

Hey everyone who has watched the Obsidian Masterclass! It's Nick here. I want to give you as quickly as possible the most important changes to the features and visuals of Obsidian since my original series of videos from, wow, over five years ago.

Alright, let's begin.

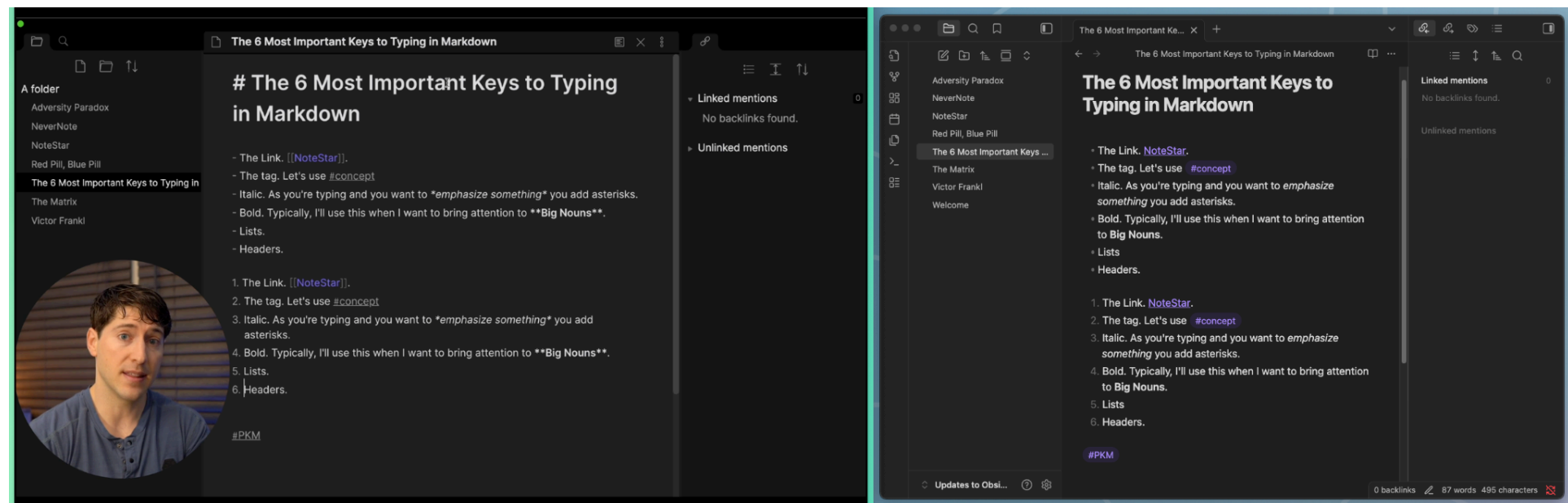
Most Important Feature Changes

While Obsidian has made tons of changes and enhancements, these are the top features changes relevant to what I showed in the masterclass.

Live Preview

The number one most important change is now you won't see the Markdown formatting. This update happened on November 12, 2021 (v0.13).

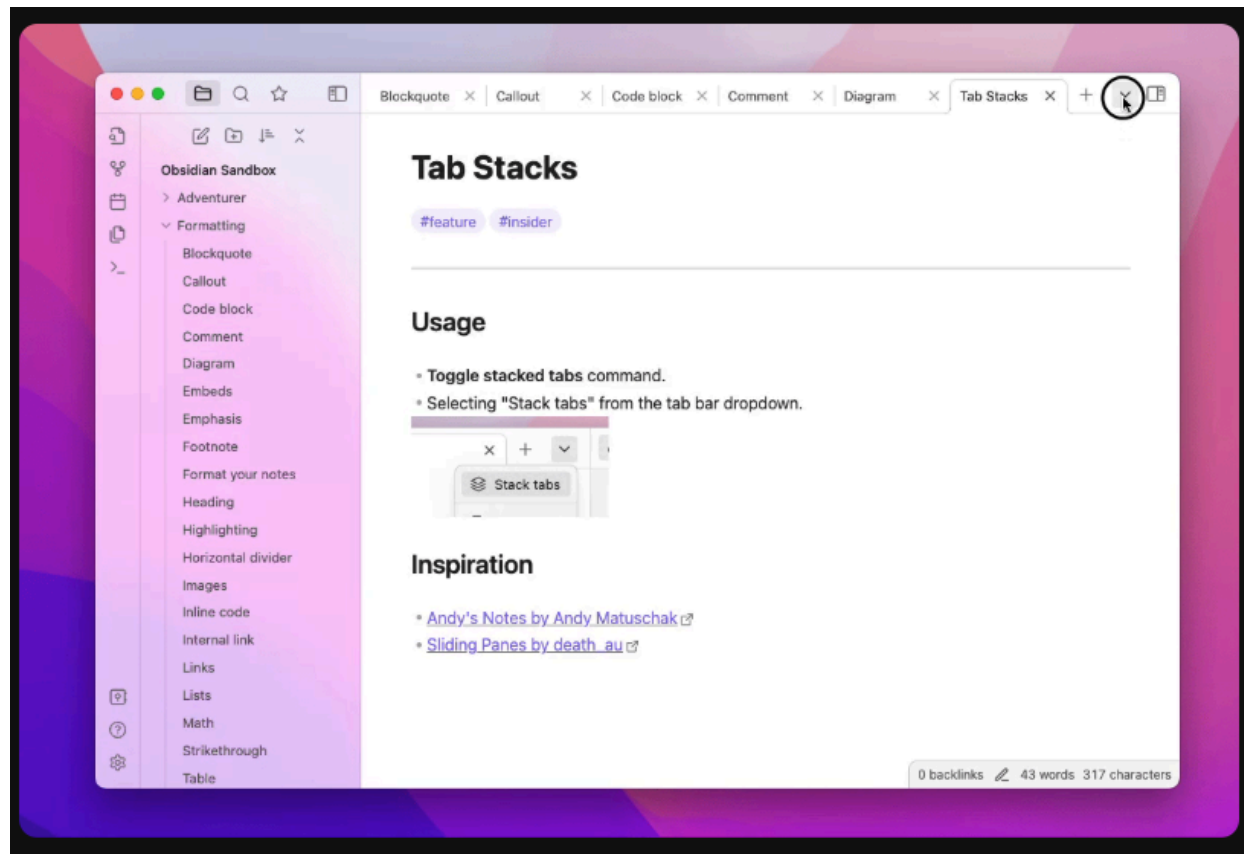
Can you believe in the early days we saw every hashtag and every asterisk that we used to format our notes? It's kind of hard to believe myself! But now it's beautiful. The mode is actually called Live Preview, that's what Obsidian calls it, and I spend 99% of my time in this mode. The old version is on the left. The updated version is on the right.



