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# Ashes Documentation

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Ashes is [Dust](#) templating for Python 2 and 3.



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## Section Listing

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### Language Reference

Ashes includes full support for the Dust language, and includes many built-in functions for your convenience.

#### Helpers

Helpers are Dust's way of providing extensibility in logic and flow control. This may sound complex, but most Helpers are intuitive and live up to the name. The following Helpers are provided in Ashes:

- first
- last
- sep
- idx
- idx\_1
- size
- iterate

#### Filters

Filters are used to escape or otherwise process values at template rendering time. While simple, correct Filter usage is critical. Here are a few examples:

- Producing readable content - `pp` pretty-prints values
- Browser compliance - `u` escapes a URL, making it a valid href target
- Site and user security - `h` escapes special characters (such as `<` and `>`) into HTML entities (such as `&lt;` and `&gt;`), preventing XSS and other user agent attacks

Note that if no filter is explicitly specified, Ashes errs on the safe side and `h` is assumed.

## Pragmas

A lesser-used feature of the Dust language, Pragmas allow for preprocessing of blocks, presumably for runtime performance benefits. Currently there is only one built-in pragma, `esc`, mostly used to escape HTML code blocks and the like.



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## Indices and tables

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- `genindex`
- `modindex`