



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

April 2012



Hope enters our world ***Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs***

On the second Sunday of April we will happily celebrate Hanamatsuri. This commemoration of the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha is traditionally held on April 8th, and fortunately, this year April 8th is a Sunday. I do hope you will join us for this important observation. With the birth of the Buddha hope entered our world, hope for Awakening, release from suffering, true fulfillment.

Another important service this month will be held the following Sunday, April 15. This will be our commemoration of Eshin-ni and Kakushin-ni. They were, of course, Shinran's wife and youngest daughter. Eshin-ni was crucial in supporting Shinran, our denominational founder, during his exile and return to prominence as a Buddhist teacher. Kakushin-ni was absolutely crucial in unifying and preserving Jodo Shinshu tradition after her father's passing. She really should be considered our second Monshu, Keeper of the Gate, or Chief Abbot. Please come out on April 15th to remember and honor these two important and very early women leaders.

The human condition is full of both beauty and ugliness, joy and sorrow. With the career of Sakyamuni the possibility of Awakening to Reality in a thorough-going way was clarified. The Buddha taught us to live well and happily whether the exact conditions of the moment are nurturing or not. On Sunday, April 8th, we will celebrate the birth of the Buddha-to-be, Sakyamuni.

It is a distinctive aspect of the Buddhist religion that we do not think all people are doomed if they do not follow our spiritual path. Still, with the birth of Sakyamuni a possibility of more complete and fulfilling living became a possibility for many who would otherwise have had less happy lives. To date, more than a billion people have been helped by the vision of the Buddha and the various teachings that it gave rise to.

There is no generic way to follow the guidance of the

Buddha. Our path, the Jodo Shinshu approach to Mahayana Buddhism, is focused on saying Amida Buddha's name aloud in forms like "Namo Amida Butsu". This is our way of letting hope enter our lives more fully. We hear the Buddha calling to us reassuringly in our own voices and in the voices of our friends. This path has worked well for tens of millions of Buddhists for eight centuries and more. Please consider taking the nembutsu deeply to heart.

If you wonder, occasionally, how the specifics of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist living connect to the basic perspectives and assumptions of all Buddhists, you might want to attend study classes. Some matters are too subtle or require explanation at too great a length to be addressed well in the weekly Dharma-message at the Sunday service. Most Fridays and almost all Mondays we offer Buddhist study classes. On Mondays these are held at 2:15 pm. On Fridays we meet at 7:45 pm [but never on the second Friday of the month when we yield our space to the Board Meeting]. In addition, a series of classes on "Introduction to Buddhism" and "Introduction to Jodo Shinshu" are in the planning.

Starting June 17th we will offer a special run of classes at 2 pm running for 90 minutes. The first three sessions will be "Introduction to Buddhism" and the second set of three classes, beginning July 8th, will be focused upon Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in its uniqueness. These classes are still in the planning and will be taught by OBT's Minister's Assistants and by myself. Please consider joining us for these classes.

Whether you are able to attend these study classes or not, whether you are able to attend our Hanamatsuri service or not, I hope you will have a sense of how hope entered our world with the birth of the Buddha-to-be Sakyamuni. As we look at the trees and bushes and flowers flourishing in the Spring it is not so hard to believe that there is real hope for this world and for all of us.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

"The purpose of the Oregon Buddhist Temple is to insure that the Jodo Shinshu Sangha have the facilities, resident minister and other resources they need to share the BuddhaDharma in their daily lives and during their major life events."

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April Highlights

Apr 8	Hanamatsuri Service	9:30 am
	Followed by entertainment and Refreshments	
Apr 13	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
Apr 19	OBT Readers Club	7 pm
Apr 21	OBWA meeting	9:30 am

April Service Chair Schedule

Apr 1	Ken Garner
Apr 8	Hanamatsuri - OBT Board
Apr 15	Shinya Ichikawa
Apr 22	Karol Kennedy
Apr 29	Susan Lilly

**President's message***Yoshi Ono, OBT president*

The Spring Bazaar in March was very successful for the temple and I would like to express much thanks to our chairpersons

Angie Hughes, Ryan Davis, and Teresa Soto for leading the event. It takes everyone else's hard work to make the food delicious and the environment welcoming. Thank you for your time, energy, and generosity in support of our temple.