Live Preview is halfway intelligent in that you don't see any of the formatting unless your cursor is on one of the formatted words. And then you might see pound signs if it's a header or asterisks if it's bolded.

Tabs

On October 13, 2022, Obsidian finally launched their official version 1.0, two and a half years after their first beta release. It was a complete visual upgrade. Most notably, introducing tabs.



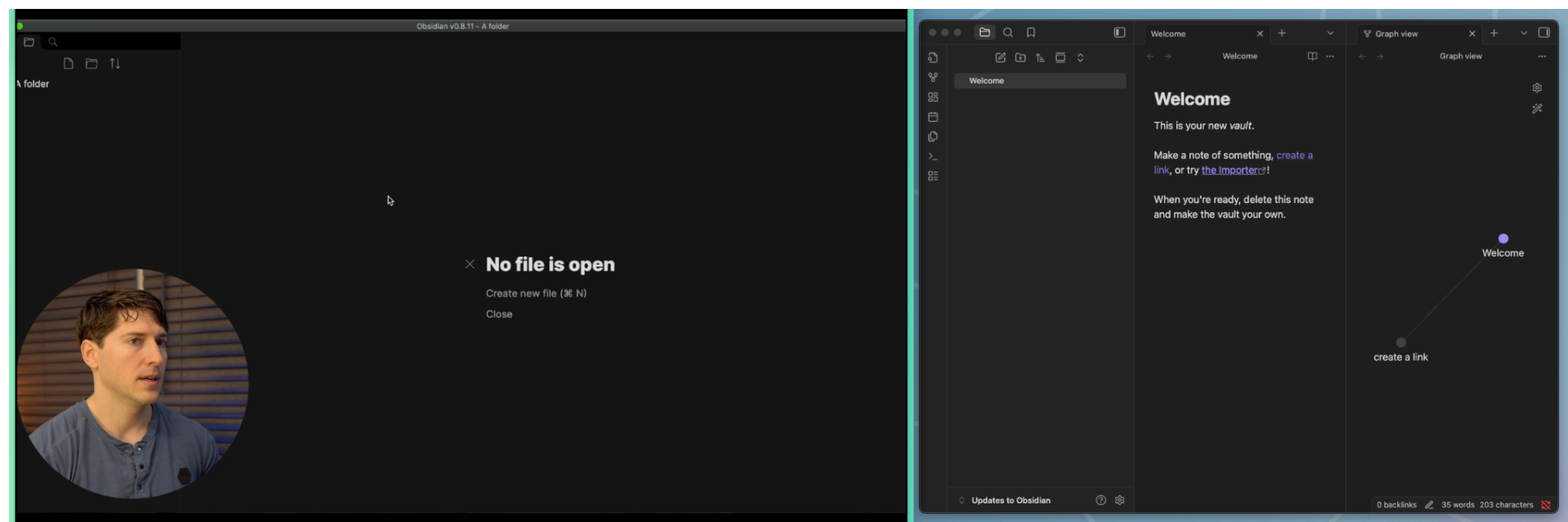
Now it was easy to have multiple tabs for multiple notes. And in the sidebar, it was easy to have multiple tabs there as well. Even further, all these different tabs (for the most part) could be dragged and dropped wherever you wanted them: to the right side, to the left side, below the active tab, or in the left or right-hand sidebar. This update was a huge infrastructure update as it allowed windows to be moved around and customized to your heart's content.

A Comparison of Visual Changes

The following series of images compares how Obsidian looked in the 2020 masterclass series of videos to how it looks over five years later.

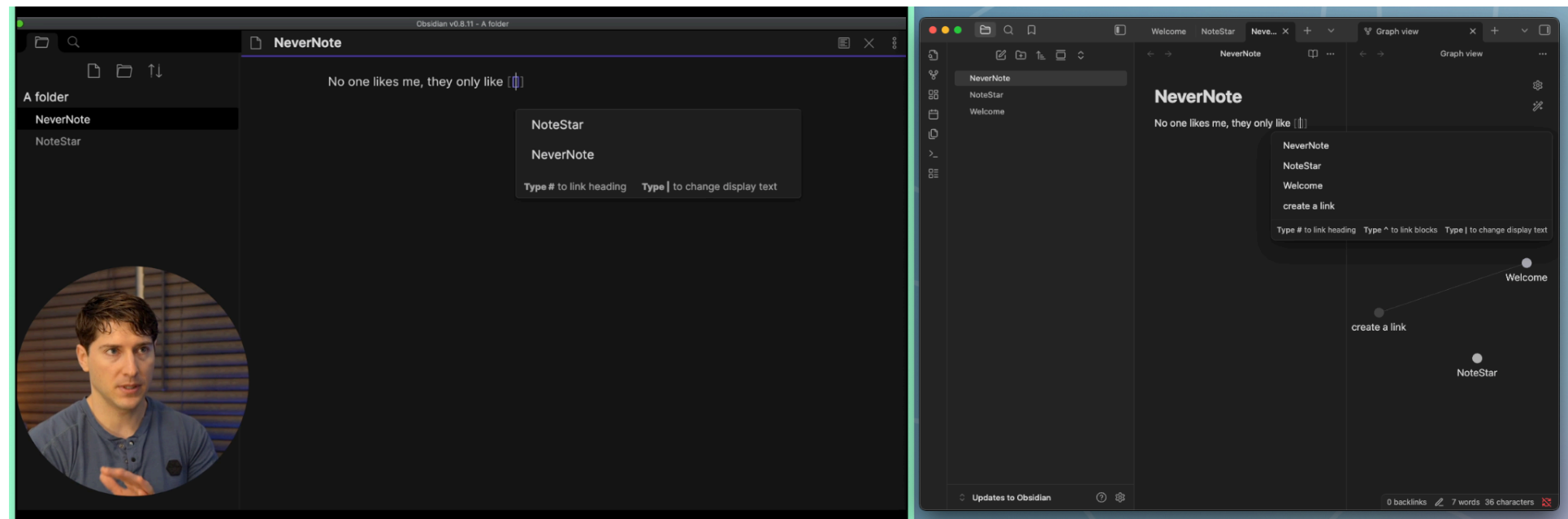
I'm surprised to say that in most ways it looks very similar, which is a testament to its early design. However, in other ways, the way that you use it is much more refined.

