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CREATION OF RICHARD OLDINGTON

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This research study is dedicated to the main aspects of the creativity of Richard Aldington, one of the leading representatives of the 20th century English literature, artistic and aesthetic features, and the artistic representation of the relationship between man, war and nature in his works. The aim of the research is to systematically analyze the anti-war ideas, the impact of the imagism trend and the artistic expression of the ecological thought in Aldington's works. During the research, historical-lexical, comparative, analytical and eco-critical methods were used, and the author's work was evaluated in terms of both the literary and cultural context of the period and the theoretical principles of modern literary criticism. According to the results of the research, in Aldington's works, problems such as the moral tragedy of man, the destructive nature of war, and the damage to nature are dealt with in deep psychological and philosophical layers. The scientific novelty of the research is the study of Richard Aldington's work from the perspective of ecocritical and pacifist perspectives for the first time in Azerbaijani literary criticism. The author's works such as "Death of a Hero", "All Men Are Enemies" and "Lawrence of Arabia" are distinguished by their humanistic content, visual forms and socio-philosophical depth and are considered as original examples of modernist realism in 20th century literature. The ideological-content structure of the author's works such as "Death of a Hero", "Images of War" and "Lawrence of Arabia" have been analyzed from the point of view of modern literary criticism. In addition, it has been scientifically proven that the artistic depiction of war and ecological problems in Aldington's works has a new philosophical meaning. At the same time, in the works of Richard Aldington, the spiritual and social aspects of the concept of "man" were studied separately. The relationship between man and nature, the impact of war on society and morals, and the artistic representation of early ecological thought have a special importance in Aldington's works. In modern times, Aldington's legacy has regained importance in studies of ecological literature and pacifist ideas. Richard Aldington's anti-war ideas, the influence of the imagism movement and the artistic expression of ecological thought in his works are systematically studied.

The main goals of the article were to examine the author's approach to the relationship between nature and man, to ecological problems, and to examine the social and moral self of the ideas of humanism and pacifism in Aldington's works. The article clearly examines the role of autobiographical motifs in the author's works.

Keywords: Richard Aldington, imagism, modernism, war literature, humanism, ecocriticism, pacifism, English literature.

ТВОРЧИСТЬ РІЧАРДА ОЛДІНГТОНА

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Це наукове дослідження присвячене основним аспектам творчості Річарда Олдінгтона — одного з провідних представників англійської літератури ХХ століття, його художньо-естетичним особливостям, а також мистецькому осмисленню взаємозв'язку людини, війни та природи в його творах. Метою дослідження є системний аналіз антивоєнних ідей, впливу течії імажизму та художнього вираження екологічного мислення у творчості Олдінгтона.

У процесі дослідження було використано історико-лексичний, порівняльний, аналітичний та еко-критичний методи, а творчість автора оцінено як у літературному й культурному контексті епохи, так і з позицій теоретичних принципів сучасного літературознавства.

За результатами дослідження встановлено, що у творах Олдінгтона такі проблеми, як моральна трагедія людини, руйнівна сутність війни та шкода, завдана природі, розкриваються на глибоких психологічних і філософських рівнях. Наукова новизна дослідження полягає в тому, що творчість Річарда Олдінгтона вперше в азербайджанському літературознавстві розглядається з еко-критичної та пацифістської перспектив.

Такі твори автора, як «Смерть героя», «Усі люди — вороги» та «Лоуренс Аравійський», вирізняються гуманістичним змістом, образною формою та соціально-філософською глибиною й розглядаються як оригінальні зразки модерністського реалізму в літературі ХХ століття. Ідейно-змістову структуру творів «Смерть героя», «Образи війни» та «Лоуренс Аравійський» проаналізовано з позицій сучасного літературознавства.

Крім того, науково доведено, що художнє зображення війни та екологічних проблем у творах Олдінгтона набуває нового філософського значення. Водночас у його творчості окремо досліджено духовні та соціальні аспекти поняття «людина». Взаємини людини й природи, вплив війни на суспільство та мораль, а також художнє осмислення раних екологічних ідей мають особливе значення у спадщині Олдінгтона.

