

STORIES OF PROPHET (PBUH)

Nuh's Voyage

Volume 1

AUTHOR :

Syed Abul Hassan Ali Al - Nadvi

former : Chairman, Islamic Center, Oxford University, U.K.
President, All India Muslim Personal Law Board



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STORIES OF THE PROPHETS (PBUS) NUH'S VOYAGE VOLUME - I

Writer : Syed Abul Hassan Al - Nadvi

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PUBLISHER NOTE

There are a lot of books about the biographies (Seerat) of Prophets. However the series of books written by Sheikh Abul Hassan Ali Nadwi on Nuh, Ibrahim, Yusuf and Salih (PBUH) are unique in that the author has emphasized and highlighted the message delivered by almost all one hundred and twenty four thousand Prophets (PBUH) That is, to accept, believe and worship alone the Almighty God.

All the Prophets counseled their followers to worship God alone. But the people rejected the message of God despite knowing that the Prophets were pious, generous, intelligent, sincere and trust worthy. Slowly the descendents of Adam started worshipping and associating other things with Our Creator, the one true God.

The purpose of re-publishing these series is to inform the slaves of our Creator the punishment of associating any partner with the one God, Which is called "Shirk".

It has been observed that in this busy world most of the people are inclining towards materialistic things. After speaking to various scholars and religious personalities about the lack of knowledge of the Oneness of God, Prophethood and the Day of Judgment, especially among the young generation of Muslim Community living outside the Muslim countries, the Syed Abul Hassan Publication Trust, Hyderabad, India decided to bring out these series It is our hope to distribute this among school Children and pray to Almighty God to include this series in the curriculum of the schools in the GCC states of the Middle East.

Finally I would like to thank my parents and my mentor Sheikh Syed Abul Hassan Nadwi for their blessings due to which I got inspired to do this holy work I am also thankful to Br.Ibrahim wadi, English Teacher, King Abdul Aziz University, KSA for his editing the series.

Muslehuddin Ahmed
Managing Trustee

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef

الدكتور عبد الله بن عمر نصيف

FOREWARD

Syed Abul Hasan Nadwi a great Indian Muslim scholar, a thinker of International repute, an authority on Islam, a social reformer and an educationist needs no introduction. He is a well known author of a number of books on several diverse aspects of Islam. I have had the privilege of reading some of his books (like Islam and the World, Muhammad the Last prophet, Four Pillars of Islam and Faith vs. Materialism) and also meeting him as a constituent member and founder of Muslim World League (a pan Islamic organization whose headquarter is Makkah Al-Mukarramah) and as a Chairman of Oxford Islamic Center, UK.

His works, translated into many languages and acclaimed throughout the world, provide insight into Islam and inspire readers to research. He wrote various books for serious readers as well as a series for children. Stories of the Prophets are small booklets which provide basic knowledge to young minds. Basics are important in a learning process and making a lasting edifice. This series of 4 small books is based on narrations about Prophets mentioned in the Holy Quran and not just an innovation of human mind. Explained very systematically and chronologically in a simple narration-conversation format with translation of verses from the Holy Quran at appropriate places, the books highlight the message in explicit and implicit words: Worship Allah and just submit to Him.

Through these books Sheikh Nadwi, does not burden the young mind but paves the inspiring way for further reading. I personally feel their inclusion in any Islamic syllabus would be richly rewarding.

Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef

Chairman Islamic Center Oxford University, United Kingdom
Former Deputy Speaker Parliament, KSA
and President, King Abdul Aziz University, KSA

The Prophet Nuh

Nuh's Voyage

1 Adam (peace and blessing be upon him)

After Allah blessed the descendants of Adam, his children and grandchildren, and they spread and multiplied. If Adam had come back and seen them all, he would not have recognized them and if someone had said to him, 'these are your descendants, Adam,' he would have been extremely astonished. He would have said, 'Glory be to Allah! These are all my children! These are all my descendants!'

Adam's descendants founded many villages. They built many houses. they ploughed the land, grew crops and lived in comfort and contentment. They followed the way of their ancestor, Adam. They worshiped only Allah and did not worship anything else besides Him.