In addition to the major fundraisers, there is constant work going on around the temple that we often overlook if we are not paying attention. In the temple's financial management, Shinya Ichikawa has transferred these responsibilities over to Elaine Yuzuriha. Thank you to Shinya for serving as our financial officer for so many years. Susan Endecott, Janice Ishii, and Alice Ando continue to process our income and expenses so diligently and reliably. When we have special services, a service program magically appears and that is thanks to Etsu Osaki. Our flower toban, consisting of a group of women who rotate assignments and take turns once a month, do a terrific job to take care of the weekly flower arrangements. Each month, we have a toban team that not only performs a temple clean-up but brings refreshments to share after Dharma exchange.

The assignments for the monthly toban are handled by Amy Long who adopted this position recently from Kyoko Gibbs. At some point this year, we are considering changes to the monthly toban tasks to make it easier to participate and to concentrate on the temple cleaning as the main event. As this is a work in progress, we are of course open to suggestions and ideas to make things less strenuous. Until the change happens, I appreciate the willingness of our members to continue to help whenever possible.

In Gassho,
Yoshi Ono

**OBWA news***Jean Matsumoto*

No meeting was held in February due to the NW District Buddhist Convention. Eleven OBWA members attended the convention in Spokane (see A. Ando report).

The month of March always starts off with a bang for OBT members, and especially OBWA. This year the cooking process of food preparation for the Spring Bazaar started on March 1 and continued on to March 4. To all the OBWA ladies who showed up to help every day, we are truly grateful – some have been doing this from before we moved into this temple building in 1966. OBT's reputation for chow mein, osushi, udon, beef and chicken teriyaki bentos was upheld again, and our professional-looking manju can't be beat. Thank you to all those helping, busy hands.

The OBWA also acknowledges with deep appreciation the donations received in March: Nobu and Takako Ishida, Ben and Sumie Ishida and Fumi Okubo all made donations in memory of Shizuko Ouchida; there was an anonymous donation; and Grace Ishikawa made a special contribution.

We were especially pleased to hold another Aging Wisely seminar following our monthly meeting on Saturday, March 17th. Amy Michelle Long, RN, NP-C, a member of our OBT Board, is a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner with Housecall Providers, Inc. Her presentation gave us much information about aging and what sources are available in our community should we need them (see J. Shiigi article).

Thank you to the toban ladies for the refreshments served at this meeting.

Spokane convention*Alice Ando*

The Convention was attended by 11 members of the OBWA. Two meetings were held, one on Saturday, February 18, which was the delegate's meeting and the general meeting on Sunday morning, February 19. The main discussion at the delegate's meeting was the 2016 Federation of Buddhist Women's Assn. Conference to be held at the Bellevue Hilton. The decision to hold it at this facility was determined at this meeting. Our chapter will be in charge of the services for this conference. Although 2016 seems a long ways away, plans are being worked on as you read this article.

Seattle Chapter, being the largest in the Northwest District, will work on the details with Tacoma and White River and keep Portland and Ontario chapters in the loop via E-mail.



2012 OBWA Aging wisely seminar

June Shiigi

On March 17, the OBWA Aging Wisely seminar speaker was Amy Long, a geriatric nurse practitioner (GNP), who gave an excellent overview of Eldercare. She described the role of a GNP who provides care to elders in their private homes or care facilities, and also talked about various geriatric symptoms and conditions that worsen as people age, such as falls/instability, vision and hearing changes, incontinence, constipation, swallowing problems, nutrition, skin, and infection. She noted that

forgetfulness may not be a sign of dementia and gave examples of what delirium, depression, and dementia may be caused by. Amy had words of wisdom about end of life issues. She emphasized that hospice care is a Medicare benefit; therefore use it! Other pointers were: lessen caregiver strain by getting extra help and keep a Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form updated and available in case of emergencies. A list of local resources for Aging and Disability Services in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties was provided. If anyone would like more information or view a video of the seminar, please contact June Shiigi or Jayne Ichikawa.