When you open a new vault, it's much more friendly.

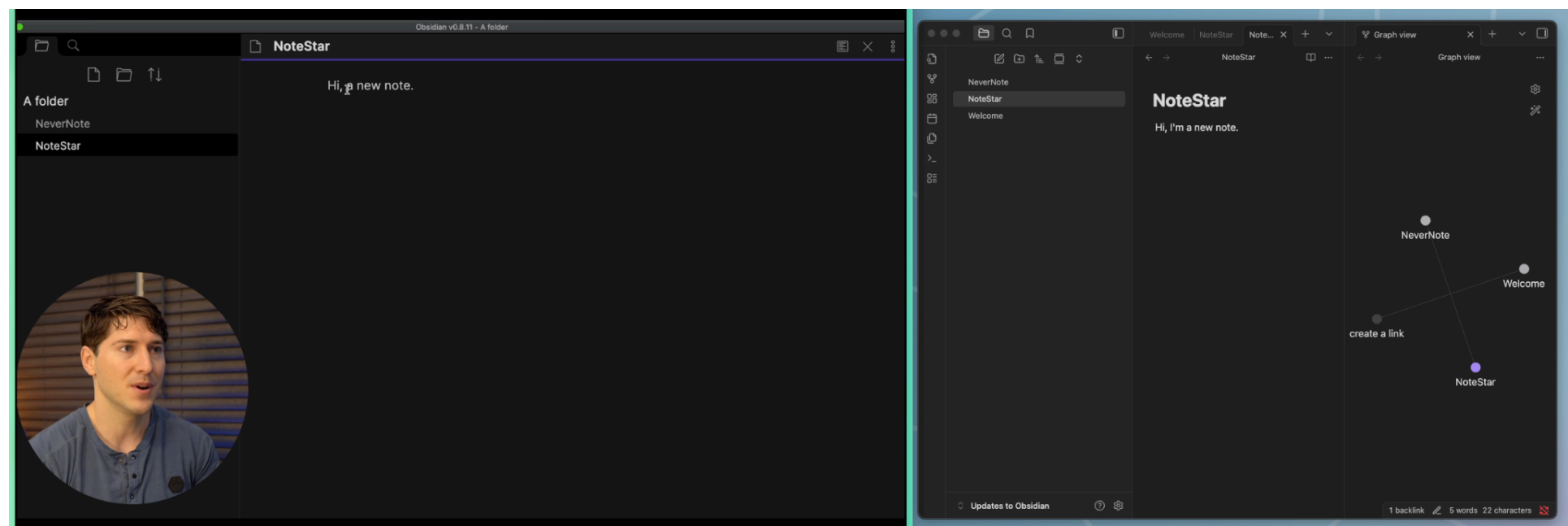


NOTE: The old version is always on the left. The updated version is always on the right.

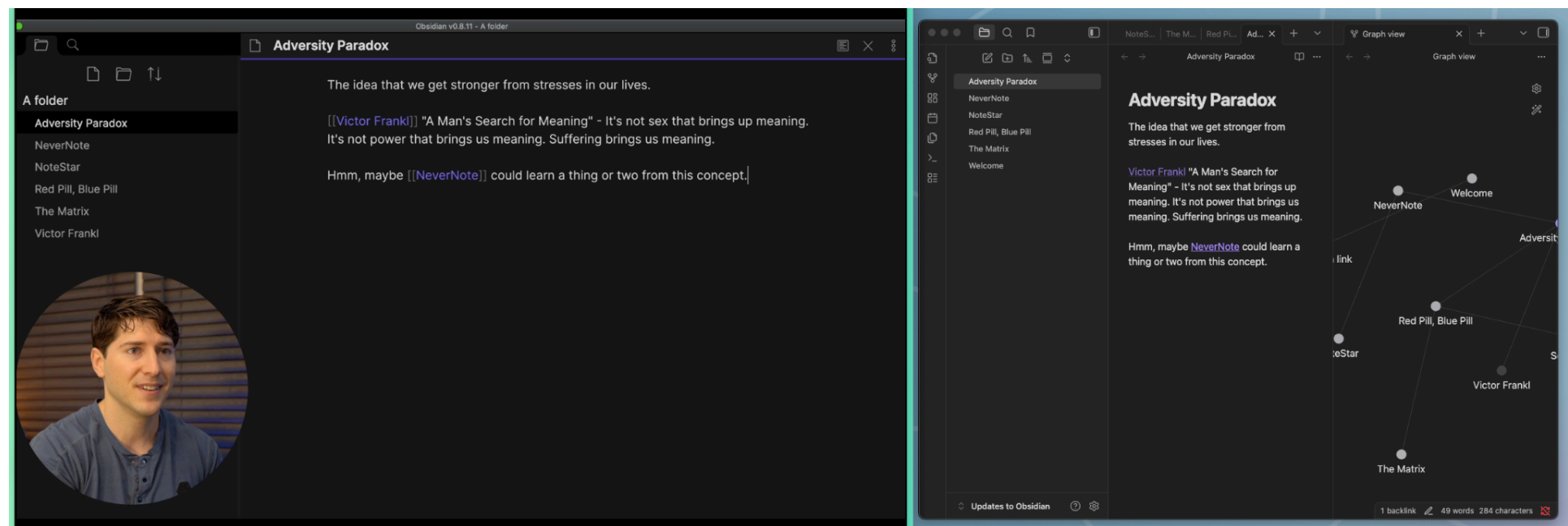
When I start typing the two left brackets to link to another note, it's remarkable how similar it looks.