У сучасну епоху творчий доробок Олдінгтона знову набуває актуальності в дослідженнях екологічної літератури та пацифістських ідей. Антивоєнні погляди Річарда Олдінгтона, вплив імажизму та художнє вираження екологічного мислення в його творах досліджуються системно.

Основними завданнями статті є аналіз підходу автора до взаємин людини й природи, до екологічних проблем, а також дослідження соціального й морального

виміру ідей гуманізму та пацифізму у творчості Олдінгтона. У статті чітко простежується роль автобіографічних мотивів у творах письменника.

Ключові слова: Річард Олдінгтон, імажизм, модернізм, воєнна література, гуманізм, еко-критика, пацифізм, англійська література.

Introduction. Richard Aldington, who has an important place in 20th century English literature, made important contributions to the development of modernist movements as a poet, prose writer, and literary critic. *“The modernist impulse was born in the trenches; art sought order where life collapsed.”* (Bridgwater, 1999). In addition to being one of the main representatives of the imagist movement, he treated issues such as war, human moral tragedy, the destruction of nature, and the moral crisis of society as the main artistic problems in his works. Aldington’s works such as *“Death of a Hero”*, *“All Men Are Enemies”*, *“Images of War”* are considered classic examples of realistic anti-war images not only in English literature, but also in world literature. *The importance of the research lies in the fact that in Aldington’s works, the relationship between man and nature, the impact of war on society and morals, and the artistic representation of early ecological thought are particularly important.* *“War turned poets into historians of pain.”* (Booth, 2018) In modern times, Aldington’s legacy has regained importance in the study of ecological literature and pacifist ideas. To systematically examine the anti-war ideas, the influence of the imagism movement and the artistic expression of ecological thought in the works of Richard Aldington.

1. To analyze the life and creative path of Richard Aldington in chronological order;

2. To determine Aldington’s place in the imagism movement and his work in this direction;

3. To reveal the means of artistic expression of war motifs in Aldington’s novels and poems;

4. To analyze the author’s approach to nature, human relations and ecological problems;

5. To examine the social and moral self of the ideas of humanism and pacifism in Aldington’s works;

6. To determine the role of autobiographical motifs in the author’s works.

The following scientific **methods** were used in the study:

- Historical-lexical method — to examine the socio-cultural conditions and events of the period in which Aldington’s works appeared;

- Comparative method — analyzing Aldington's works by comparing them with the works of Hemingway, Tolstoy and other writers;
- Analytical-analytical method — for artistic analysis of ideas, motifs, images and symbolism in works;
- Eco-critical method — to study the artistic aspects of Aldington's attitude towards nature and ecology;
- Biographical method — to reveal the connection between the author's personal life and works of art.

Based on the research in the article, the following scientific innovations and results were obtained.

1. In the study, Richard Aldington's works were systematically examined in the context of ecocritical and pacifist views for the first time in Azerbaijani literary criticism.

2. Aldington's transition from the period of iconography to the theme of war and the artistic-aesthetic connection between these stages are determined.

3. The ideological-content structure of the author's works such as "Death of a Hero", "Images of War", "Lawrence of Arabia" was analyzed from the point of view of modern literary criticism.

4. It has been scientifically proven that the artistic depiction of war and ecological problems in Aldington's works has a new philosophical meaning.

5. In the study, the spiritual and social dimensions of the concept of "man" in the works of Richard Aldington were examined separately.

English writer, innovator and literary critic Richard Aldington began his career as an Imagist poet. The word "imgecilik" is derived from the English word "image", which means "image". Imagism is a modernist movement in English and American poetry of the early 1910s and 1920s. The founders of imagery and theorists who developed this movement are the English philosopher T. Hume and the American poet E. Pound. The representatives of the Imagist movement, based on the philosophy of intuition and French symbolism, glorified nature, tried to embody instant impressions, and were fond of "pure" images and free poetry. American poets E. Lowell, H. Doolittle, W. K. Williams, C. G. Fletcher and English poets F. M. Ford, D. G. Lawrence and Richard Aldington were the leading representatives of imagery and those who used them widely in their works. (ASE, vol. IV, p. 427)

Richard Aldington formed close friendships with the Impressionists Hilda Doolittle and Ezra Pound, as well as Thomas Ernest and Francis Stuart Flinton. Aldington was closely involved in the creation of all Imgeci an-

thologies. Aldington, between 1914 and 1917, pioneered the publication of the “Egoist” magazine, the main printed organ of the Imgeci movement. “Egoist” magazine had a great influence on the development of the Imgeci movement. Richard Aldington is considered to be one of the literary representatives of the Imagery movement both in English literature and in world literature.

