

SEASONINGS

A bi-monthly newsletter for the SSCC 50+ adult community

Volume V, Issue #3



May/June 2012



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SEASONINGS STAFF

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.....

Anthony de Mello, S.J., in his book *Song of the Bird*, tells the story of the little fish.

“Excuse me, can you tell me where to find this thing called the ocean?”

“The ocean,” said the older fish, “is the thing you are in now.”

“Oh, this? But this is water. What I’m seeking is the ocean.”

Perhaps too much of our life is spent seeking for that which is all around us. We look for God in creation, but don’t see the face of a child; we chase a dream and don’t wake up to the one we’re living; we desire a cathedral, but don’t see the congregation; we seek romance, but don’t feel the love; we’re looking for faith, but forget we don’t take a step without it; we pursue happiness, but never find joy; we lust for wealth, but don’t know how rich we are; we seek to be educated, but wisdom eludes us; we want our health, but didn’t know how to live when we had it. Perhaps what we are seeking “is the thing we are in now.” Perhaps God has given us already what we so desperately want. Perhaps God has answered our prayers, but we’ve been too blind to notice.

Prayer: O God, open my eyes to see all that you have brought my way.
Forgive my blindness and selfishness. In Jesus’ name, Amen

Article by Timothy Merrill in the Home Touch publication. www.HomeTouchMinistry.com

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Puleeze mother, I'd rather do it myself!

A few days ago I received an e-mail from someone that made me think. She told me about the antics of a friend's preschool age young son. Recently her friend told her about the little boy's struggles to get dressed. He's at the age where he wants a say in what he wears each day, so she lays out his options. He does pretty well with his socks and pants, but when it comes to his shirt, he has problems.



He fights and wrestles with his shirt, trying to get his arms and head to go into the right holes. His mom offers to help him, but he snaps back, "*I don't want your help!*" So she backs off and lets him try. Finally, when his head is stuck inside a sleeve, he calls out to her and asks for help.

Then comes the "gotcha" question.....
"Do you ever do that to God?"

And now, Sharon Sez, "I'm glad you can't see the sheepish expression on my face because I have to answer, "I do." Can you honestly say you don't? How about this.... "I can fix this problem. I just need to think about it, or take a different approach, or maybe sleep on it, then the answer will come." Meanwhile, God is ready and willing to help us. But He patiently waits. Then when we get stuck and call out to Him, He's right there. Wouldn't it be simpler to ask Him in the first place?

Please God, help - - - I can't do this by myself!

His love and mine, Sharon

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

*Windmills
Of My Mind*



Rev. Cleveland Bishop

THE PERRY MASON SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY:

Perry Mason believed every witness was telling as much of the truth as they knew (or as much as they were willing to admit). When two witnesses seemed to contradict one another, he assumed there must be a "third truth" that would make them compatible. When he discovered that third truth, he would solve the case!

Consider, then, the argument over "Eternal Security" vs "Conditional Security" ("Once saved, always saved" vs "It's possible to *lose* one's salvation")... both sides seem to have Scripture supporting their position.

Now, applying Perry Mason exegesis to the question, we see that the opposing propositions are merely opposite sides of the same coin – the "third truth" is that it is simply a matter of perspective.

From man's perspective, because he has 'free will' it is conceivable man can shake his grubby little fist in the face of God and say, "I don't want Your salvation anymore!"

God's perspective is, "You're Mine. I bought you with a price. I will not let you go!"

I believe God.

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With this issue of SEASONINGS we welcome Rev. Cleveland Bishop, and his column *Windmills Of My Mind*, to the staff. Cleve has a long history of service to God's church in a number of roles and locations. He was a member at South Suburban Christian Church in the 90's and served as Elder and Sr. Adults Sunday School teacher. He left South Suburban in early 1998 to become Senior Pastor at the First Christian Church in Raton, New Mexico where he was ordained in 2000. Cleve recently retired and has generously agreed to share some of his writings with us via this regular column.



LOVE SONGS

By Catherine Milton Greth

I see the stars and hear the rolling thunder. I hear the mighty oceans roar and smell the salty air. I feel the warmth of the brilliant sun and experience the soft and gentle breeze.

I see the beauty of the colors in nature so rich from the rainbow.

I experience life under the ocean's floor.

I look into the eyes of GOD'S creation and all my senses delight in this imagery.