They were one united community. Adam was the one father of all of them, and Allah was their One Lord.

But how could Satan and his descendants be content with this? Were not people still worshipping Allah? Were not people still a single community with no differences? That could not be! That could not be!

Were Adam's descendants go to Heaven while Iblis and his descended go to Hell? That could not be! That could not be!

Satan had not bowed down to Adam when Allah had commanded him to do so. So he was driven out and damned forever. Should he not take revenge on the sons of Adam so that they would go to the Fire with him? Certainly he would do so. Certainly he would do so.

2 Satan's envy

3 Satan's idea

He decided to call the sons of Adam to worship idols so that they would go to Hell and never step into Heaven. Satan knew very well that Allah forgives all sins if He wishes except for Shirk (i.e. worshipping other things beside Him).

So Satan decided to call the people to associate other things with Allah so that they would never go to Heaven. But how could he persuade them when people were worshipping Allah?

If he went to the people and said to them: 'Worship idols. Do not worship Allah,' they would curse him and reject him. They would say: 'Allah forbid! How can we associate other things with our Lord? How can we worship idols? You are cursed Satan! You are foul Satan!'



4 Satan's trick

At last Satan found the way to put his idea into people's mind. There had been men who feared Allah and worshiped Him night and day and who remembered him often. They had loved Allah, so Allah had loved them and answered their prayers. Satan was well aware of the fact that people loved them and spoke of them with respect long after they had died and gone to Allah's mercy. So he went to the people and mentioned those men. He said: 'What do you think of such a person?'

They said: 'Glory be to Allah! They were men of Allah and His friends. When those men prayed, He answered them. When they asked, for something He gave it to them.

5 Pictures of the righteous men

Satan asked: 'How great is your sorrow for them?' They replied: 'Very great indeed.'

He asked: 'How great is your longing for them?' They replied: 'Very great indeed!'

He asked: 'Why don't you look at them every day then?' They said: 'How can we do that when they are dead?' He said: 'Make pictures of them and look at them every morning.'

People liked Satan's idea and made such pictures and looked at them every day. Whenever they saw the pictures, they remembered how those holy men had lived.



6 From pictures to statues

With the progress of time, the people moved on from making pictures to making statues. They made many statues of the holy men and put them in their houses and their mosques.

They still worshiped Allah and did not associate anything with Him. They knew that these were only statues of holy men and that they could neither help nor hurt them nor provide for them. They showed them respect because they were reminders of the holy men.

As time passed, the number of statues increased. The people respected them more and more. They got used to having them around and looked for blessings in them. Now whenever one of their holy men died, they would make a statue of him and name him.

7 From statues to idols

When the fathers passed away, sons saw their fathers looking for blessings through the statues and saw how much respect they had for them. They saw them kiss the statues, dress them and pray to Allah in their presence. They saw them lower their heads and bow down in their presence.

The sons added to what their fathers had done. They began to prostrate themselves before them, to ask the statues for things and to sacrifice animals to them. In this way the statues were turned into idols.

People began to worship them as they had worshiped Allah before. They had a lot of these idols. One was Wadd, another was Suwa'. This was Yaghuth. That was Ya'uq, another was Nasr.

Allah became very angry with the people. He admonished them. How could Allah not be angry with the people and admonished them because of what they were doing? Was this what they were created for? Was this what they were given provision for? They walked on Allah's earth, but rejected Allah! They ate Allah's provision, but associated others with Allah! How cruel indeed! How cruel indeed!

Allah was so angry with the people that he held back the rain and made things hard for them. Their harvests were small and few children were born to them. But the people did not learn their lessons from that. They did not understand. They did not turn to Allah in repentance.

8 Allah's anger

To Allah decided to send to the children of Adam a man from among themselves, to speak to them and give them good counsel. Allah does not speak to each person individually or tell each one to do this or to do that. The kings do not speak to each person individually either, or tell each one to do this or to do that. The kings are human beings like every human. Every one can see them and listen to them where as every one can not see Allah, listen to Him and talk to Him except to one whom He chooses to and He wishes to. So Allah decided to send a messenger to speak to the people and to give them good counsel.