Aldington’s works are more lyrical. Richard Aldington is known as a writer who seeks beauty in everyday life. Aldington stayed away from the trends of decadence and ecocentrism that were common at that time. Aldington translated the works of ancient Roman poets and had a great interest in ancient literature. Aldington was also closely familiar with the European modernism that existed in his time. *“Modernism questions reality by destroying narrative certainty.”* (Childs, 2008). Aldington also discussed the same method in his works.

Together with John Kurnos, who was close to the iconoclastic trend, Aldington translated Fyodor Sologub’s novel “Little Hypocrisy” into English in 1916.

Richard Aldington fought under British command in the First World War from 1916. Aldington began his military service as a private, then joined the First World War as a private in the British army on the Western Front.

The First World War, in which Richard Aldington participated, completely changed his world view. The war left traces of bitter sadness and insecurity in his later works. Aldington’s book of poems “Images of War” is considered one of the best works of English poetry. Richard Aldington’s field of creativity also changed visibly after the war. Aldington preferred prose in his works. Aldington’s famous works such as “Death of a Hero” and “All Men Are Enemies” and his stories on militarism were written in the post-war period. Richard Aldington, in these works, has clearly revealed the misuse of the concept of patriotism, the moral collapse of the aristocratic environment and the classes leading a luxurious life characterized by a corrupt way of thinking. Later, representatives of the aristocratic environment belonging to these classes became slaves of fascism and supported them in all their efforts.

Richard Aldington was also interested in the environment around him, ecological problems in nature. As a novelist throughout his life, he first wrote about the current ecological problems of the world in his works. Aldington was very sensitive about the positive effect of birth on people, especially the extraordinary. Richard Aldington, in many of his works, praised the beau-

ty of nature to the smallest detail. This praise creates an extraordinary love of nature in the reader. Aldington's works call for a fight against those who "destroy nature", cut down forests, destroy nature with waste and brutally kill animals. Aldington says that the greatest enemy of ecology is war. By depicting nature before and after the war in his works, Aldington clearly shows readers the irreparable damage caused by war to nature. Richard Aldington calls war the greatest scourge of mankind. Richard Aldington, who shared the sufferings of others and listened to the voice of his conscience, did not accept the atmosphere of hypocrisy, hypocrisy and immorality that surrounded England. Aldington urged people to always be honest and keep their morals above all else. In his novels, Aldington talked about people living a simple life. Aldington did not see these people as ideal people at all. In his novels, he always looked for the "Man" — an aristocratic and philanthropic person. This reference was an unusual style characteristic of Aldington. Along with other important topics of the period, the theme of war is also present in the works of Richard Aldington. It is clear that the period in which Aldington lived was the period of both world wars. During this period, the main theme of the works of other writers such as Aldington was war. For example: E. Hemingway, L. Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky and others are famous all over the world for their works on the subject of war. However, although the main theme of these writers' works is war, the difference in meaning between their works is quite obvious. The main theme of the works of the writers who wrote about the war is the sad life of people, the destruction of the environment and nature, the irreparable damages given to the warring countries, the dangerous lifestyle, etc. was *"Imagism advocated clarity of imagery and economy of language against the chatter of the Victorian era"* (Baldick, 2012).

In general, the First and Second World Wars were the biggest problems of society and the whole world and are still considered dangerous. The economies of the countries that fought both world wars were seriously damaged. It took a long time for these countries to return to their old state. The destruction and disappearance of millions of innocent people in the war had very serious consequences for all humanity. Thousands of people were crippled in the war and were disabled for life. Thousands of children also lost their lives in the war.