I know GOD is love.

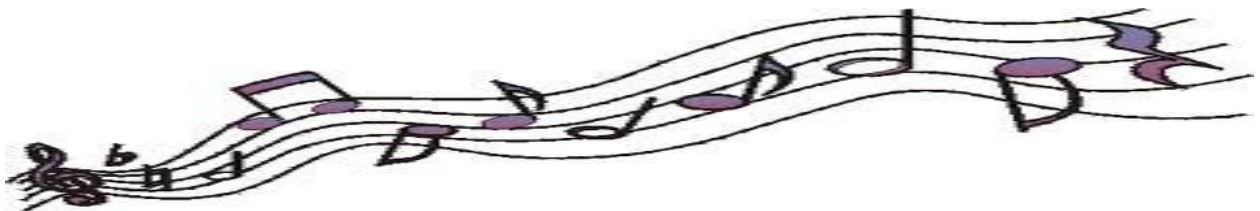
I create my own symbolism which expresses how I know
my GOD is a loving GOD.

I have come to understand He is the greatest of all artists
and I relish in His sharing this gift.

GOD is the creator of the golden altar which becomes a golden cross.

I will be thinking *AMAZING GRACE*, when I come
to *THE GARDEN ALONE*, praising GOD for *SILENT NIGHTS*,
knowing I have a *FRIEND IN JESUS*, keeping faith because
IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL. I know *HOW GREAT THOU ART*,
while trusting *THE PHYSICIAN*.

BEING THANKFUL FOR ALL SACRED HYMNS



LIBRARY FINDS

Sue Saunders



COURAGEOUS

A novelization written by Randy Alcorn,
based on the screenplay by Alex and Stephen Kendrick

This story is about four men with one calling - to serve and protect - who find out that honor begins at home.

As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, and their partners, are willing to stand up to the worst the world has to offer. Yet, at the end of their work shift, they each face a challenge that none of them are really prepared for -- fatherhood. They consistently give it their all on the job, but can't seem to bring the same dedication home to their families, and are quickly discovering they are failing at being fathers to their children.

The men know that God desires they turn their hearts and efforts to their children, but the children are drifting farther and farther away from them. They also know how to serve and protect on the job as policemen, but will they be able to find a way to serve and protect the people most dear to them?

When tragedy hits home they are left with questions about their hopes, fears, faith and fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God and to their children; or, have they waited too long?

*The author, Randy Alcorn, is the founder of Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM), was a Pastor for fourteen years prior to starting EPM, and is a best-selling author of over 35 books. Alex and Stephen Kendrick are both Associate Pastors and own a production company in association with Sherwood Pictures. They have released four films, including **Courageous**.*

Note: If you are interested in reading this book, please contact Sue Saunders or Sharon Matthew. Coincidentally the featured movie for the March 50+ Adults Lunch and Movie Matinee Day was **Courageous**. The book reviewed above was written following the release of the movie.



AN ANGEL ON MY SHOULDER

By Elizabeth Fouts

My husband, Darrell, bought a used motorcycle (a big Honda Goldwing) from a friend in the spring of 1998. I rode with him and others a few times, but was uncomfortable doing so. In August of that year, six of his friends and their wives were going on a motorcycle trip out to the west coast, and up to Seattle, then back to Denver. I did not want to go on the trip, but he persuaded me to join him at Astoria, Oregon. I told friends that I was so *apprehensive* about this trip.

(My Guardian Angel trying to tell me something!) However, I flew out to Seattle to stay with cousins for a few days, then they drove me down to Astoria where I joined up with the group.

The next day, my husband wanted to drive north, up the coast of Washington on the Olympic Peninsula, and east to the port of Port Angeles, to take the ferry over to Vancouver Island. In the southern part of Washington, everyone else left us as they wanted to go to Seattle directly. We rode north and stopped for lunch, then continued. The road was very curvy and we were riding through a forest. It was difficult to see very far ahead of us. We were paying attention to the speed signs for each curve. There were ditches to our right of various depths from 4' to 10'. Some were full of foliage. Shortly, we came upon a curve that was virtually a 90 degree left turn. We could not make it, so we left the road. I saw a reflector post in the middle of the ditch which we probably hit. The last thing I saw was the white line. The only thing I remembered in this accident was flying through the air in pitch blackness and smashing my face into the opposite side of the ditch. I ended up about 60 feet from where the motorcycle ended. Part of my journey had me hitting the ground with my butt which left a big bruise, and shoved my spine up causing a compression fracture of the T11 vertebrae. I don't know the order in which things happened, or what happened when, but by hitting with my face and breaking the Plexiglas front of the helmet, I broke my teeth out, broke my nose, and had a huge bruise on my forehead. This is probably what "knocked me out" as I was unconscious in the ditch for at least half an hour or longer. When I "came to," a nurse was holding my hand and keeping me still. My other hand was buried underneath me. Three trauma nurses from the Port Angeles hospital just happened to be driving by.