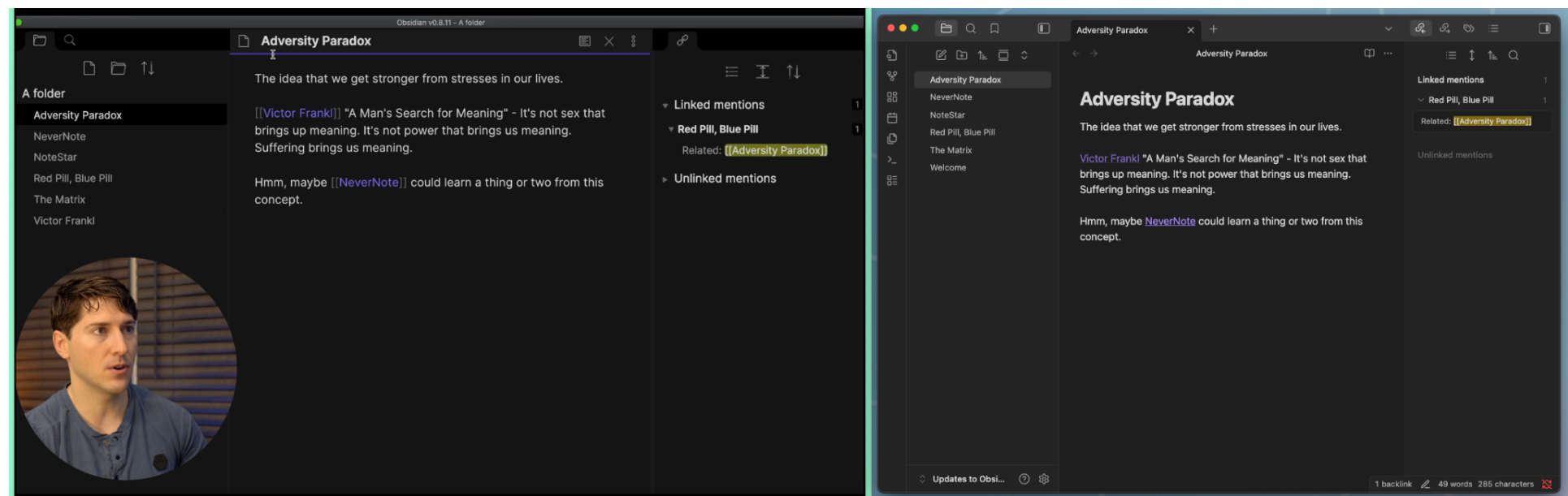
The updated version starts you out with the graph open in a tab on the right, which is fun initially, because every new connection you make becomes visually satisfying as the graph grows.



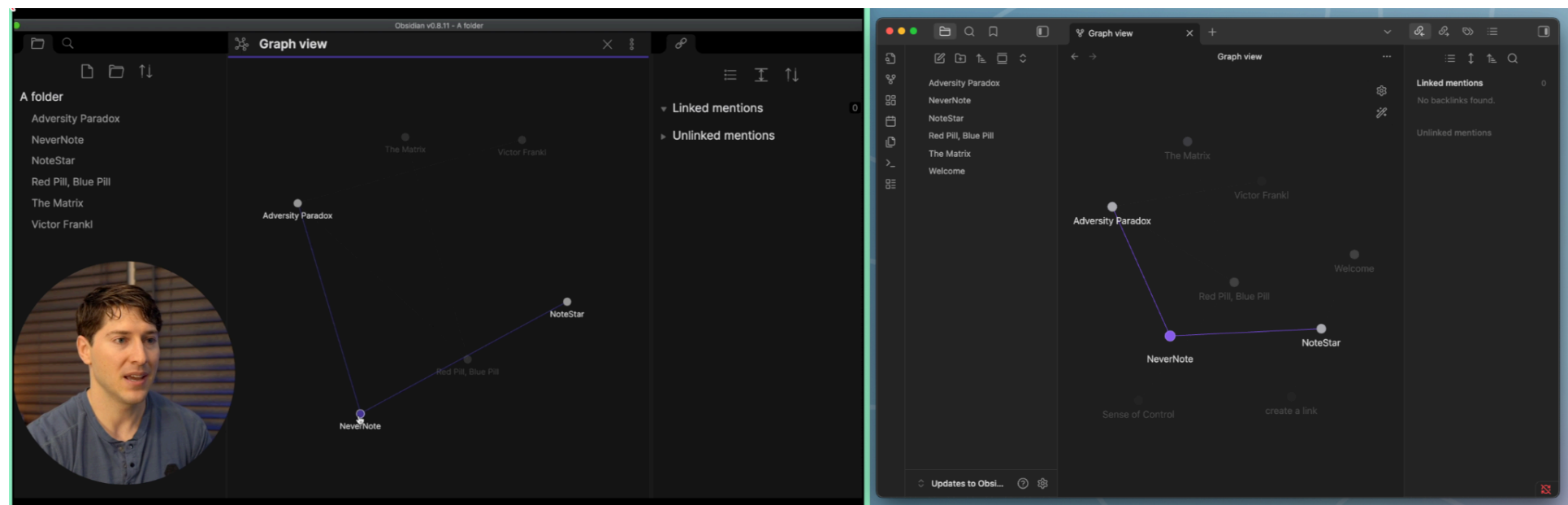
Here's how the Adversity Paradox note looks. At this point, I wanted to new version to not feel so squished.



I gave us more room in the new version. Below, we are comparing the very subtle differences in the right-hand sidebar as we look at the Linked Mentions.



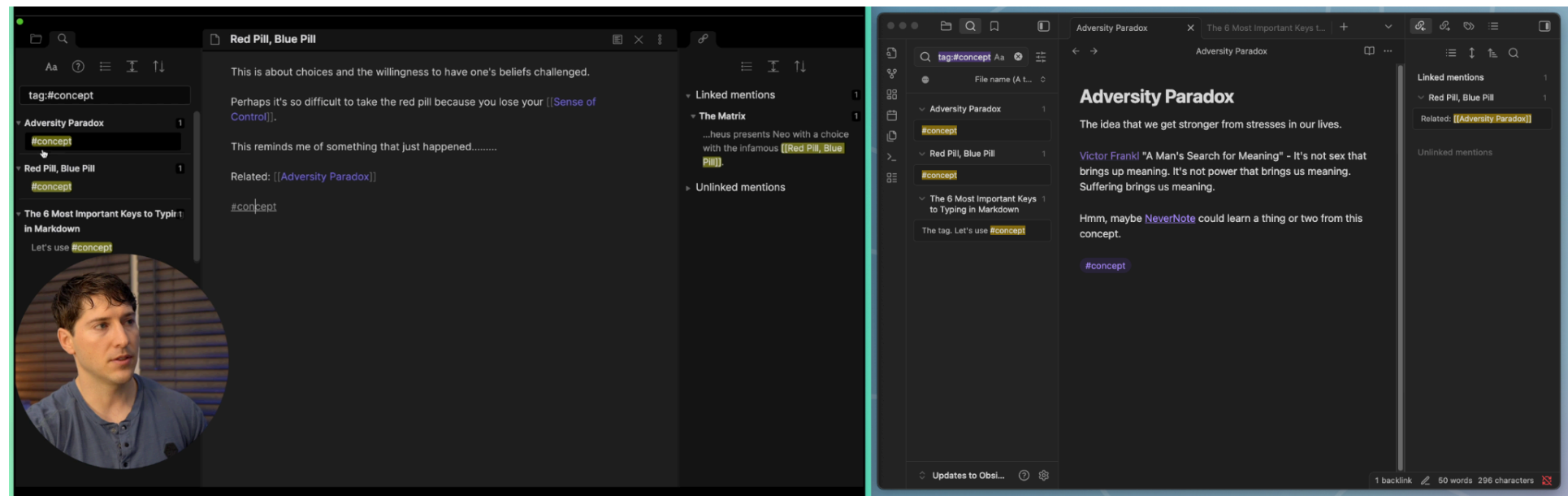
This compares the graph views. The new version is subtly better, but they are quite similar.