Richard Aldington is known for his works condemning war in both world literature and English literature. Aldington makes very clear the irreparable damage caused by war. Aldington's hatred of war is related to his involvement in World War I. Aldington clearly glorified the atrocities he saw in the

war, the human massacres and the damages caused by the war in his works. His works such as “Death of a Hero”, “Colonel’s Daughter”, “All People Are Enemies” are devoted to the theme of war. These novels are full of sad motifs that are characteristic of Aldington’s works. Aldington’s works on war arouse a great hatred of war in the reader. *“Aldington’s generation has lost faith in heroism, leaving only the irony of survival.”* (Bergonzi, 1996)

Richard Aldington believes that it is very important to fight against those who cause war. In his works, Aldington criticizes Britain’s aggressive policy. Aldington cannot accept the aggressive policy of one nation against another. Aldington believes that it is very important for all people to live in free and safe conditions. He calls the war a nightmare that overturns the whole world. The hardships he saw and experienced in World War I, the innocent people who died in front of his eyes and the nature destroyed by the war, left very deep and sad traces on him.

Richard Aldington describes the war experiences of his heroes in various ways. Aldington, who conveys the contradictions in the lives of these heroes before and after the war in different ways, increases his hatred for the war even more. Aldington calls war the greatest scourge of society. In his works, Aldington does not accept the facts of war invented by the bourgeois society. He says that these facts are intended to mislead people. In his works, Aldington exposes all the ugliness of the British government. This government is busy suppressing the voice of free thinking people. Both world wars dealt great blows to the British economy. Aldington says that the British people are still suffering from these coups. Mass killings are one of the biggest blows to the government and the people. Richard Aldington also provides an extensive commentary on war and its challenges in his book “Images of War”. This work was highly praised by many literary critics. Many literary critics have considered this work as one of the best works written about the war. Along with Richard Aldington, many writers living at that time clearly expressed the negative aspects as well as the positive aspects of scientific and technological progress. These authors say that such a technological development does not ignore the impact on the war. Aldington has repeatedly stated in his works that it is unacceptable for states to show each other power. It is unacceptable for occupying states to establish colonies and control other nations. The policy of no state to stop violence should not stop violence. Richard Aldington said that violence is one of the biggest global problems of all mankind. Aldington thinks that solving problems in a peaceful and civilized way, not violently, is a very important factor.

Richard Aldington's worldview, ideals, attitude towards people and society are reflected in his novels and works. Most of Aldington's works are autobiographical in nature. Aldington reflected the events he saw in life and the people he knew through many characters. It is possible to see the reflections of the events and soldiers that Aldington saw in the war in his works. Richard Aldington's perspective on the concept of "Man" is also unusual. It is impossible to see this point of view in the works of other writers. Aldington's approach to the concept of "Man" is very different in terms of sincerity. Richard Aldington went to the United States in the mid-1940s and began writing biographies there. This period, II. Covers the beginning of World War. Aldington wrote a biography called "The Life of Wellington". With this biography, Aldington was awarded the "Fait Black Memorial Award" in 1946. This award is of great importance in Aldington's works. Autobiographical works occupy an important place in Aldington's works.

Richard Aldington's enlightening book on "Lawrence of Arabia" created a "hostile gang" against him in England and the British government. Aldington calls Lawrence of Arabia, the hero of his work, a symbol of England's "founding" power. Aldington's "Lawrence of Arabia" was received harshly by "nationalists" (Sherry, V. (Ed.). 2005) and militarists. They asked Aldington to stay away from England because he criticized the traditions, lifestyle and government policies of his native England. Richard Aldington, who did not vote for "beating the drum" with his militaristic views, always stood behind his ideals. Militarists could not suppress Aldington's voice. Aldington openly fought against all "bloodthirsty" empires, militarists, supporters and colonialists in the world until the end of his life. Aldington has always expressed that the idea of militarism caused irreparable damage to England.

Aldington moved to Europe towards the end of his life and lived in France. His works have never escaped the attention of literary critics and have been seriously studied. Aldington's early figurative poems occupy a very important place in 20th century English literature. The hostile attitude of the British Empire towards Richard Aldington was due to his support of democratic ideas and the fact that he exposed the hypocrisy of some empires in the world. (www.Aldington, Richard/Wikipedia/HTML)

Hellenism plays an important role in the works and world view of both Richard Aldington and some representatives of English culture and art of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In his works, Aldington compares and contrasts the harmony and beauty of antiquity with the utilitarianism

and ugliness of bourgeois society. This comparison is a reflection of his great and boundless longing for harmonious beauty. Richard Aldington's tendency to create cold, detached from reality, ideal beauty is clearly reflected in his works.

