Normal School in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where he demonstrated exceptional aptitude for teaching and learning. His insatiable curiosity led him to Harvard University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1894, followed by a master's degree in 1895. His scholarly pursuits at Harvard, under prominent psychologists like William James, set the stage for his groundbreaking research in animal behavior and learning.

The Scientific Contributions and Theories of Thorndike

Behaviorism and the Law of Effect

Thorndike's most influential work centers on the development of the law of effect, a principle stating that behaviors followed by satisfying consequences are more likely to recur, while those followed by discomfort are less likely. This foundational concept prefigured and influenced B.F. Skinner's operant conditioning theory, emphasizing the importance of reinforcement in learning processes.

Experimental Methodology and Puzzle Boxes

Thorndike's innovative use of puzzle boxes to study animal learning represented a methodological

breakthrough. By observing cats in puzzle boxes, Thorndike systematically recorded how they learned to escape through trial-and-error, illustrating the gradual nature of learning and the importance of reinforcement.

Educational Psychology and Intelligence Testing

Beyond animal experiments, Thorndike contributed significantly to educational psychology, advocating for measurement and objective assessment. His development of the first standardized tests for measuring intelligence and academic achievement underscored his commitment to empirical rigor and practical applications.

The Personal Life of Edward Thorndike: A Love Story

Meeting Elizabeth "Lizzie" E. Thorndike

In the midst of his academic pursuits, Thorndike's personal life was marked by a profound love story. He met Elizabeth "Lizzie" E. Peabody, a fellow Harvard student, whose intelligence, warmth, and shared values captivated him. Their relationship was characterized by mutual respect, intellectual companionship, and an enduring bond that would span decades.

The Courtship and Marriage

Their courtship, rooted in shared academic interests and moral convictions, culminated in marriage in 1900. Elizabeth was not only a loving partner but also an active supporter of Thorndike's work. Their relationship exemplified a partnership built on intellectual stimulation and emotional support, serving as a cornerstone of Thorndike's stability amidst rigorous scientific pursuits.

Shared Commitment to Education and Service

Together, the Thorndikes engaged in community service and educational reform, reflecting their shared belief in the transformative power of education. Elizabeth's influence on Thorndike's perspectives on education and social responsibility contributed to his holistic approach to psychology, emphasizing the connection between scientific research and societal betterment.

Enduring Love: The Impact on Thorndike's Life and Work

Emotional Foundations and Scientific Inspiration

Thorndike often credited the stability and encouragement provided by Elizabeth as vital to his scientific productivity. Their relationship fostered an environment of intellectual curiosity, enabling Thorndike to pursue pioneering experiments and theoretical developments with confidence. His

enduring love for Elizabeth exemplified the harmony between personal fulfillment and professional achievement.

Resilience Through Personal and Professional Challenges

Throughout his career, Thorndike faced academic skepticism and the challenges of pioneering uncharted scientific territory. Elizabeth's unwavering support served as a source of resilience, allowing him to persevere through setbacks and societal doubts. Their partnership underscored the importance of emotional stability in achieving scientific and personal goals.

Legacy of Love and Contribution

The enduring love between Thorndike and Elizabeth not only shaped his personal life but also influenced his legacy. Their partnership epitomized the integration of personal values with professional pursuits, illustrating how love and dedication can propel scientific innovation and societal progress.

The Later Years and Legacy

Academic Achievements and Honors

In his later years, Thorndike received numerous accolades, including election to the National Academy of Sciences and honorary degrees from prestigious institutions. His influence extended beyond psychology into education reform, animal training, and even organizational management.

Continued Commitment to Education and Humanity

Despite his advancing age, Thorndike remained committed to applying his research for societal benefit. His work on educational measurement and his advocacy for evidence-based teaching methodologies continue to impact modern education systems.

Reflections on Love, Life, and Science

Thorndike's personal reflections often highlighted the significance of love and companionship in fostering creativity and resilience. His enduring partnership with Elizabeth served as a testament to the transformative power of personal relationships in the pursuit of scientific and personal fulfillment.

