

Christian Spirituality In The Catholic Tradition

Evan Howard provides a solid and comprehensive overview of spiritual formation in the Protestant, Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox traditions in *The Brazos Introduction to Christian Spirituality*. In short, Howard desires to answer the following question for readers: "What does relationship with God look like for Christians?" The book is interdisciplinary in its approach, drawing from fields such as theology and psychology. What makes this book especially accessible are its chapter outlines and objectives, sidebars, focus boxes, charts, pictures, cartoons, chapter summaries and questions, and glossary, all of which present the material in an easily digestible format for the curious layperson.

Spirituality and gift are notions that are en vogue. Topics such as spirituality at the workplace, spirituality management, spirituality in leadership, organizational spirituality and other related topics are trending in management literature. The "logic of gift" is also appearing more frequently, especially in attempts to rethink the way our economy works in order to include the marginalized. The expression "logic of gift" was introduced into official Catholic social teaching by Pope Benedict XVI, who presented it in association with the principle of gratuitousness, which in turn is an expression of fraternity. However, before *Caritas in Veritate* and ever since Marcel Mauss's groundbreaking work *The Gift*, the importance of gift for human relationships and for the cohesion of society had been increasingly recognized. Alain Caillé and Jacques T. Godbout further fleshed out the implication of gift for contemporary society in the context of secular social sciences, striving to overcome utilitarianism. It was the "civil economy" movement, however, that exercised greatest influence on Benedict XVI's

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encyclical Caritas in Veritate/i..brbrThis present volume reflects on the general scope of these notions for business and society. This is done by structuring the book in two parts, each dedicated to one of the two concepts. Each part has two general chapters and two that apply the notions to business and to business education. The authors are a mix of well-known emeritus professors and younger talented emerging scholars. We have also been careful to combine European with American authors.brbr*A Catholic Spirituality for Business: The Logic of Gift*

"Christian Spirituality is a concise and accessible overview of the ways Christians over the centuries have approached God in prayer and practice. In ten chapters, Lawrence Cunningham and Keith Egan explain the dynamics of spiritual life, each chapter exploring a single theme such as scripture, journeying, meditation & contemplation, asceticism, mysticism, solitude & community, friendship, eucharist. The themes are not mutually exclusive since believers frequently embrace several or all of these "ways" at once. But in different times and places people have tended to focus on one or another, so that they have become discernible paths to the Holy." "The authors explore each theme in depth, tracing its evolution over the centuries. Within this historical framework, the book provides the reader with a "taste" of the different ways Christians have sought or lived in the presence of God. Each chapter concludes with a list of selected works for further reading and with exercises intended to provide a personal experience of the "way.""
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The Vatican. The Inquisition. Contraception. Celibacy. Apparitions and miracles. Plots and scandals. The Catholic Church is seldom out of the news. But what do its one billion adherents

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really believe, and how do they put their beliefs into practice in worship, the family, and society? This down-to-earth account goes back to the early Christian creeds to uncover the roots of modern Catholic thinking. It avoids getting bogged down in theological technicalities, and throws light on aspects of the Church's institutional structure and liturgical practice that even Catholics can find baffling: why go to confession? How are people made saints? What is 'infallible' about the Pope? Topics addressed include: • scripture and tradition • sacraments and prayer • popular piety • personal and social morality • reform, mission, and interreligious dialogue Lawrence Cunningham, a theologian, prize-winning writer and university teacher, provides an overview of Catholicism today which will be indispensable for undergraduates and lay study groups.

A Michael Glazier book.

A readable overview of the contemporary spiritual scene that defines, outlines and advocates several models or methods for studying Christian spirituality. Aimed at college undergraduates and useful for those in spiritual counseling and direction.

This dictionary attempts to give direct access to the development of Christian Spirituality. It is a series of pieces written by experts to provide instant, accurate and thought-provoking information of high scholarship.

Sandra Schneiders commands respect as one of the most significant and influential figures in the emergence of the study of Christian spirituality as an academic discipline, as the focused and disciplined exploration of religious experience. This book honors her contributions to the field by addressing issues that are emerging at the creative "edges" of the discipline. In this volume, colleagues and students of Dr. Schneiders and other collaborators in the academic

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discipline of Christian spirituality examine crucial issues from their various disciplinary and methodological perspectives. Questions of methodology address the status of spirituality as a discipline, interdisciplinarity, and self-implication. Other essays explore the "edges" of Christian spirituality and biblical spirituality, gender studies, the natural sciences, nature writing, the social sciences, and interfaith issues. This collection of essays will provoke students and scholars of Christian spirituality, as well as practitioners, to continue critically thinking, discussing, writing, and practicing it.