My husband, who probably rode the motorcycle down, had been up wandering to find me, evidently "in shock." The first witness on the scene saw him up trying to find me. He collapsed across the bottom part of my legs, so when I woke up, I had this

big weight on my legs. He related to me later that at some point during this period of time he heard voices. He thought they were praying over me. He heard two "men" speaking in Latin, and one person speaking in English. He thought they were giving me "last rites." Then he heard them (him?) say, "she'll be okay now."

Much was happening now with lots of people walking around along with State of Washington Patrolmen, and others. The little town of Forks, Washington, fortunately had a hospital and an ambulance which came and transported us. After X-rays, the doctor told me I had a broken vertebrae and would be flown to Seattle via Flight for Life helicopter. It took it some time to get there, but I did get transported. I didn't reach a hospital bed until 2:00 am in the morning. Later that same morning I was fitted for a cast which I was in for 4 months.

I could have died from the head trauma alone, and/or been paralyzed by the shattered vertebrae. I am thankful that I am walking today, and although I have some permanent damage it is minor compared to what it could have been. Thankfully, my husband was not seriously injured. I like to think that my Guardian Angel was hovering over us through it all.

POWER SCRAMBLE

Directions: Unscramble the letters below to form words. Unscramble the letters in the circles and triangles to find the secret phrase:

1. **TFIHA** □ □ □ ○ △

2. **OVEL** △ □ □ □

3. **JYO** □ △ △

4. **NTECIAEP** □ □ □ ○ □ □ □ □

5. **GSDSENOO** □ □ □ □ □ □ □ ○

6. **SKSENDNI** □ ○ □ □ □ □ □ □

7. **EECPA** ○ □ □ □ □

SECRET PHRASE: △ △ △ △ ○ ○ ○ **R** ○ ○

(Answers are on the Potpourri page)



GOOD EATS

Harriet Lorence

Many requests were received for the recipes for the delicious soups served by Jani Landry and Laura McClung at the February 50+ Adults Lunch & Movie Matinee day. Here is one of them. Enjoy!

Chicken and Wild Rice Soup

- 1 small onion, chopped 1 cup shredded carrots 5 cups water
- 6 (6.2oz) pkg fast cooking wild rice mix 1 (10oz) pkg frozen chopped broccoli
- 2 cups chopped cooked chicken 8 oz Velveta cheese, cubed
- 1 can (10 3/4oz) cream of chicken soup

Saute onion and carrots in soup pot or Dutch Oven over medium heat for 5 minutes. Add water, seasoning mix from rice, broccoli and chicken. Bring to a boil. Stir in the rice. Reduce heat, cover, and cook for 5 minutes. Add cheese and soup. Cook, stirring constantly until cheese melts. Serve immediately. (Makes about 10 cups)

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MEASURING MY WORDS

My grandmother taught me to cook when I was eleven. I stood at her kitchen counter and measured flour for cookies. “Does that look like a level cup to you, Lisa?” Gram would ask. “It doesn’t to me. Better measure it again.”

Although I mastered measuring flour long ago, I still have trouble measuring my words. But recently I decided to apply a little kitchen wisdom to help me measure my responses more carefully. Here’s how it works.

1. A SCANT REPLY. In a moment of anger, saying less than I feel like saying keeps me from saying more than I should. **2. LEVEL WORDS.** Instead of beating around the bush, I strive to be direct when something difficult needs to be said. **3. ROUNDED WITH LOVE.** In complaints, apologies, and praise for others, it’s best to be generous with love.



This short communication recipe is a good reminder that carefully measured words yield satisfying results.

(from *SomeoneCares* shopguideposts.org)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Carol Meyers



Many of you already know **Bob and Bettye Street**, but may not know everything I am going to tell you. The rest of you can get to know them through this article.