Conclusion: The Enduring Love of Thorndike as a Model for Modern Researchers

Edward Thorndike's life story is a compelling narrative of scientific innovation intertwined with a

profound love story. His enduring relationship with Elizabeth exemplifies how emotional stability, mutual support, and shared values can enhance professional pursuits and personal well-being. As a pioneer who revolutionized our understanding of learning and behavior, Thorndike's legacy extends beyond his scientific contributions to embody the enduring power of love, perseverance, and intellectual curiosity.

In an era increasingly focused on collaborative and multidisciplinary approaches, the life of Thorndike reminds us that behind every great scientist lies a personal story of love and dedication—elements that continue to inspire researchers and learners alike. His biography underscores that enduring love, grounded in respect and shared purpose, can serve as both a foundation and a catalyst for extraordinary achievement.

Question Who was Thorndike and what is his significance in the study of love? **Answer** Edward L. Thorndike was a pioneering psychologist known for his work in behavioral psychology; while primarily focused on learning and intelligence, his research also touched on the emotional aspects of human relationships, contributing to understanding enduring love from a psychological perspective. How does Thorndike's biography explain the development of enduring love? Thorndike's biography highlights his emphasis on reinforcement and behavioral patterns, suggesting that enduring love is cultivated through consistent positive interactions and mutual reinforcement over time. What are some key insights from Thorndike's research relevant to long-term relationships? Thorndike's law of effect indicates that behaviors followed by satisfying outcomes are likely to be repeated, implying that maintaining positivity and reinforcement in a relationship fosters enduring love. Is there a connection between Thorndike's psychological theories and modern understanding of lasting love? Yes, modern relationship psychology often draws on behavioral principles similar to Thorndike's, emphasizing the importance of reinforcement, communication, and consistent positive experiences in sustaining long-term love. How does Thorndike's biography influence contemporary views on relationship durability? Thorndike's focus on learned behaviors and reinforcement strategies informs contemporary approaches to nurturing lasting relationships by promoting positive habits and emotional reinforcement. Are there any notable personal aspects of Thorndike's life that impacted his views on love? While primarily known for his scientific work, Thorndike's personal life, including his long marriage and interest in social bonds, likely influenced his understanding of the importance of reinforcement and consistency in sustaining love. What lessons about enduring love can be drawn from Thorndike's biography? Thorndike's biography teaches that enduring love may be rooted in consistent positive reinforcement, mutual support, and behavioral habits that strengthen emotional bonds over time.

Related keywords: Thorndike, enduring love, biography, psychology, learning theories, Edward Thorndike, intelligence, education, behaviorism, famous psychologists

Enduring Spirit

Enduring Spirit: The Key to Overcoming Life's Challenges

Enduring spirit is a timeless trait that embodies resilience, perseverance, and unwavering determination in the face of adversity. It is the inner strength that fuels individuals to push beyond their limits, conquer obstacles, and continue striving toward their goals despite setbacks. An enduring spirit is not merely about surviving difficult times but about thriving through them, emerging stronger and wiser. This quality has been celebrated throughout history in countless stories of heroes, leaders, and ordinary people who refused to give up, demonstrating that an unbreakable spirit is essential for personal growth and success.

What Is an Enduring Spirit?

Defining the Enduring Spirit

An enduring spirit refers to the persistent attitude and mental resilience that enables individuals to withstand hardships, setbacks, and failures. It is characterized by:

- Resilience: The ability to recover quickly from difficulties.
- Perseverance: Continued effort despite challenges.
- Optimism: Maintaining a positive outlook even during tough times.
- Inner Strength: Emotional and mental fortitude to face adversity head-on.