Christian Spirituality: The Classics is a unique and comprehensive guide to thirty key Christian spirituality texts. Ranging from Origen and Augustine to Jonathan Edwards, Thérèse of Lisieux and Thomas Merton, it offers a view of the texts which is founded in scholarship, but which also presents them as living documents that invite- even compel -contemplative reflection and existential response. Each chapter briefly describes the classic text's author and audience, gives a synopsis of its contents, suggests some of its influence in history, and then explores aspects of the text's meaning for readers today. Key themes include: What is the meaning of life? How can human beings find truth? How can they discover who they really are? How can they live together in peace? How can they live more fully in God's presence in this world and be united with God in the world to come? The scholars who have written these chapters are all experts on their respective topics, but they wear their learning lightly. Anyone wishing to

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discover the riches of Christian spirituality will find this the ideal introduction and should be able to progress to a deeper understanding of the texts themselves. Spirituality is a motion, a responsive movement of heart, mind, and spirit to the life of God moving within us. Starting from his Roman Catholic roots but working ecumenically, Bob Hurd explores this notion of spirituality in two parts. Part 1 places it in the theological framework of Creation-Grace-Incarnation, concluding that its specific form is participation in Christ's self-emptying love of God, humankind, and creation. Part 2 investigates this kenotic spirituality liturgically, exploring how it comes to expression in the ritual stages of Gathering, Word, Eucharistic Prayer, Communion, and Sending. Comparing and contrasting each stage with corresponding patterns in various Protestant traditions, Hurd lays out the possibility of a spirituality common to Christians of various confessions. The sacramental and prophetic traditions of Christian spirituality, suggests Matthew Eggemeier, possess critical resources for responding to the contemporary social crises of widespread ecological degradation and the innocent suffering of the crucified poor. In *A Sacramental-Prophetic Vision*, Eggemeier maintains that the vital key for cultivating these traditions in the present is to situate these spiritualities in the context of spiritual exercises or ascetical practices that enable Christians to live more deeply in the presence of

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God (coram Deo) and in turn to make this presence visible in a suffering world. Spirituality, or the cultivation of the with-God life, lies at the heart of what it means to be a Christian in the body of Christ. Bored by consumerism, satiated by sensualism, stressed-out by technology and depressed by the loss of the transcendent in life, people today are turning from the scientific 'what' and 'how' to the transcendent 'who' and 'why.' Indeed, the spiritually inclined represent one of America's largest 'faiths.' Interest in spirituality within the church thus is not a fleeting fad but a return to historic Christian roots. A book that focuses on the Church's search for identity, meaning and significance as interpreted by the major Christian traditions possesses considerable relevance to many in our day. Perspectives include the Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholic, Evangelical and Liberal Protestant viewpoints. Currently, there exists no work that contains a side-by-side comparison of the major perspectives on spirituality as found within these Christian traditions. As such, there is great need for a volume that will examine and compare how the Church views and understands the topic of spirituality. In order to maintain a balance in content from the various traditions, contributors will focus their entries on the following areas: definition and key emphases of spirituality in their tradition; the relation of spirituality to spiritual formation; the means, disciplines or regimens by which spirituality is

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achieved; the ultimate goal of spirituality; and the role of Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Church in the process of spiritual growth.

A French convert to Catholicism in 1939, Louis Bouyer is a renowned theologian who was an influential presence at Vatican II. His classic work, *Introduction to the Spiritual Life*, first published in English in 1961 and now brought back into print, provides readers with an inspiring and comprehensive vision of Christian spirituality that is unmatched in its warmth, lucidity, and accessibility. *Introduction to the Spiritual Life* is, by author Louis Bouyer's own description, a manual for practical use. Much more than just a work of spirituality or apologetics, it is a hybrid of both, produced with an expertise and confidence borne of a lifetime of prayer and study. It aims to cultivate interior growth through a thoughtful, reasoned meditation on the spiritual meaning of the Gospel as proclaimed by the Catholic Church. Catholics who read *Introduction to the Spiritual Life* will better appreciate how a life of prayer can be shaped and enriched by sound Christian doctrine.