Bob and Bettye actually met when they were 13 and 11 years old respectively. Bettye was the best friend of Bob's little sister. Not much was made of this until Bettye was 17 and Bob needed a date to a dance. His sister suggested Bettye and the rest, as they say, is history!

Bob and Bettye grew up in South St. Louis, Missouri, where they were married on June 30, 1946 (66 years ago!). They moved to Kansas City where Bob worked for the Portland Cement Company before ending up in Littleton, Colorado in 1973. Bob worked for a few engineering companies in Colorado until retirement 22 years ago.

Bettye started pre-med in St. Louis, but got married and had five children instead of becoming a doctor. She has been a homemaker most of their married life with three boys, two girls, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Since their second son had Downs Syndrome (he lived 52 years and was a complete joy to the family) Bob and Bettye were involved with the disabled all of their married lives. Bettye was supervisor of a preschool for disabled children; Bob was on the Pathways Board of Directors in Florissant, Missouri and here in Littleton, and both Bob and Bettye were greatly involved with the Boy Scouts organization.

Bettye taught decorative art for nine years and has always been involved with crafts, knitting and crochet. She has made 466 baby hats for the Warm Hearts/Warm Babies program. She also writes poetry. Bob loves music and takes online courses to improve his mind.

Bettye joined SSCC in the 1980's. Bob was Catholic until, as a surprise to Bettye, after renewing their vows on their 50th anniversary, he joined SSCC. She was totally blown away! Bettye says that was the best present he has ever given her. For the past 16 years they have been able to attend church together, which they do every Sunday morning at the 8:00am service. Bob and Bettye are both very involved with church and the missionary program in China.

*Thanks to Mary Lois Miskin and Lorraine Demarest,
who both submitted the following beautiful story.*

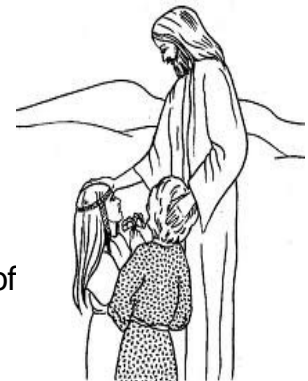
JESUS LOVES ME

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me...the only thing that would comfort was this verse.....

*"Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
we are weak but He is strong.....
Yes, Jesus loves me....
The Bible tells me so."*

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn '*Jesus Loves Me*' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."



"Here for you now is a Senior version of *Jesus Loves Me*":

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS) YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME..
YES, JESUS LOVES ME, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.
(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song..
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."
(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.
(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.
(CHORUS)

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task – but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

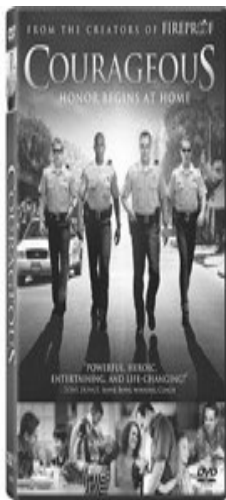
**Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.**



50+ ADULTS LUNCH & MOVIE MATINEE REVIEWS

Harriet Lorence

February's lunch hostesses were Jani Landy and Laura McClung who served some wonderful soups. The movie for the afternoon was **Moneyball**. Based on a true story, *Moneyball* is a movie for anybody who has ever dreamed of taking on the system. Brad Pitt stars as Billy Beane, the general manager of the Oakland A's and the guy who assembles the team, who has an epiphany: all of baseball's conventional wisdom is wrong. Forced to reinvent his team on a tight budget, Beane will have to outsmart the richer clubs. The onetime jock teams with Ivy League grad Peter Brand (Jonah Hill) in an unlikely partnership, recruiting bargain players that the scouts call flawed, but all of whom have an ability to get on base, score runs, and win games. It's more than baseball, it's a revolution - one that challenges old school traditions and puts Beane in the crosshairs of those who say he's tearing out the heart and soul of the game.



Harriet Lorence along with Bob and Jan Burnside were our hosts for the March lunch. Delicious meatballs and pasta were served. Following lunch we were treated to the wonderful movie **Courageous**. This movie is the story of four men and one calling - to serve and protect. Police officers Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, and their partners are brave men well-equipped to deal with hardened criminals. But when they remove their badges, they face a more daunting challenge -- fatherhood. When tragedy strikes home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. As their children drift away from them, can these stalwarts find a way to defend and protect those nearest and dearest to them -- and draw closer to God? *Courageous* is the latest movie from the creators of *Fireproof*.