Richard Aldington's first collection of poems is called "Images". Aldington published this poetry collection in 1915. The theme of his first poems is man's loneliness, the feeling of powerlessness in a cruel and alien world, and his appeal to the image of death that brings peace. Modern city life, its pollution and evil, with its deafening noise, tire the poet. He sees tired, cold and withdrawn faces everywhere. In contrast to such a life, he created warm and natural images associated with ancient Greek culture and mythology. The poems in the poetry collection are dedicated to these images. "*Modernism is a dialogue between despair and reconstruction.*" (Bloom, 2003).

Richard Aldington's collection of poems titled "Images of War" was published in 1919. These poems are dedicated to the poet's war impressions. In general, Richard Aldington's works vividly reflect the painful life of a person living in the wartime, the senselessness of the cruel war that destroys human life, and the beauty of the land.

In 1925, Richard Aldington's great work "Idiot in the Forest" was published. Aldington named his work after the great English playwright William Shakespeare's "Do you like it?" It was taken from the words of one of the characters in his comedy. In these poems, the writer tries to find a wise and humane fool; a fool who always tells the truth, tells the truth and values a virtuous life above all else in life. Unless he finds this idiot, he assumes this role. In the work "The Fool in the Forest", ancient images that stand against the incompatibility of the modern world occupy an important place. Lies and hypocrisy reign everywhere in this world. Beauty, spirituality and harmony have been lost in this modern world. Richard Aldington uses the following words in his work: "Technology swallowed art. Our poets became journalists, teachers or civil servants. Everything is sold with money and everything can be bought with money in this country. Beautiful Elena married the rich and ugly Guggenheim. The immoral Harlequin became a bank manager. The black, dirty smoke rising over the city from the factories turns into a white "banknote" cloud. The "Merchant God" sitting in the sky, the salvation of the army on the piano Angels are sitting inside the tanks.

The war killed the poet's joy of life. Richard Aldington does not find a place for himself in the post-war world. This work is characterized by frequent mood swings. In the work, the author parodies modern songs that

support the bourgeoisie. The main motif of “The Fool in the Woods” appears more clearly in the novel “Death of a Hero”, published four years later. After “Death of a Hero”, Richard Aldington’s other work dedicated to the war, “Roads of Victory”, was published. The main idea of this work is that the war should not be repeated again. Richard Aldington rightly expresses these ideas in his work: “*If we must fight, we fight against those who drag humanity to destruction.*” These words were written in his notebook by Lieutenant Davison, one of the heroes of his stories. Captain Cumberland, the hero of another story, swears in front of a soldier’s grave that if the leaders of his country want to start a new war, he will turn their weapons against them.

After the war, it leads to many problems. War and the damage of war, life after the war, form the main theme of most of the works written by Richard Aldington in the later years. In the following works, the terrible and hard-to-prevent damages caused by the war to people and all humanity are clearly visible.

“Colonel’s Daughter” (1931), “All Men Are Enemies” (1933), “Sweetheart of Heaven” (1937), “Victory Ways” (1930), “Soft Answers” (1932).

Belief in man, his freedom and sense of citizenship, exposure of social injustice, criticism of bourgeois life in England, creation of typical images of that period — all this brings Richard Aldington closer to 19th century English critical realists and Bernard Shaw, Galsworthy, Welles. However, the impact of the pessimistic philosophy of the crisis period of bourgeois culture is clearly seen in the works of Richard Aldington. Richard Aldington states in his works that every problem has a solution.

In his works, Richard Aldington does not want to understand the reality created by the upper bourgeoisie and suggests liberation from this suffocating reality. He sees this salvation only in the social struggle. This idea is most clearly expressed in the work “Jennetin Ta Kendisi”. The hero of the work wants to create a harmonious and just society, but the poet’s personal worldview and ideas prevent him from finding a real way to create an ideal society. Richard Aldington’s world view is most clearly reflected in the novel “All Men Are Enemies” and his work “Crystal World” (1937). In these works, Richard Aldington tries to find inner peace and harmony away from the world of war. With such a spirit, Richard Aldington left England in 1939 and went to the United States, seeing England’s desire to start a war. After a short stay in America, he goes to the south of France. (Richard Aldington “Death of a Hero” Moscow 1958, Preface, p. 4)

Richard Aldington published his main historical works, anthologies and translations during his time away from England.