9 The messenger

10

Man or angel ?

Allah wanted this messenger to be a man and to be one of the people. That way they would recognize him and understand what he said.

If the messenger had been an angel, the people might have said: 'What has he got to do with us? He is an angel and we are mortals! We eat and drink and we have wives and children. How can we worship Allah?' But if the messenger were a man, he could answer: 'I eat and drink; I have a wife and children. But I worship Allah. Why don't you worship Allah?'

If the messenger had been an angel, the people might have said to him: 'You do not get hungry or thirsty. You do not get ill or die. So you can worship Allah and remember Him always!' But if the messenger were a man, he could answer: 'I am just like you. I get hungry and thirsty. I get ill and shall die. But I worship Allah and remember Him. So why don't you worship Allah? Why don't you remember Him?' In this way the people's arguments would be challenged and they would not be able to make up excuses.

11

Nuh the Messenger

Allah decided to send Nuh to his people. There were wealthy people and leaders among the children of Adam, but Allah had chosen Nuh to be His messenger and had not chosen any one among them. Allah alone knew who should carry His message and who could bear His trust..

Nuh was a pious and generous man. He was intelligent and forbearing, compassionate and sincere. He was truthful and trustworthy and known for giving good counsel. Allah revealed to Nuh: "*Warn your people before a painful punishment comes to them*". (71: 1) So Nuh stood up among his people and told them: "*I am a faithful messenger to you.*" (26: 107)

12 What answer did his people give to him?

When Nuh began to say to his people: "I am a faithful messenger to you," (26: 107) some of them answered back: "When did this man become a Prophet? Yesterday he was one of us and today he says; "I am Allah's messenger to you"!
 Nuh's friends said: "This man used to play with us when we were young and he sat with us every day. When did he become a Prophet? Was it during the day or the night?"
 The rich and proud said: could not Allah find any one except Him? Has every one else died? Could not He find anyone except a poor man?

The ignorant ones said to each other: "This is only a man like yourselves. If Allah had willed, He would have sent down angels. We have never heard of this among our fathers, the ancients." (23:24)
 Some of the people said that Nuh only wanted to become a leader, a man of power and position among them, by saying he was the messenger of Allah.

13 Nuh and his people



People had got used to thinking that worshipping idols was the truth and a sensible thing to do, they thought that any one who did not worship idols was foolish. They would say: "Our father worshiped idols so why does this man not worship them?"

Nuh knew very well that worshipping idols was wrong and foolish. Nuh thought that their fathers were wrong and unwise and that Adam, who was the father of their fathers, did not worship idols. He worshiped Allah alone. Nuh thought that the people were wrong and foolish when they worshiped stones and did not worship Allah who had created them.

Nuh stood up among his people, saying in his loud voice,
"O my people! Worship Allah! You have no Lord but Him. Truly I fear for you the punishment of a dreadful day."

'The council of people said: 'We see that you are in clear error.'

He said: " My people, there is no error in me. But I am a messenger from the Lord of all the worlds. I convey to you the messages of my Lord and I give you good advice, for I know from Allah what you do not know.

"(7: 59-62)



The lowliest follow you

'Nuh tried hard to make his people abandon idols and worship Allah alone. But only a few of those people who worked with their hands and ate lawful food, lawfully earned, believed in him.

The rich were too proud of their wealth to believe. Their pride kept them from obeying Nuh. Their property and children distracted them from thinking about the Next World. They would say; 'We are nobles and those people are lowly.' When Nuh called them to Allah, they answered: 'How should we believe you when the lowliest follow you? (26: 11).'