At last, not a touchy-feely guide to living in community but a practical, spiritual vision of community in a real world where nothing is perfect and all are welcome. In a direct and entertaining style, Liam Kelly sets out the history of the catechesis - of the resounding or re-echoing of God's word, literally meant. He charts the

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changing attitudes, rituals, educational methods and beliefs around the subject. A Brief History of Spirituality tells the story of Christian spirituality from its origins in the New Testament to the present day. Charts the main figures, ideas, images and historical periods, showing how and why spirituality has changed and developed over the centuries Draws out the distinctive themes of Christian spirituality, exploring the historical and cultural events and experiences that changed people's attitudes and practices Coverage extends right up to the modern day, exploring the huge changes in spirituality in recent years and the way it is nowadays often contrasted with 'religion' Written by a leading commentator on spirituality, and published in the popular Brief Histories of Religion series

Groundwork of Christian Spirituality is Gordon Wakefield's final work, completed shortly before he died. Like his notable Dictionary of Christian Spirituality (SCM Press, 1983), it covers a wide range of Christian traditions: Orthodox Roman Catholic, Anglican, Reformed, Free Church. He writes with his usual keen insight and broad ecumenical sympathy, and in a style which is readily accessible to the general reader. This study, like all his previous writings, is underpinned by careful scholarship. Yet he is never a mere theorist, but always concerned to relate his study to the life of faith and the challenge of contemporary discipleship. Those

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who have appreciated his earlier studies in Puritan, Wesleyan and Catholic spirituality will relish this final offering of a writer who, rooted in Methodist piety, was also a choice example of John Wesley's 'Catholic Spirit'.

Offers a balanced view of how Catholics should regard the contribution of other religions to their own spirituality.

The book is written somewhat biographically, while it tells stories from the author's life. Each chapter contains profound moments in the spiritual journey. Both the falls and the triumphs. In this intimate, soul-searching account, the author describes his remarkable journey back to a culturally relevant, infinitely loving God. For anyone wondering if the Christian faith is still relevant in a postmodern culture. For anyone thirsting for a genuine encounter with a God who is real. For anyone yearning for a renewed sense of passion in life.

This history not only serves to acquaint us with the origins and development of Christian spirituality, but, equally importantly in the author's view, projects into our contemporary world the lives and teachings of men and women who have reached a high degree of sanctity through the ages. His study is Catholic in both senses of the word. He has concentrated his attention on the history of spirituality in the Roman Catholic Church; and he has taken a comprehensive view of the full range of forms of that Catholic tradition, including -- so that we can learn from

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the mistakes of the past -- the heterodox tendencies and movements that have arisen from time to time.

Who doesn't want a liberated life? Jesus offers us liberation as we grow in a Christian spiritual life. But first we need to liberate our concept of Christian Spirituality from ideas that relegate it to Church on Sunday, new age self help, devotional or ascetical practices, or fundamentalist aggression. Traditionally, Christian spirituality liberates Jesus' disciples from personal sin and helps them to challenge sin's social consequences so that once liberated, they will work to liberate others. Christian spirituality (living the Gospel) brings good news for the poor, liberty for the captives, recovery of sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. This is what Jesus came to do, and this is what we as his disciples are called to do as we live our Christian callings in the world. Whether we are at home, work, or play we are called to be Christian. Beyond Piety invites readers to grow in their understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. More than a book on Franciscan or Hispanic Spirituality, this book is about the Christian Spirituality all Christians are called to live. It is about our human and Christian identity and the God we believe in. It is about getting to know the Word of God and letting that Word get to know us. It is about worship and religious devotion and moving beyond piety to Christian action. It is about the call to justice and

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liberation.

This modern classic explores the key concepts and people who have shaped our Christian spiritual heritage. At the time it was first published, the author wrote, “This book is the result of finding nothing to recommend to my students as an introduction to the wide variety and great richness of the Christian spiritual experience. The texts available are either too detailed, too unbalanced, or both.” This situation remains the same today, more than twenty years later. Now this concise and very readable introduction to Christian spirituality is available for a new generation of readers. Holmes begins with the Jewish antecedents, and proceeds through the New Testament period, monasticism, the Middle Ages, Byzantine spirituality, and the modern period. He ends his overview with key contemporary figures such as Simone Weil, Thomas Merton, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Brief bibliographies of the books written by each notable figure are included for those who wish to read more extensively. *A History of Christian Spirituality* is the perfect book for introductory classes at the M. Div. level, for diaconate programs, lay people or parish study classes of all Christian denominations, and for any reference collection. This is a unique and invaluable learning tool and reference for readers, students, or teachers who want a quick explanation of the significance of a person or idea, or who are interested in a

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broad overview of the entire field.

The SCM Studyguide: Christian Spirituality is designed as an introduction to spirituality for students of all religious backgrounds coming to the subject for the first time.

This textbook works towards presenting Christian spirituality as an ongoing dialogue between doctrine and experience, and asserts that Christian spirituality must reflect the idea of search. It features a number of pedagogical tools to aid the undergraduate such as questions for reflection, and guides to further reading. After examining Lomwe traditional spirituality within the broader context of African spirituality, this work explores the roots of the present cultural-religious encounter by analyzing the way in which missionaries introduced Christianity in Malawi, and attempts to understand the kind of spirituality the Lomwe Catholic Christians in Malawi are now living.