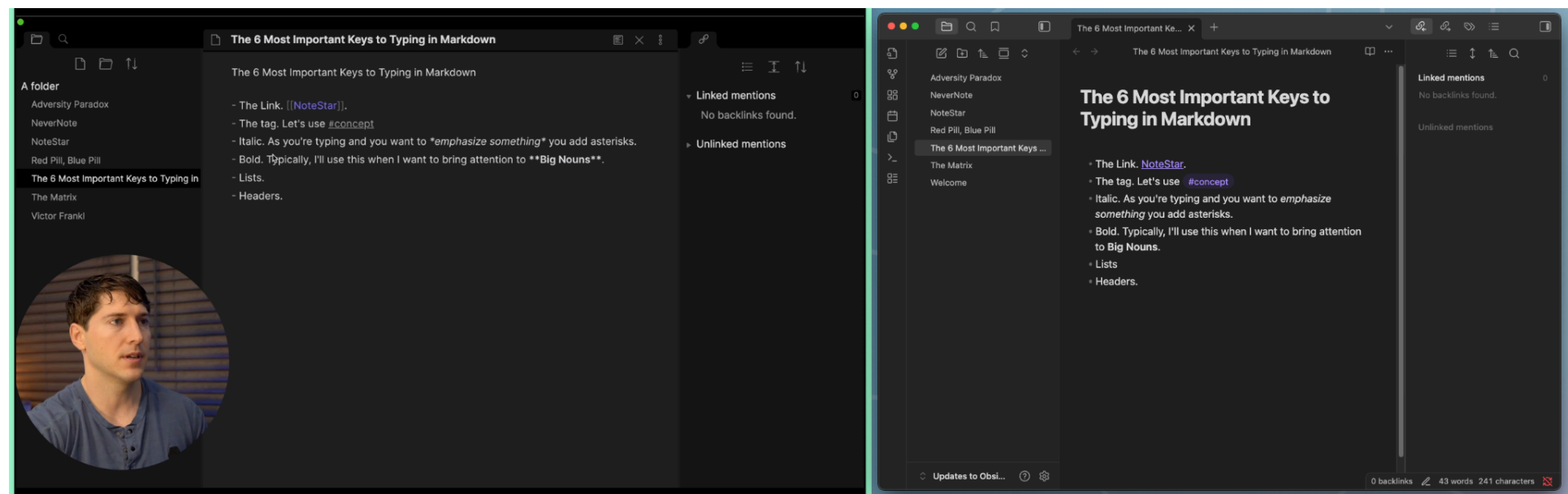
Below, I added a tag in each note. The new version makes the tags stand out more. Another nice touch.

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of note editing. The left screenshot is from Obsidian, showing the 'Adversity Paradox' note. The text reads: 'The idea that we get stronger from stresses in our lives. [[Victor Frankl]] "A Man's Search for Meaning" - It's not sex that brings up meaning. It's not power that brings us meaning. Suffering brings us meaning. Hmm, maybe [[NeverNote]] could learn a thing or two from this concept. #concept'. The right screenshot is from Notion, showing the same note. The text reads: 'The idea that we get stronger from stresses in our lives. Victor Frankl "A Man's Search for Meaning" - It's not sex that brings up meaning. It's not power that brings us meaning. Suffering brings us meaning. Hmm, maybe NeverNote could learn a thing or two from this concept. #concept'. The Notion version highlights the tag '#concept' in purple. Both views show a 'Linked mentions' sidebar on the right, which lists 'Red Pill, Blue Pill' and 'Adversity Paradox'.

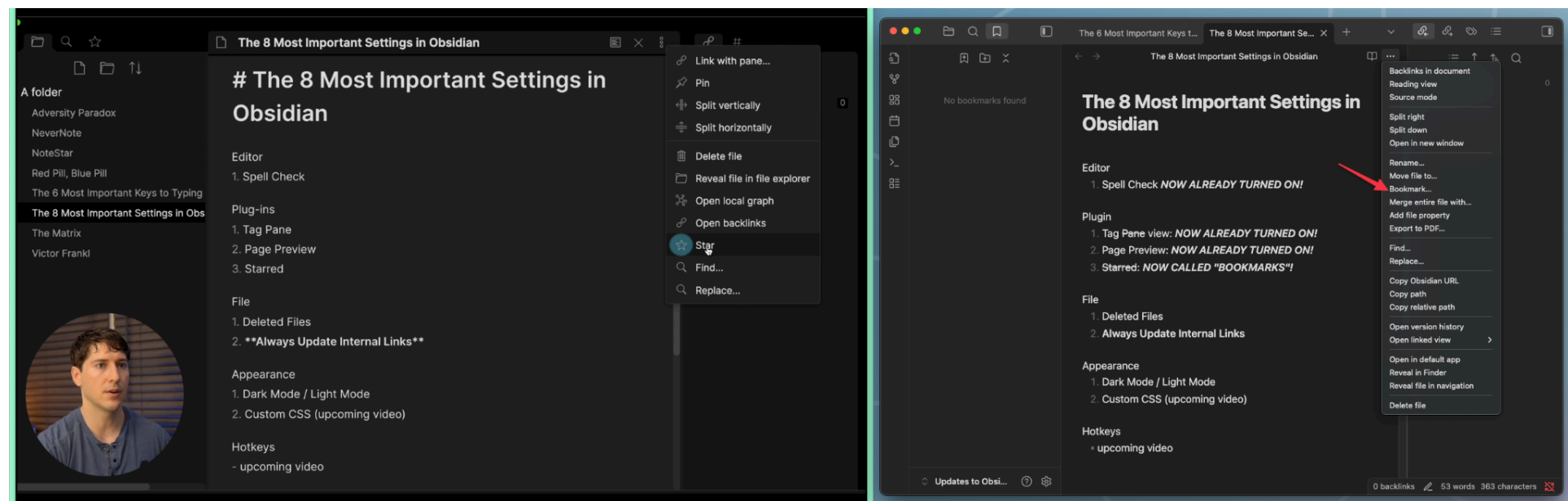
Below, I clicked on the tag in the note and it created a search in the left-hand sidebar. They look quite similar.