The asked Nuh to drive the poor away. Nuh refused and said: "I cannot drive away the believers. My door is not a king's door. I am only a clearly here to warn people."(26-114-15)

Nuh knew that those poor people were sincere believers and that Allah would be angry if he drove them away. Against the anger of Allah, no-one would be able to help him. Nuh said: "My people, who could deliver me from Allah if drive them away?" (11: 30)

The rich said to the people: "Listen to us. What Nuh is calling you to is not true. It is not good. Why? Because we are the first to sample every good thing. We have every sort of good food, every sort of beautiful clothes. We set the fashion and people follow us. We have seen that good things never miss us and we are the first ones to receive all good things in the city.

They said about the poor people who had believed in Nuh: "If there had been any good in this religion, it would have come to us before these paupers. If it had been any good, they would be before us in attaining it" (46: 1-11)

The argument of the rich

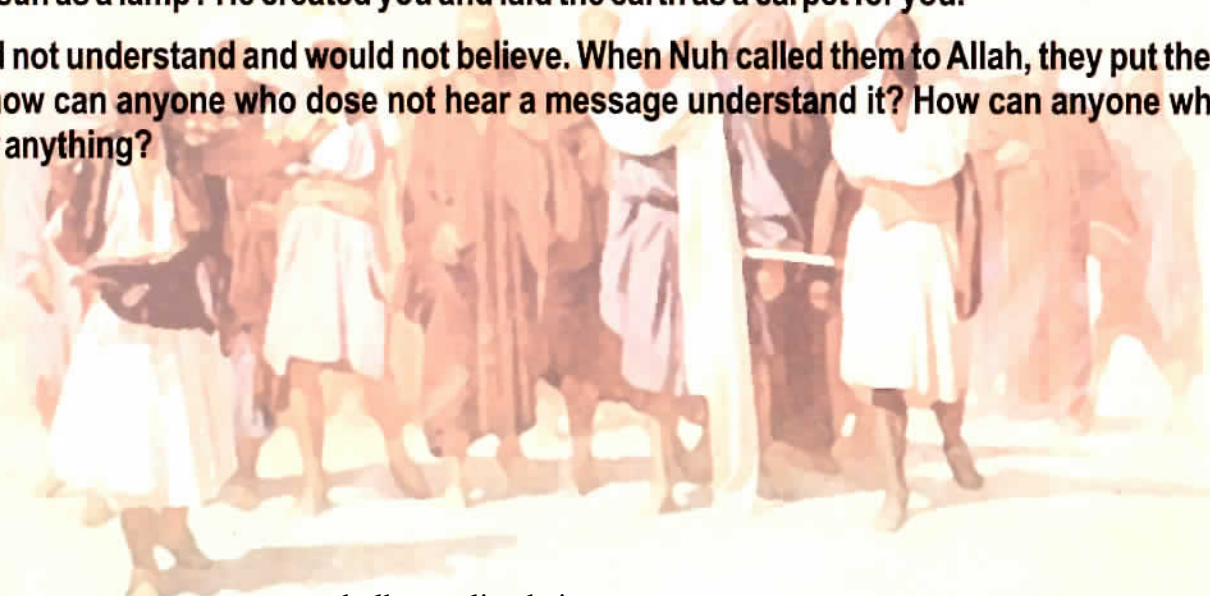
Nuh went on calling his people and trying hard to counsel them.

He said; 'O my people! I am a clear warner to you' saying "Worship Allah and fear Him and obey me that He may forgive you your sins and defer you to a specified term. When Allah's term comes, it cannot be deferred, if you only knew. "(71: 2-4)

Allah kept the rain from them and was angry with them. Their harvests were small and they had few children. Nuh told them: 'My people! if you believe, Allah will be pleased with you and remove this punishment.

Then, when Allah sent the rain to them and blessed their crops and children, Nuh called his people and said to them: 'Don't you recognize Allah? These are the signs of Allah all around you. Can't you see them? Can't you see the heavens and the earth? Can't you see the sun and the moon? Who created the heavens? Who placed the moon as light and made the sun as a lamp? He created you and laid the earth as a carpet for you.'

But the people of Nuh would not understand and would not believe. When Nuh called them to Allah, they put their fingers in their ears. Now, how can anyone who does not hear a message understand it? How can anyone who does not want to listen, hear anything?