Mary Elizabeth Vernon

EXCURSION HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY

On February 9th, some of the 50+ group traveled on the RTD SeniorRide bus to the former Stapleton Airport area to have lunch at the **Islamorada Fish Company restaurant**. I love going there. It has good food and the atmosphere is great. When you enter the restaurant, there is a 20,000 gallon salt water aquarium. The tank is 3 inches thick and made of acrylic. The aquarium holds various species of colorful fish. Many large fish are mounted on the wall of the restaurant eating area. It is great just looking at them.



When we finished our lunch we went into the Bass Pro Shop (where the restaurant is located). It is very interesting to see the numerous displays of stuffed wild life. There is a bear by the water fall with a fish in his mouth. There are elk, possum, and buffalo, all posing in realistic wilderness areas. I have never experienced a place like this shop. Among the wildlife displays of course there is hunting, fishing, boating and camping equipment for sale. Also there is clothing for men and women, gift items, candy, and things for hobbies. It is a big place and I believe we all had a fabulous time.

MARCH



In March our excursion with RTD SeniorRide was to the Newman Center for the Performing Arts, at the Denver University campus area, for a performance of **Brass, Bagpipes & Co: Celtic Fusion**. The Denver Brass, an organization setting their sights and sounds to create dazzling performances for their fans, were joined by the Celtic Colorado Pipes and Drums for many of the songs. Their music transported us to the Emerald Isles, featuring timeless Celtic favorites and inspiring sounds with the bagpipes.

If that was not enough, they were joined by the Rocky Mountain Highland Dancers and the Wick School of Irish Dance. With all of these groups playing and dancing it was really unbelievably entertaining. We experienced the echoes of the Emerald Isles during *Amazing Grace*, *The Gael*, *The Canon*, *Drumline Salute*, and others. I was in awe of this performance. It was fabulous and enjoyed by everyone who attended.

POTPOURRI

Nancy Nelson



Answers to the **POWER SCRAMBLE**

- 1. FAITH 2. LOVE 3. JOY 4. PATIENCE 5. GOODNESS
- 6. KINDNESS 7. PEACE **Secret Phrase: HOLY SPIRIT**

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*Take my hand, oh Lord, and lead the way, for I need to trust in you alone.
So I come to You with humble, searching heart. I cannot make it on my own.*

*Let Your Spirit intercede for me with sighs too deep for words to say.
Search my heart for what is hidden there when I know not how I should pray.*

*For You have listened to my heart in trouble, and you have seen the crisis in my soul.
You have seen me waiver, doubt, and stumble Lord. Please take my faith and make it whole.*

Written by Mary Billingslea

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Sunday, May 13th

Sunday, June 17th



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A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little boy who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The boy replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from his drawing, the boy replied, "They will in a minute."



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, May 11th ----- Enjoy the SSCC All Church Talent/Art Show

Friday, May 25th ----- 50+ Adults Lunch & Movie Matinee Day
11:30am — Movie TBD

Saturday, June 16th ----- **Boulder Dinner Theatre "Cinderella"
Rogers & Hammerstein's musical — 12:00 noon
\$26.00 per person
Registration deadline May 23rd

Thursday, June 28th ----- AARP Driver Safety Class 9:00am - 1:00pm

Friday, June 24th ----- 50+ Adults Lunch & Movie Matinee Day
11:30am — Movie TBD

Watch the bulletin boards and the Sunday bulletins for additional details

**Indicates RTD SeniorRide transportation
(Non-local round trip fares will apply. \$5 for age 65 and older; \$10 for all others)

ALL 50+ ADULTS EVENT SIGNUP SHEETS ARE IN THE NORTH FOYER
Reservations, suggestions or questions about these or any 50+ Adults activity,
call Sharon Matthew at 303-799-3658 (home) or 303-204-8278 (cell phone)



The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.



ACTS
Senior Adult
Ministry

Do you have an article to share in *SEASONINGS*?

Or, do you have suggestions as to what you would like to see in future issues? If so, contact any staff member, or write us a note and leave it in the church office.

We want to hear from you!

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Worship • Connect • Serve

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