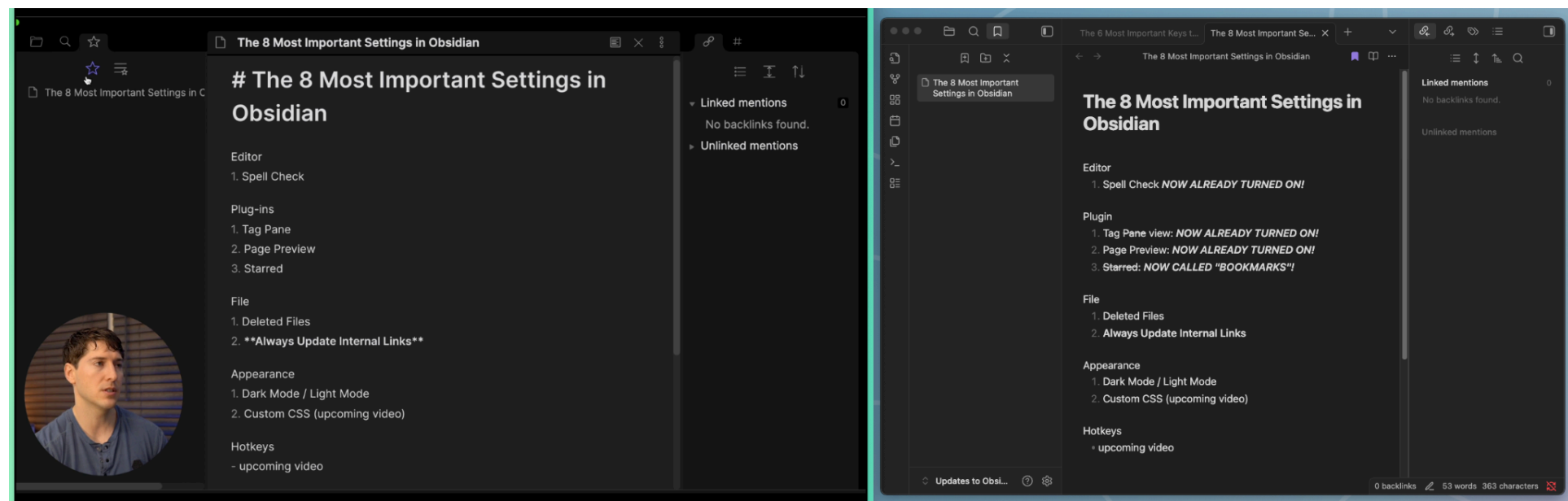
And this next image really highlights the BIG formatting change with Live Preview. Look at how much nicer it is to read and write in the version on the right.



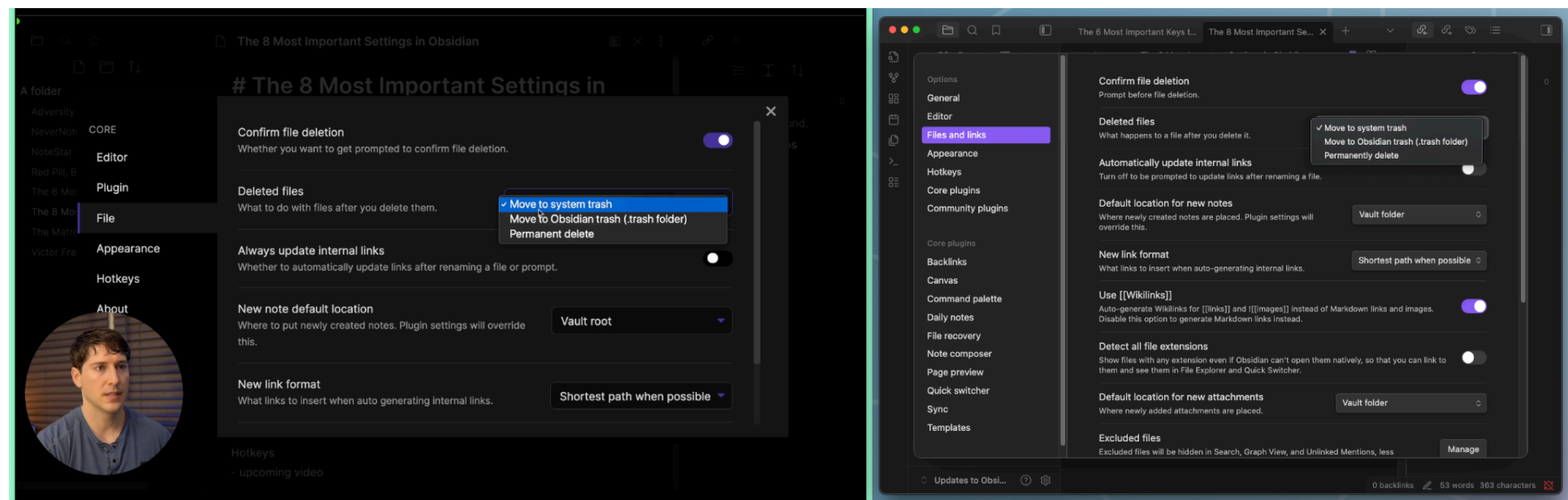
One clear change is the “Starred” plugin becoming “Bookmarks.” Below, this is how you can add a bookmark.