Nuh tried hard and stayed with his people for nine hundred and fifty years, calling them to Allah, but his people would not believe. They would not stop worshipping idols. They refused to return to Allah. How long could Nuh wait? How long could he watch the earth and its people being ruined? How long could he put up with his people worshipping stones? How long could he watch them eat from Allah's provisions while they worshipped something else?

Why did Nuh not get angry? He was more patient than anyone else could have been! Nine hundred and fifty years; Allah is great! Allah is great!

Then Allah revealed to Nuh, "None of your people will believe except those who have already believed" (11:36)

When Nuh called his people again, they said, *Nuh! You have disputed and disputed often with us, so bring us what you promised us if you are speaking the truth.*" (11:32)

Nuh became angry for Allah and despaired of those people. He said, 'O Allah, do not leave even one of the unbelievers on Earth!'

17 Nuh's prayer

18 The ark

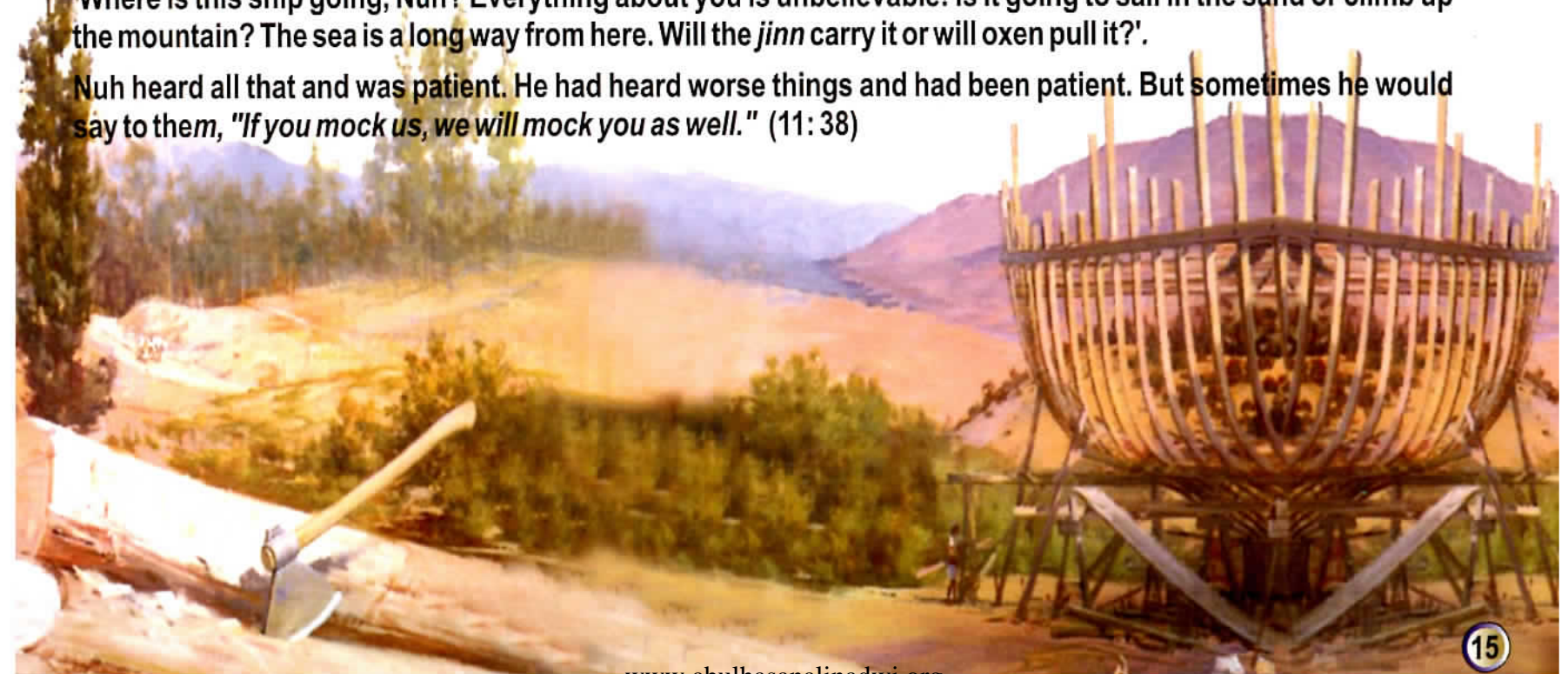
Allah answered Nuh's prayer and He decided What the fate of the unbelievers would be. All of them would be drowned in a great flood.