This text fills the need for a clear, informative, helpful and well-written introduction to Christian spirituality. Includes a detailed guide to resources in spirituality available on the Internet. Written by a leading theological educationalist in a clear and accessible manner. Encourages active engagement with primary sources through worked case studies.

The Christian faith has had a phenomenal impact on the development of the

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western world. This beautifully illustrated introduction to Christian spirituality through the centuries covers all the major traditions--East and West, Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant, with special articles on key spiritual concepts, practices, and movements that continue to influence the way people all over the world live their lives in response to God. It also includes information on people and movements from outside the Church that have influenced Christian life and thought throughout 2,000 years. Also included are extracts from more than 100 of the greatest Christian spiritual writings--from the Gospels through the early Church Fathers, the saints and mystics, the reformers, and modern spiritual writers such as Scott Peck and C. S. Lewis.

Introduction to Christian spirituality with scholarly input. Each article is by a leading academic and explains the subject matter in an accessible and open fashion.

The Personal Response of the Christian to God In addition to the doctrinal and theological history of the Catholic faith, it is essential that we add the history of Christian spirituality - namely, the very way that Christians have made their personal response to the God who reveals Himself to His people through Jesus Christ. This course surveys important spiritual movements, the rich diversity of spiritual insight that has marked the history of Christianity starting from the early

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Desert Fathers, the founding of the great religious orders, Christian mysticism, 19th and 20th century Catholic spiritual contributions, and more. In taking a look at the history of Christian spirituality in this way, one ultimately comes to a deeper understanding of man's proper relation to God, and how he ought to respond to God's love.

The Uniqueness of Christian Spirituality The primary truth of Christian spirituality is that God entered his world personally-- as John's Gospel, chapter 1: 14 states: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." God crowns creation with his personal, physical presence, pouring himself out in a new covenant whereby he has forever united himself to the human race. In the Incarnation of the Word, the Catholic focus on the material world is vindicated against all those ancient and modern pessimisms that seek to denigrate the dignity of man on one side, or remove God from the world of men on the other. It is only Christian spirituality that safeguards the truth about man and God, since together they are united in a freedom of grace by which the world is saved.

The History of Christian Spirituality A study of the history of Christian spirituality reveals that the Christian quest for holiness and perfection is marked by certain principles and characteristics. The early Christians, unlike Christians of today, did not accommodate the faith to the age. The early Christians converted out of a culture and they lived in contrast to it. The life of the earliest Christians was liturgical,

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especially in the sense that, as today, it centered on the Eucharist--the public worship of the Church, done in obedience to Christ's command to the Apostles at the Last Supper: "Do this in remembrance of me." The social dimension of Christian life is seen in the earliest Christians, who lived in community. According to the Acts of the Apostles, Christians held all their possessions in common and distributed "to everyone according to his need" (Acts 4:35). A Path for Everyone Perhaps the greatest truth about the achievement of Christian holiness is that it is open to all who wish to travel its path. It is not reserved for the few, but is meant for the many. One of the greatest voices in the history of Christian spirituality, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, believed that man's own free will was the key to the Christian life and thus perhaps we should take his words to heart: "No one can be perfect who does not desire to be more perfect, and he shows himself to be more perfect in the measure that he aspires to be more perfect."

The birth of an academic discipline is a rare event. Even more extraordinary is academia's acknowledgment that spirituality has scholarly as well as personal dimensions. Inquiry and dialogue are the essence of this new discipline, as it paves the way toward a deeper understanding of what it means to be human within the Christian faith. The twenty-five essays in this volume, originally published in either the Christian Spirituality Bulletin or Spiritus: A Journal of

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Christian Spirituality, offer groundbreaking explorations of Christian spirituality. Arranged under five broad headings, these essays create an insightful dialogue on the questions, methods, and critical approaches implemented by the discipline's top scholars. Topics addressed include the particular intellectual and methodological challenges presented by spirituality as an academic discipline, the self-implicating nature of the study of spirituality, historical perspectives, theological implications, healing as a function of spirituality, and the relationship between aesthetics and spirituality—art and spirit. Scholars working on either broad or focused themes in spirituality will benefit from this clear and accessible presentation of the salient aspects of the discipline. In their insight and historical and methodological content, these essays provide valuable tools for students and teachers of spirituality and related fields, in their insight and historical and methodological content. This volume speaks to all who practice and study spirituality from any religious or secular perspective, encouraging reflective and open dialogue with one of humanity's major religious traditions. Contributors: J. Matthew Ashley, Thomas Berry, Mark S. Burrows, Douglas Burton-Christie, Lawrence S. Cunningham, Lisa E. Dahill, Elizabeth A. Dreyer, Mary Frohlich, Belden C. Lane, Elizabeth Liebert, E. Ann Matter, Bernard McGinn, Meredith B. McGuire, Mark McIntosh, Barbara Newman, Walter H. Principe, Don E. Saliers,

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Sandra M. Schneiders, Philip F. Sheldrake, Jon Sobrino, Wendy M. Wright

This book presents introductions to classics of Christian spiritual literature.

