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Clapton Is No Longer God



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By Alexander Baron

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As rock guitarists go, [Eric Clapton](#) is up there with the best of them, and has been since the 1960s. His contemporaries include [Ritchie Blackmore](#), [George Kooymans](#), [Carlos Santana](#), [Ted Turner](#), [Andy Powell](#) and [Tony Iommi](#). All these men are still around, and still making great music, especially [Ritchie](#), although [Ted](#) is keeping a low profile these days.

Doubtless they have all been called guitar gods at some point, but the phrase “Clapton is God” has a special meaning. He was playing with John Mayall & The Bluesbreakers when someone scrawled it on a wall and it went viral, as we would say nowadays. To his credit, the man himself was said to have been embarrassed. Nearly four decades on, [an incident](#) in a New York club reminded him and the rest of us just how wise it is never to allow our heads to swell too much when others are gushing our praise.

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