Allah wanted to save Nuh and the believers. He commanded Nuh to build a great ship, and Nuh began to build a great ship straightaway.

The unbelievers from his people saw him working busily and they mocked: 'What is this, Nuh? Since when have you become a carpenter? Didn't we tell you not sit with the carpenters and ironsmiths and now you have really become a carpenter!

'Where is this ship going, Nuh? Everything about you is unbelievable! Is it going to sail in the sand or climb up the mountain? The sea is a long way from here. Will the *jinn* carry it or will oxen pull it?'

Nuh heard all that and was patient. He had heard worse things and had been patient. But sometimes he would say to them, *"If you mock us, we will mock you as well."* (11: 38)



The promise of Allah came. We seek refuge with Allah! It rained and rained until the sky was like a sieve which could not hold the water. Water poured down and gushed up and flowed in until it surrounded the people on every side.

Then Allah revealed to Nuh, "Take with you those of your people and family who believe;

Allah revealed to Nuh to take with him a pair of every animal and bird, a male and a female, because the flood would cover the earth. Neither man nor beast would be saved from it.

Nuh acted exactly as Allah had instructed. With him in the Ark were those of his people who believed in him and a pair of every bird and animal.

The Ark rode with them on waves like mountains. The people outside the Ark climbed onto every high place and every hill, fleeing from Allah's punishment.

But there is no refuge from Allah except in Him.

19 The flood

20 Nuh's son

Nuh had a son who was with the unbelievers. Nuh saw his son in the flood and said: *'My son, embark with us and do not be with the unbelievers.'*

He said: *will seek refuge on a mountain that will protect me from the water.'*

Nuh said, *'Today there is no protector from Allah's command except for the one to whom He shows mercy.'*

"The waves came between them and Nuh's son was among the people who drowned." (11: 42-3)

Nuh was sad about his son. How could he not be sad about his own son? He wanted to save him from the Fire on the Day of Judgment since he was not able to save him from the water. The Fire is worse than the water. The punishment of the Next World is harsher.

Did not Allah promise that he would save his family? Yes! And Allah's promise is true. He wanted to speak to Allah on behalf of his son.

He is not one of your family

21

Nuh called on his Lord and said: "My soon is part of my family and Your promise is true. You are the most just of those that judge." (11: 43)

But Allah does not look at people's family trees, He looks at their actions. Allah does not accept pleas on behalf of idol-worshippers. The idol-worshipper is not part of a Prophet's family, even if he is his son. Allah made Nuh aware of that. He said: "Nuh, he is not part of your family; he is of evil conduct Do not ask of Me that about which you do not know. I warn you lest you be one of the ignorant." (11: 46)

Nuh became aware and turned to Allah, repentant. He said: "My Lord, I take refuge with You lest I should ask of You something about which I have no knowledge. If you do not forgive me and show mercy to me, I will be among the losers." (11: 47)

22 After the flood

When what Allah willed had happened and the unbelievers were drowned, the rain stopped and the water sank away.

The Ark stopped on Mount Judi. It was said: *"Away with the wrong-doing people!"* (11: 44) It was said: *"Nuh, get down in peace."* (11: 48)



Nuh and the people of the Ark got down and walked on the earth in peace. The unbelievers of the people of Nuh were destroyed. Neither the heavens nor the earth wept for them.

Allah blessed the descendants of Nuh and they spread in the land and filled the earth, there were communities among them and there were Prophets and kings among them.

Peace be upon Nuh among all the worlds!

"Peace be upon Nuh among all the worlds!" (37: 79)



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Muslehuddin Ahmed
Managing Trustee
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