Amy Long



NW convention

Etsu Osaki

The NW Convention in Spokane, February 17-19 was a most remarkable one for a small Sangha like Spokane to put on. We really appreciate all their hard work. Everything was well done. The speakers were great.

The main speaker was Rev. Marvin Harada of Orange County Buddhist Church who gave several Dharma talks and I would like to summarize some of them. Rev. Harada is from Ontario, Oregon so we claim him as one of our own. He went to University of Oregon when my son was there and they were good friends. My son use to tell me that whenever he went with Marvin it would take time because he stopped for anyone who looked like they needed help. No wonder he became a minister.

He said BCA (Buddhist Churches of America) has three problems today—declining membership, shortage of ministers and financial difficulties. He claimed all three could be solved with education. According to him Orange County Buddhist Church holds basic Buddhism and Jodoshinshu classes four times a year. They run from six to eight weeks once a week. This invites interested people to learn about Buddhism and many become regular attendees or members.

In one of his Dharma talks he talked about Buddhism and non-ego. We have such strong egos we have a hard time letting go. He told the story of an old man and some mischievous boys who pushed him into a muddy rice paddy. he man got up and did nothing. Many years later the boy asked him why he didn't do anything. Said the man, "Oh, the voice of the Buddha said 'Let it go.'"

Every temple has some women who rule the kitchen. They're called the sushi Gestapo. A lady was cutting celery for sushi and this person came by and said she wasn't cutting it correctly. I've had the same thing happen to me except I was cutting kamaboko and someone told me to cut from right to left instead of left to right. "Just let it go", I said to myself.

An individual wave thinks he's the only wave but actually he's part of the vast ocean and, therefore, connected to all the other waves. The wave is our arrogant, narrow-minded self. It causes all kinds of problems. Groups can be arrogant, too, thinking they are superior. Such thinking can cause wars. The vast ocean is Amida Buddha, the Pure Land, Nirvana. Once we achieve this awareness of Oneness, of being connected to all, we can deal with many problems.

Next year's convention is in White River. Please go. You will gain much-- intellectually, spiritually and socially. Namu Amida Butsu

In Gassho



Dharma school news

Amy Peterson, DS coordinator

Calling all parents and friends of OBT DS. We are looking for volunteers to co-chair with our teachers on the following upcoming activities. Please contact us at: dharmaschool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com to volunteer.

Open Classroom - April 1st

In place of Dharma School and Dharma Exchange we will have three 15 minute mini sessions:

11:00 – 11:15 Dharma School dress rehearsal, then students can select from any two of the remaining classes.

Adults will have the option of attending 3 of the 4 sessions. If making a new nenju it may take two sessions.

- 1) Karate with Sensei Bettina (3rd session for kids)
- 2) In the kitchen learn to cook the OBT way
- 3) Craft Corner (nenju making and repair, sakura flower making for Hanamatsuri, cards for Japan tsunami victims)
- 4) Buddhist discussion time

Hanamatsuri April 8th

Join us for decorating the Hanamido (flower altar) on Saturday 7th. Please contact Kyoko Gibbs for the time. If you have garden flowers, please donate them for the decorations. We'll also use some from our grounds if they are still blooming. Sunday April 8th you'll want to see the Dharma School production at the end of the Hanamatsuri Special Service. See you all at 10 AM!

Family Movie Night - Sat April 14

Grab your kids, grandkids, grandparents, friends for our

first Family Movie Night. Sat. April 14th 6:30 PM in the Temple basement. Free popcorn, some other snacks for purchase. Bring your blankets (or comfy chairs) for the viewing

- *How To Train Your Dagon*, 98 min
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0892769/>
- *Gift Of The Night Fury*, 22min
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0892769/>

Earth Day 2012 Community Service Project – Sat April 21

Spring Into Action! At Tryon Creek State Park for an ivy pull work party on Saturday, April 21, 9:00 - noon

The Dharma School and all Temple members are invited to join this community outreach project for Earth Day 2012. We'll meet at 8:30 at the temple and car pool to the park not far from the Japanese Consul General's residence. Tryon State Park information will be available.