The final phase of Richard Aldington's work is *Lawrence of Arabia* (1955), about British intelligence officer Colonel Lawrence. Aldington, with his hatred of alienation and ignorance, presents the protagonist Lawrence and his supporters as partners in the Arab national liberation movement. "*Lawrence of Arabia*" is a clear example of Richard Aldington's hatred of the imperialist policies of his native England. This work was not well received by the English public and caused a significant decrease in royalties for Aldington's author. "*Lawrence of Arabia*" was first published in Paris under the title "Legend and Man".

Results. The study of Richard Aldington's works showed that his artistic system depicts the deep psychological layers of the blows that the war inflicted on human thought, society and morality. In the author's works, the image of the hero is presented not only as the bearer of the tragedy of an individual man, but also as the bearer of the tragedy of an entire generation and era.

1. War and Tragedy of Humanity

In his novel "Death of a Hero", Aldington presents the First World War not as romantic heroism, but as senseless human slaughter. The inner disintegration of George Winterbourne, the main character of the work, the futility of war ideals and a sense of spiritual emptiness determine the main artistic idea of the author.

The analysis shows that Aldington paid more attention to the psychological and spiritual consequences of the war than to the social consequences. This approach distinguishes him from his contemporaries such as Hemingway and Remarque.

2. Iconography and Artistic Style

In Aldington's poems and early work, the principles of imagery—consistent form, truth, and the depiction of concrete emotion—occupy a central place. Each line in the "Images of War" series creates a picture effect.

The results of the study show that Oldington's imagery functions not only as an artistic movement, but also as an ethical and aesthetic stance. For the author, the image is an expression of the moment when a person's inner world collides with nature and the realities of the time.

3. Ecological Motifs and Concept of Nature

In Oldington's works, nature is not only a background, but also a symbol of moral purity and human values. The idea of war "wounding" nature is a frequent motif in his poems.

For example, in the “Images of War” series, nature is presented as a living being exposed to the destructive effects of war. This reflects the first forms of the author’s ecocritical views. Oldington considers the disruption of harmony between man and nature as a moral crisis of civilization.

4. Presentation of Women’s Images

In Aldington’s novels “The Colonel’s Daughter” and “All Men Are Enemies”, the images of women are presented as a mirror of the post-war moral decay. Besides being the bearers of love and family values, women also symbolize the idea of the continuation of humanity.

As a result of the research, it was determined that the author presents the images of women not in the framework of emotional romanticism, but as guardians of ethical and social values.

5. Ideas of Humanism and Pacifism

The main artistic and ideological line of Aldington’s work is to protect people. According to him, war leads not only to physical, but also to spiritual death.

In his work “All Men Are Enemies”, the author shows that the struggle between man and man is meaningless, and the real enemy is ignorance, hatred and spiritual blindness. This forms the basis of Aldington’s humanist and pacifist worldview.

The research shows that the author’s pacifism is not political, but philosophical and spiritual in nature.

6. Autobiographical and Periodic Context

Aldington’s personal involvement in the war became the main spiritual source of his creativity. As a result of the research, it was revealed that the personal experiences of the heroes in the author’s works are artistic reflections.

The idea of literature is based on the principle of transforming individual experience into a universal picture. From this point of view, Aldington’s novels can be considered as a literary chronicle of the themes of lost ideals and moral crises of the 20th century man.

Conclusion. The analysis of the findings shows that Richard Aldington’s work is one of the rare literary systems that combines the aesthetics of modernism with humanistic content. He created a new ethical and ecological direction in the literature of the 20th century by expressing in an artistic language that war is not only a physical, but also a spiritual disaster.

Aldington’s works have preserved their relationship with the modern age by reflecting the inner world of man, his relationship with nature, society and spiritual values in a complex way.

Richard Aldington's works are one of the artistic peaks of humanist and pacifist thought in 20th century English literature. In his works, war, ecological disasters, struggle with an immoral society, etc. motifs reflect universal human problems by combining with the inner world of man. The essence of Aldington's works is to protect people, defend conscience and nature.

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