The Importance of an Enduring Spirit

Having an enduring spirit is vital for:

- Achieving long-term goals
- Overcoming personal and professional obstacles
- Maintaining mental health and well-being
- Inspiring others through example
- Building character and resilience

The Characteristics of an Enduring Spirit

Key Traits of Resilient Individuals

People with a strong enduring spirit often exhibit the following qualities:

- Determination: They set clear goals and remain committed to achieving them.
- Adaptability: They adjust their strategies when faced with unforeseen challenges.
- Positive Mindset: They focus on solutions rather than problems.
- Patience: They understand that success takes time and are willing to wait.
- Self-belief: They trust in their abilities and inner strength.
- Empathy and Support Seekers: They often seek or provide support during tough times.

How These Traits Contribute to Endurance

Each characteristic plays a vital role in fostering resilience:

- Determination fuels persistence.
- Adaptability allows for flexibility when plans falter.
- A positive mindset helps maintain morale.
- Patience sustains effort over long periods.
- Self-belief encourages continued effort despite setbacks.

The Role of Enduring Spirit in Personal Growth

Overcoming Life's Challenges

An enduring spirit empowers individuals to:

- Recover from failures and disappointments
- Learn from mistakes and grow stronger
- Develop a sense of purpose and meaning
- Cultivate emotional intelligence and self-awareness

Building Character and Confidence

Persisting through hardships enhances self-esteem and fosters a resilient character. It teaches valuable life lessons such as patience, humility, and perseverance, which are essential for personal development.

Examples of Enduring Spirit in History and Everyday Life

Historical Figures Demonstrating Enduring Spirit

- Nelson Mandela: Spent 27 years in prison and emerged committed to reconciliation and leadership.
- Abraham Lincoln: Faced numerous setbacks and failures before becoming one of America's greatest presidents.
- Mother Teresa: Dedicated her life to helping the poor despite numerous obstacles and criticisms.

Everyday Examples

- An entrepreneur facing repeated failures yet continues to innovate.
- A student overcoming learning difficulties to succeed academically.
- Athletes pushing through injuries and setbacks to achieve victory.
- Individuals battling chronic illness while maintaining a positive outlook.

Cultivating Your Own Enduring Spirit

Practical Steps to Develop Resilience

Building an enduring spirit is a continual process. Here are some strategies:

- Set Realistic Goals: Break large objectives into manageable steps.
- Cultivate a Growth Mindset: View failures as opportunities to learn.
- Practice Self-Compassion: Be kind to yourself during setbacks.
- Develop Problem-Solving Skills: Focus on actionable solutions.
- Build a Support Network: Surround yourself with positive and supportive people.
- Stay Physically Active: Exercise boosts mental resilience.
- Maintain a Positive Outlook: Practice gratitude and mindfulness.

The Power of Mindset and Attitude

A resilient mindset can be cultivated through daily affirmations, visualization, and reframing negative thoughts. Believing in your capacity to overcome challenges is fundamental to fostering an enduring spirit.

The Impact of Enduring Spirit on Success

Achieving Personal Goals

Persistence often leads to achievement, especially when combined with strategic planning and adaptability. The ability to withstand setbacks without giving up is a common trait among successful individuals.

Inspiring Others

People with a strong enduring spirit serve as role models, inspiring their communities and fostering a culture of resilience and hope.

Enhancing Well-Being

Resilience contributes to better mental health by reducing stress and promoting a sense of control and purpose. It encourages individuals to see difficulties as opportunities for growth rather than insurmountable obstacles.

Conclusion: Embracing the Enduring Spirit

An enduring spirit is an invaluable asset that can transform obstacles into opportunities and setbacks into stepping stones toward success. Cultivating resilience requires intentional effort, self-awareness, and a positive attitude toward life's inevitable challenges. Whether facing personal struggles, professional setbacks, or societal hardships, those with an enduring spirit demonstrate that perseverance, hope, and inner strength are the keys to overcoming adversity. By nurturing this quality within ourselves, we not only improve our own lives but also inspire others to pursue their dreams with unwavering determination. Remember, an enduring spirit is not about never falling but about always rising after each fall. Embrace your resilience and let your spirit shine through life's trials and tribulations.