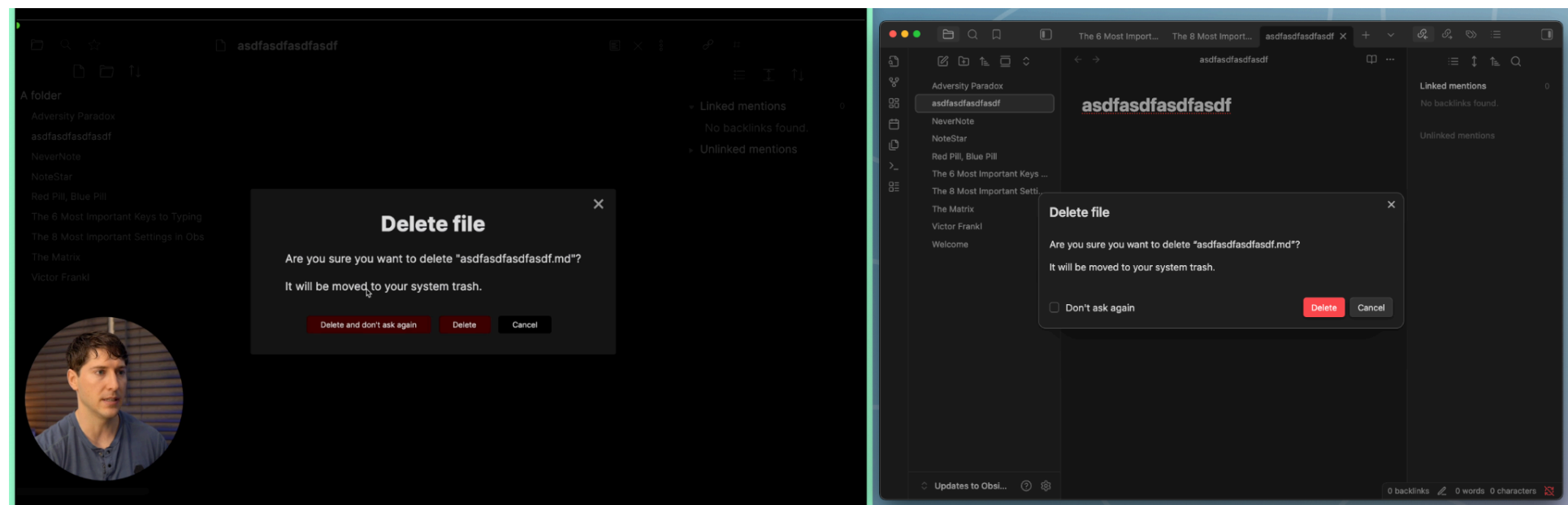
Below, we can see how the old Starred and the current Bookmarks look in their left-hand sidebars.



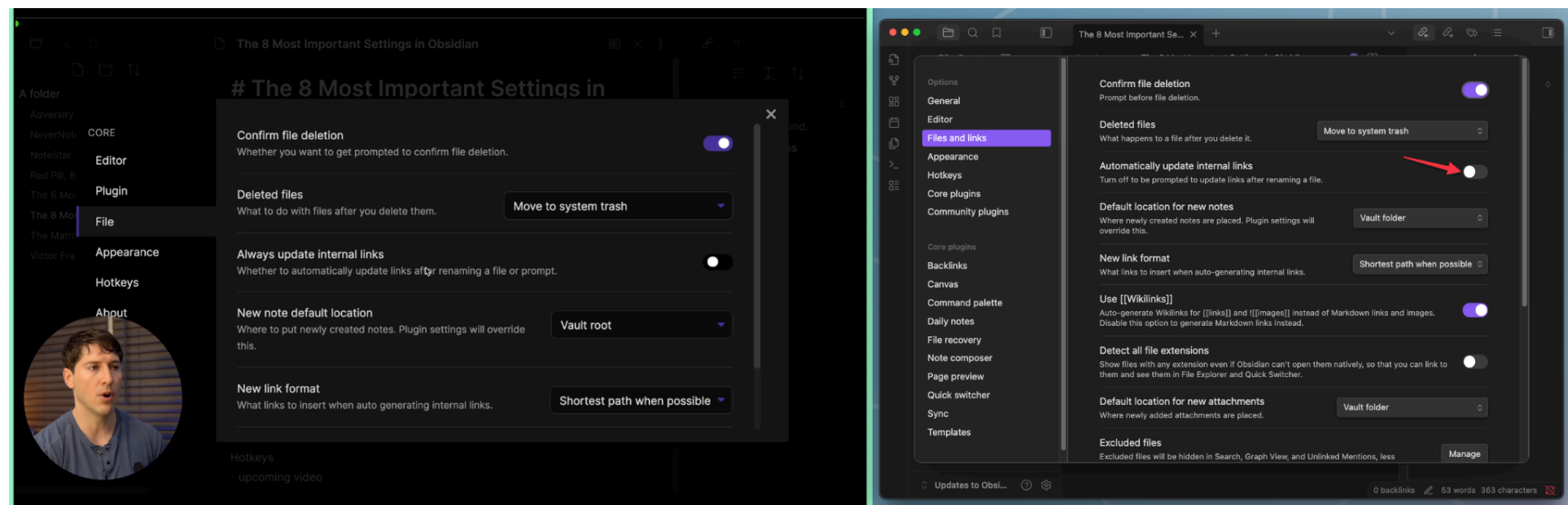
Below shows the settings and files view.



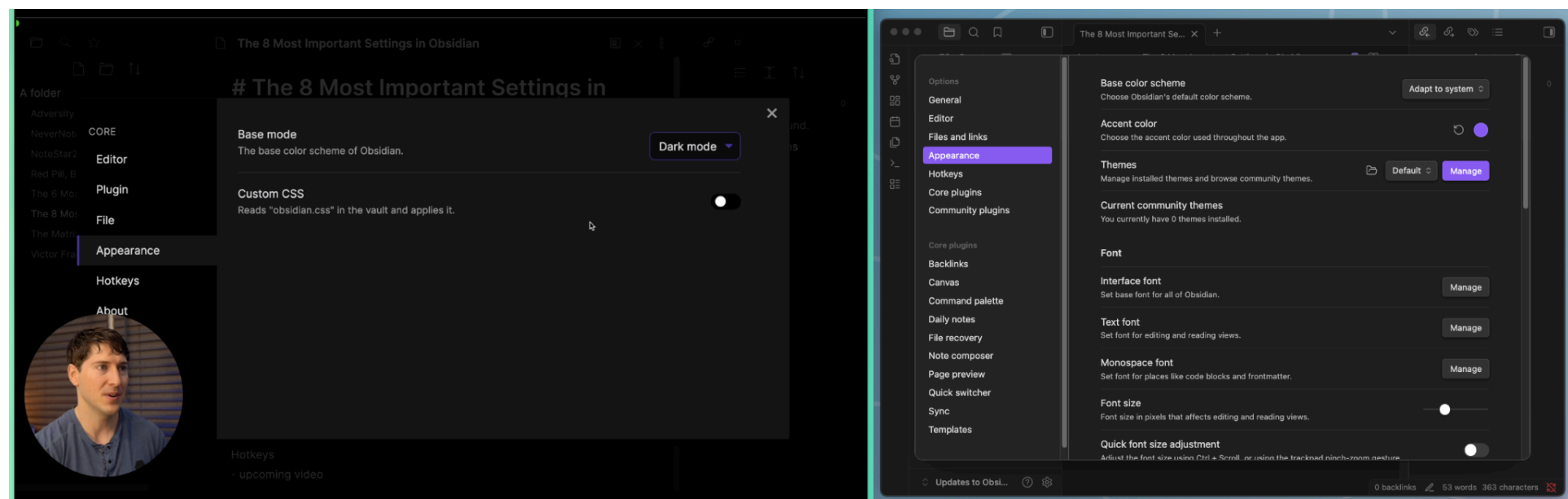
If you click to delete a file, you are shown a similar message.