We will be partnering with Lewis & Clark College and REI to rally the community together in support of the preservation of Mother Earth. A light breakfast and t-shirts (sizes limited) will be provided in thanks for your efforts.

Registration is not required. Gloves and a light snack provided, but please bring your own water bottle. Please dress for the weather as we work rain or shine. Dress to get dirty, and to be off-trail (sturdy shoes and long pants are strongly suggested). We usually need to hike at least 15-20 minutes to get to the spot where we will be working

NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS: All minors must be checked in at the Nature Center. All minors 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Spaghetti Bingo tentatively set for Sat. June 16th.

DS Rummage Sale

Kyoko Gibbs has agreed to chair this year's DS Rummage Sale. The date is July 6 (Fri) and 7 (Sat) From 9AM- 3PM.



Spring bazaar snack bar

Ann Shintani

We served up yummy goodness of cherry cheesecake cups, dorayaki, and more! Thank you to the following who participated in Mar. 3 bake party for the Spring Bazaar: Marilyn and Kirt Achterman, Aisha Almahmoud, Lori and Kristi Fukunaga, Kyoko and Sho Gibbs, Tara Gibbs, Akiko Gorawski, Mie and Nicole McGraw, Amy Peterson, Ann Shintani, Chanda and Gaelyn Stone (and friend, Juliet), and Elaine and Joy Yuzuriha. Thank you to the donors and volunteers for the Mar. 4 Snack Bar: Maho and Mayu Garner; Tara Gibbs; Kyoko Gibbs; Chiki Kwong, Kathy, Gabe and Clyde Oh-Keith; Etsu Osaki; Cathy Shikatani; Ann Shintani; Chanda, Gaelyn and Tuck Stone (and friend, Juliet); Beebe Tan-Beck Dawson; Lauren and Brian Yanase, and Joy Yuzuriha.

Convention silent auction thanks

Thank you to Cathy Shikatani for donating a beautiful freshwater pearl and blue cloisonné earrings and necklace set,

and a 5-piece rice paper coaster set, all handcrafted by Cathy. Tammy Herold contributed a refashioned one-of-a-kind women's jacket that she embellished, and Ann Shintani donated a set of champagne flutes, champagne, and gift card set. Thank you to Scott Winner for carrying these items, including large baskets, from the bus to the auction table. These items were sold at the Silent Auction event at the Spokane Convention. The proceeds of the sales of these items benefit the Oregon Buddhist Temple.



Youth Advocacy Committee conference

David Fukunaga

The weekend of February 24-26 I attended the 4th Youth Advocacy Committee Young Leaders Today conference in Sacramento. This conference was in conjunction with the annual BCA national council meeting. This youth conference was attended by YBA members as well as past YBA members from all over the country.

One thing that was brought up during the conference that I found interesting was the breakdown of the conference title: Young Leaders Today. I guess it was a common misconception among non-YAC members that YLT stood for "Young Leaders for Tomorrow". The name was chosen by one of our advisors, Keith Sawada, who used the word "Today" because he believes that we are leaders in our communities now. It will be up to us whether or not we will be leaders within our temples in the future, but right now we are already leaders within our youth communities. The topics covered at the conference would not be especially useful for someone who is solely ambitious about being a future participant at a national conference meeting, but were rather more geared towards being a role model in their own community, whether that community be their high school, their university or their temple. I suppose the Buddha teaches us to live in the now, while YAC gives us tools to help succeed in the now.

Another main theme of the conference was the end of Socho Koshin Ogui's term as socho. Former socho Ogui has greatly supported the Youth Advocacy Committee from the time it started some nine years ago and our advisors thought it would mean a lot to him if we could get as many YAC members to his final event as possible. I feel a deep debt of gratitude to him and I do not believe I would have as strong a connection to Buddhism without the efforts he has put towards the YAC. Brady Kameshige, a participant from the very first YAC summer retreat (I was a part of the third retreat and my sister, Kristi, was a part of the seventh), was the keynote speaker at the banquet on Saturday night.