Written in a popular, lively style, each essay is based on up-to-date research and insights into the place of the classics in a contemporary spirituality.

This book is about Catholic spirituality, which the author christens it as 'Catholic Christian Spirituality', which introduces this spirituality to those who dream about knowing it clearly and observing it validly and fruitfully but not fully realized their dream yet. It is a compilation of the Catholic Christian Spirituality's Scriptural foundations, its historical explications of the Church, its multi-dimensional applications, and its inner and outer dynamics. Definitely the sole difference of this book from others, as the author writes, is the fact that "it is a book written with my red and warm blood as a personal journal of my experiential spirituality as a cradle New Age Catholic." Though this post-modern age is judged as one of the most secular ones, even as many comment it is an age of irreligiosity there are actually millions of people around the globe being hungry for spirituality and earnestly looking for help with their inner lives. Too many self-declared sages propose too many strategies as they like. Fr. Vima observes in those dealings many are too extreme or too sentimental or too conservative and liberal or too wordy and theoretical. With a heart of pastor, serving in many parishes in the

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States, he offers this book to the Catholic Christian friends who live, move in this turbulent period. This book is supposed to join in that group of works. In no way it seeks to be exhaustive or conclusive handbook or textbook on Catholic Christian spirituality or any sort of spiri-tual guidance. It consists of discussions on the basic elements of Catholic Christian spirituality, its various types, its motives and especially its dynamics. The author underlines this book's uniqueness as he writes: "In human communication it is said, 'one visual is worth thousand words'.

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The thirteen essays in this collection fall into two sections. The first section presents essays on the nature of spirituality and appropriate methods for its study, while a second section includes historical studies of particular persons and movements within Christian spirituality. Contributors include Ewert Cousins, Carlos M.N. Eire, Diogenes Allen, Eric Lund, and David Trickett.

"Conscience and Prayer takes the new conversation between Christian spirituality and moral theology to a deeper level of precision and focus. The authors argue that the relationship between moral theology and spirituality can best be explored by looking at how conscience is related to prayer. In exploring this relationship, both historically and theologically, Billy and Keating open new ways to approach the fundamental aspects of

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Catholic moral theology."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Joyce's non serviam declaration, uttered by Stephen Dedalus in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* in 1916, famously declared his religion one among a number of Irish cultural "nets" threatening to ensnare and stifle the modern and artistic soul. By the end of the twentieth century, struggles with conservative Catholicism, the clerical scandals of the 1990s, and other cultural and socioeconomic forces brought Ireland to its current status as a "post-Catholic" nation, a fate generally reflected and accepted in the majority of its contemporary writing. Yet a number of noted native writers--namely, William Trevor, Tom Murphy, Sebastian Barry, and Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin--choose to explore constructive and liberating aspects of Christian theology and spiritual development, effectively challenging both Joyce's pre-Vatican II perspectives and the popular notion that religion has no present or future value in Irish culture. This study takes Stephen's spiritual "gestation" as a model to illustrate the dynamics of the individual's relationship with Christianity in order to analyze the kinds and degree of change reflected in the fiction, drama, and poetry of the selected authors, collectively published between 1981 and 2007. It does so with regard to characteristically Joycean religious preoccupations, namely, perceptions of God; faith as shared with family and community; sources of moral guidance; and the Church as a patriarchal institution in order to address topical gaps in extant scholarship on the four writers. While the

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misogynist and misanthropic Stephen's apostasy is bound up with the need to escape a dysfunctional family and stultifying Edwardian social norms, the selected works stress the importance of familial and communal bonds in spiritual well-being, even and especially when they are damaged or problematic. Frequently offering forms of redemption and resolution inspired by Christian frameworks in their narratives, these four writers call for the revision of past doctrinal emphases--particularly where guilt-driven abjection and female iconography are concerned--rather than wholesale apostasy. Their work supports the assertion of Dermot Bolger that "[a]s the Church disintegrates more and more, it becomes in some ways morally more powerful because it moves to the margins to join the outcasts."

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