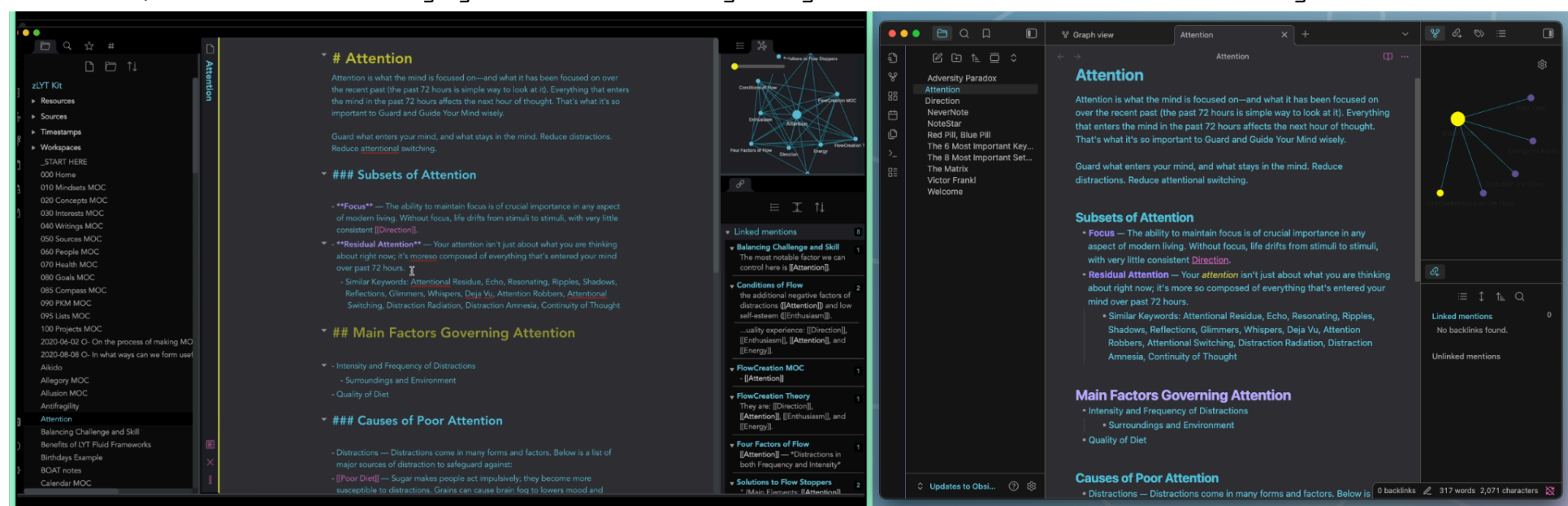
It is MOST CRUCIAL that you toggle on the below option. That way, when you change a note title, it ensures the change percolates across any other note it's mentioned in. (Luckily, even if you don't manually toggle this setting on, if you ever change a note, Obsidian will prompt you on how to handle the change, and you'll be able to change it at that time.)



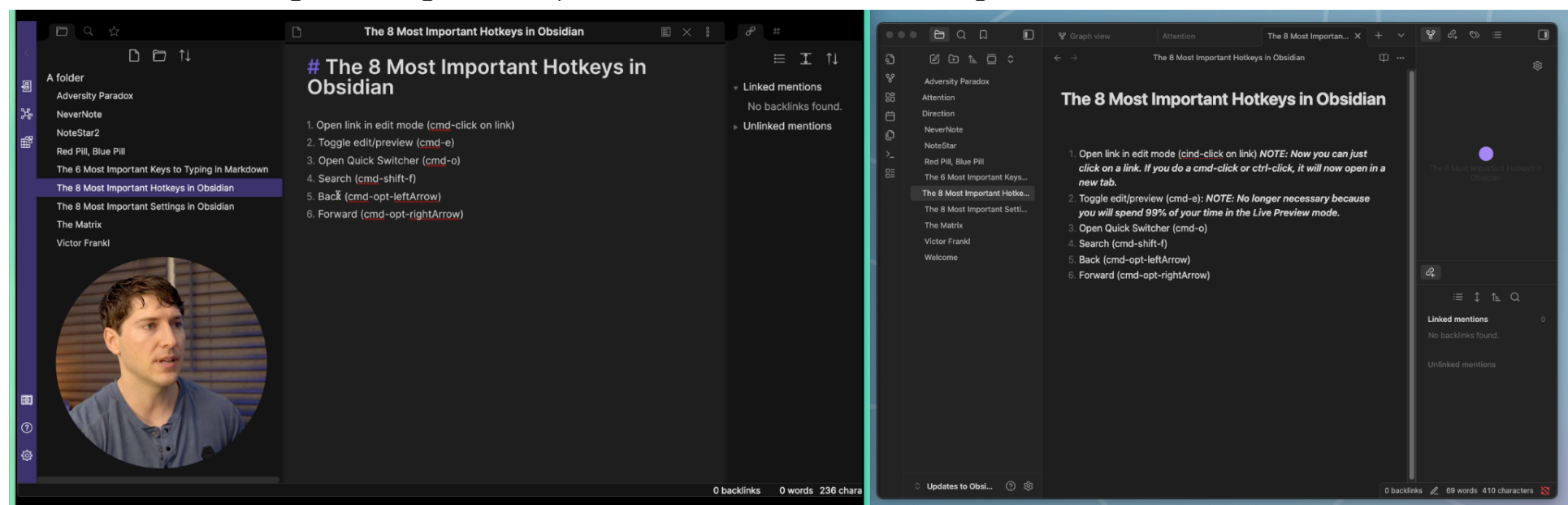
The appearance settings have really expanded since the beginning:



Just for fun, here's how it looks in my Cybertron theme. The big change I notice is how much nicer the formatting is with Live Preview.



READ CAREFULLY the image on the right. It has updated information about the hotkeys I mentioned in the masterclass.



And that's it folks. Again, Obsidian has made tons and tons of changes, but if you went through this guide, it's like a shortcut to understand any changes that functionally impacted what I showed during the masterclass.

*Stay connected,
Nick*