I'm very grateful to have been able to attend this conference and would not have been able to without the financial support of those who contribute to the youth fund at the temple. The YAC is growing every year and I encourage all youth at our temple that meet the age requirement and have the time to attend the summer retreat. I have yet to meet

someone who has not had an amazing experience at the retreat.

Gassho

Lotus circle – April

Jean Matsumoto

The altar flowers for the month of April are being provided by donations made by the following:

- April 1 – open
- April 8 – May Saito in memory of (imo) husband, Emo
- April 15 – anonymous donation; Kazuko Sunamoto imo husband, Kats, and in-laws, Yozo and Sen
- April 22 – Misa Kodama imo mother-in-law, Miyaki Kayama
- April 29 – Merrie Greenwood imo husband, Don

Again, this month, OBT is grateful for the generous donations of \$35 which enable our altars and other areas around the temple to be adorned with beautiful flowers arranged by our Flower Toban. Don't forget to check out the Lotus Circle page on our website set up by Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) and share thoughts and memories of your loved ones. For further information regarding the Lotus Circle, please contact me at 503-280-2463 or jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

Jane Imamura

Etsu Osaki

In the February issue of the Wheel of Dharma there was an article honoring Jane Imamura's many contributions to Buddhism. In our service books one will find many gathas written by her and her good friend Kimi Hisatsune. Some of them are: Buddha Loves You, Children in Japan, Farewell, It's Raining, Long Ago in India, Remember?, Sing!, Six Paramitas, Sunbeams, Song of Enlightenment

Jane's father was Rev. Issei Matsuura and Kimi's was Rev. Inshu Yonemura. My father, Rev. Tatsuya Ichikawa, was at the Fresno Temple with them in the early 1930's.

Kimi wrote to me recently and explained that when she and Jane were teaching Dharma School they noticed that the Sansei children did not understand the Japanese gathas. That inspired them to write the English ones.

Now when I sing these gathas I will be reminded of these two friends to whom we owe so much. With gratitude I sing Namuamidabutsu.

2012 Memorial Chart

Updated April 2012 to correspond with the Hongwanji Guide on Rituals and Ceremonies

<u>Year</u>	<u>Of Passing</u>	<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Of Passing</u>	<u>Memorial</u>
2011	1 year		1996	17 year	
2010	3 year		1988	25 year	
2006	7 year		1980	33 year	
2000	13 year		1963	50 year	

If you would like to have a memorial service performed for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements with Rev. Gibbs as early as possible.

April Toban

Ando, Roberta	Fields, Ray
Fields, Yasuko	Fugate, Brenda
Fugate, Jerry	Garner, Ken
Garner, Maho	Harder, Diane
Ichikawa, Jayne	Ichikawa, Shinya
Inoue, Kay	Kinoshita, Ken
Kono, Kim	Liljeholm, Edward
Mishima, Kumiko	Monas, Tsuyako
Nakashima, Angie	Nakashima, Glen
Nasman, Keith	Nasman, Kerrie
Pawlowski, Clara	Pawlowski, Steve
Poole-Richards, Linda	Choy, Randy

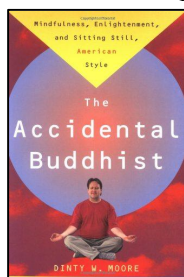


The Japanese American graduation banquet ***Elaine Yuzuriha***

The banquet will be held on Sunday, May 6th, 5 p.m., at the Multnomah Athletic Club. The guest speaker will be Circuit Court of Appeals judge, the Honorable Lynn Nakamoto. The Japanese American Graduation Banquet is an annual event which honors Japanese American high school graduates throughout the Portland metropolitan area. It is sponsored by 11 community organizations including the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Please consider attending the banquet to support and honor the graduates. We are also compiling a list of graduates to whom invitations will be extended. If you know of a 2012 graduate with ties to the Japanese American community or the Oregon Buddhist Temple, please let Elaine Yuzuriha know at e.yuzuriha@gmail.com or 360-253-9532. Thank you for your help.