Keywords: enduring spirit, resilience, perseverance, personal growth, overcoming adversity, mental toughness, resilience traits, building resilience, success stories, motivation, inner strength, overcoming challenges

Enduring spirit is a concept that resonates deeply across cultures, histories, and individual lives. It embodies resilience, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to overcome adversity, whether in personal struggles, societal upheavals, or natural challenges. The enduring spirit is not merely about survival but about thriving despite hardships, transforming setbacks into opportunities for growth, and inspiring others through unwavering resolve. This article delves into the multifaceted nature of the enduring spirit, exploring its historical significance, psychological foundations, cultural expressions, and contemporary relevance.

Understanding the Enduring Spirit: Definitions and Core Concepts

What Is the Enduring Spirit?

At its core, the enduring spirit refers to an intrinsic quality that enables individuals and communities to persevere through difficulties, maintain hope, and continue striving toward their goals despite obstacles. It is often characterized by traits such as resilience, grit, determination, and optimism. Unlike fleeting moments of courage, the enduring spirit is sustained over time, serving as a constant source of motivation during prolonged hardships.

Distinguishing Endurance from Resilience

While closely related, endurance and resilience have nuanced differences:

- Endurance emphasizes the ability to withstand prolonged stress or hardship without giving up.
- Resilience involves bouncing back after setbacks, often with the capacity to adapt and grow from adversity.

The enduring spirit encompasses both qualities, embodying a relentless pursuit of purpose despite ongoing challenges.

Historical Perspectives on the Enduring Spirit

Historical Figures Exemplifying the Enduring Spirit

Throughout history, numerous figures have exemplified the enduring spirit, inspiring generations:

- Nelson Mandela: Spent 27 years in prison, yet emerged with a steadfast commitment to reconciliation and justice.
- Harriet Tubman: Risked her life repeatedly in the Underground Railroad, demonstrating incredible resilience and courage.
- Mahatma Gandhi: Led India's nonviolent independence movement despite facing imprisonment and opposition.

These individuals exemplify how unwavering resolve can bring about profound societal change.

Enduring Spirit in Times of Crisis

Historically, societies have rallied their collective enduring spirit during times of war, famine, or

upheaval:

- The resilience of countries during World War II, such as Britain's "Keep Calm and Carry On" mentality.
- Post-atomic bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where survivors showcased remarkable endurance and hope.

Such moments highlight the capacity of communities to persevere and rebuild amid destruction.

Psychological Foundations of the Enduring Spirit

The Role of Mindset and Attitude

Research indicates that a growth mindset—believing that abilities can be developed—fuels the enduring spirit. Optimism, or the expectation that challenges can be overcome, also plays a crucial role. People with a positive outlook are more likely to persist through difficulties.

Theories and Models Explaining Resilience

Various psychological models explain how individuals sustain an enduring spirit:

- The Resilience Theory: Focuses on protective factors like social support, self-efficacy, and emotional regulation.
- The Hardiness Model: Identifies commitment, control, and challenge as key components that foster resilience.
- Post-Traumatic Growth: Describes how adversity can lead to personal development, fueling an enduring sense of purpose.

Neuroscientific Insights

Emerging neuroscience research suggests that certain brain regions, such as the prefrontal cortex and limbic system, are involved in resilience. Neuroplasticity allows individuals to rewire their responses to stress, reinforcing the capacity for endurance over time.

Cultural Expressions of the Enduring Spirit

Mythology and Literature

Many cultures have mythological stories and literary works emphasizing perseverance:

- The Greek hero Odysseus' long journey home symbolizes perseverance.
- The African proverb, 'Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors,' underscores resilience.
- Literature like Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* captures enduring hope amidst suffering.

Religious and Spiritual Traditions

Spirituality often reinforces the enduring spirit:

- In Christianity, the concept of faith sustains believers through trials.
- Buddhism emphasizes mindfulness and acceptance as tools for enduring suffering.
- Indigenous traditions frequently celebrate resilience in the face of colonization and cultural suppression.