**OBT readers' club**

Wednesday April 18, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Ken Garner, OBT board member



The Accidental Buddhist by Dinty W. Moore is the funny, provocative story of how Dinty Moore, as American as Huckleberry Finn, went looking for the faith he'd lost in what might seem the most unlikely of places: the ancient Eastern tradition of Buddhism. Like George Plimpton venturing into the world of professional sports, Dinty Moore enters the retreat centers, zendos, and meditation halls that have been taking root in every corner of America.

Moore takes the time to see what Buddhism has to offer the harried, hassled American of the new century. He explores the different varieties of American Buddhism, attends rallies, even tracks down and questions the Dalai Lama. In the process, much to his own surprise, he finds himself fascinated and moved by what he encounters.

Join our discussion of this book (and other topics) at the next meeting of the OBT Readers' Club Wednesday April 18, 2012 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. We meet at the Lucky Lab Brew Pub, located at 915 SE Hawthorne, Portland, OR. The OBT Readers' Club meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday. All are welcome.\

Support OBT by paying your 2012 Membership dues

Oregon Buddhist Temple February 2012 Donations

In memory of Shizuko Ouchida

Kan & Miyeko Yagi
 Mae Gordon
 Anonymous
 Hiroshi Sam Maeda
 Elsie & Harold Onishi
 Oregon Hiroshima Club
 Amy Peterson
 Janice Okamoto
 Herb & Etsu Osaki
 Ernest Takeda
 Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
 Fumi Saito
 Carolyn J. Saiget
 Ryuko Kakishita
 Misao Minagi
 Yoshie Kagawa
 Shizuko Kasahara
 Setsy & Chip Larouche
 Cyndi Furukawa
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 Shoun & Grace Ishikawa
 Edward & Aya Fujii
 Ai Abe
 Sumiko Ikata
 Kay & Joe Sweeney
 Sachi Onchi
 Ray & Yasuko Fields
 Kaneko Wagar

In memory of Shizuko Ouchida

Vickie S. Onchi
 Chizuko Nakao
 Gerald & Joann Sumoge
 Roberta Ando
 Nobuko Uyetake
 Steven & Martha Kymes
 George & Nobuko Azumano

Okubo family memorial

Fumiko Okubo

In memory of Jim Takashima

Pat & Tom Hokama

In memory of George Okita

Fumi Saito
 Jean Matsumoto
 Kan & Miyeko Yagi

**In memory of James Kunisaki
& Ronald Oshiro**

Randy & Dana Kunisaki

Lotus Circle

Setsy & Chip Larouche
 Kim Kono
 Jerry Koike

Lady Kujo & Lady Ohtani memorial

Alice Sumida
 June & Stan Shiigi

In memory of Bessie Morita

Morgan Morita

In memory of Mits Tamiyasu

Mary S. Komachi

Nirvana Day / pet memorial

Anonymous
 June & Stan Shiigi
 Kiyomi Dickinson
 Alice Sumida

Tamura-Terakawa Scholarship

Jean Matsumoto

Special donations

Janet Wong
 Philip L. Kollas
 Kiyomi Dickinson
 Japan-America Society
 Gary Higashi
 May Ishida
 Chanda & Eric Stone
 Fumiko Okubo

Greenhouse project

Anonymous (many)
 Herb & Etsu Osaki
 Alice Sumida
 Janice Okamoto
 Ken & Maho Garner

Ohigan

Jean Takashima
 Ami Kinoshita
 Shoun & Grace Ishikawa
 Ben & Sumie Ishida
 Shizue Sugihara
 Henry & Eulia Mishima
 Richard & Kumiko Mishima

2012 membership donations

Fumi Saito
 May Ishida
 Yoshi & Tomoko Ono
 Mike & Shizue Yasui
 Debra A. Strugar
 Janice Ishii
 Alice Ando
 Misako Kodama
 Rose T. Ikata
 Fumiko Okubo

Member pledge donations

Pat Hokama
 Jean Matsumoto
 Katie Bretsch
 Susan M. Lilly
 Chanda & Eric Stone
 Matt & Kirstin Litchfield

Acknowledgements are mailed to individuals for donations of \$250 or more, to donors not on the OBT mailing list, and to any donor upon request.

Please inform us of any significant errors or omissions.

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