Modern Cultural Narratives

Contemporary stories of athletes, activists, and ordinary individuals overcoming adversity continue to inspire:

- Olympic athletes training through injury or setbacks.
- Social justice movements illustrating perseverance in fighting inequality.
- Personal stories of overcoming illness or poverty resonate globally.

Enduring Spirit in Contemporary Society

Challenges Facing Modern Society

Today's world presents complex challenges:

- Climate change and environmental crises.
- Political instability and social unrest.
- Economic disparities and technological disruptions.

Despite these, the enduring spirit remains vital for sustainable progress.

Fostering the Enduring Spirit in Individuals and Communities

Strategies to cultivate resilience include:

- Building social support networks.
- Encouraging growth-minded education.
- Promoting mental health awareness.
- Developing leadership that models perseverance.

The Role of Education and Leadership

Educational systems can nurture grit and resilience by emphasizing perseverance, empathy, and adaptability. Leaders who demonstrate authentic resolve inspire communities to maintain hope and collective effort during tough times.

Case Studies: The Enduring Spirit in Action

The COVID-19 Pandemic Response

The global pandemic tested the endurance of individuals and systems. Healthcare workers, scientists, and ordinary citizens displayed remarkable perseverance, working tirelessly, innovating, and maintaining hope despite uncertainty and loss.

Environmental Activism

Activists fighting climate change exemplify enduring spirit by confronting formidable opposition, mobilizing communities, and advocating for sustainable policies over decades.

Personal Resilience Stories

Personal narratives of overcoming illness, loss, or discrimination serve as powerful testament to human resilience. For instance:

- Survivors of cancer who rebuild their lives.
- Refugees rebuilding communities after displacement.
- Entrepreneurs who persist through failure to achieve success.

Conclusion: The Enduring Spirit as a Catalyst for Change

The enduring spirit is an intrinsic facet of human nature that sustains individuals and societies through adversity. Its roots lie in psychological resilience, cultural narratives, spiritual beliefs, and collective effort. Recognizing and fostering this spirit is vital in addressing contemporary challenges, inspiring innovation, and promoting social cohesion. As history and personal stories demonstrate, the enduring spirit is not merely about surviving hardships but about transforming them into catalysts

for growth, hope, and lasting change. Cultivating this resilience within ourselves and encouraging it in others can create a more resilient, compassionate, and enduring world.

In essence, the enduring spirit embodies the timeless human capacity to face darkness with hope, to persist in the pursuit of purpose, and to emerge stronger from adversity. It is a testament to the resilience of the human soul—a beacon guiding us through turbulent times toward a brighter future.

Question What does the term 'enduring spirit' typically refer to in personal development? It refers to a person's resilience, perseverance, and inner strength to overcome challenges and persist through difficult times. How can cultivating an enduring spirit benefit someone facing adversity? It helps individuals stay motivated, maintain a positive mindset, and navigate obstacles effectively, leading to personal growth and resilience. Are there famous stories or figures that exemplify an enduring spirit? Yes, figures like Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, and Helen Keller exemplify an enduring spirit through their perseverance in the face of hardship and injustice. What practices can strengthen one's enduring spirit? Practices include mindfulness, setting achievable goals, maintaining a positive outlook, seeking support, and reflecting on past successes. How does culture influence the concept of an enduring spirit? Different cultures celebrate resilience and perseverance through stories, proverbs, and traditions, shaping how individuals perceive and cultivate their inner strength. Can an enduring spirit be developed, or is it innate? While some may have a natural predisposition, most experts agree that an enduring spirit can be cultivated through experience, mindset, and deliberate practice. Why is the concept of an enduring spirit important in leadership? Leaders with an enduring spirit inspire others, remain steadfast during crises, and foster resilience within their teams, leading to sustained success.

Related keywords: resilience, perseverance, strength, determination, fortitude, courage, stamina, grit, tenacity, resolve

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