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## HEDONISM IN EUGENE O NEIL'S: A LONG DAYS JOURNEY INTO NIGHT

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### ARTICLE INFO

**Article history:**

Received 3 Juni 2022

Received in revised form 2 Juli 2022

Accepted 10 Juli 2022

Available online 12 Agustus 2022

**Keywords:**

Hedonism analysis, Folk hedonism, Value hedonism, Motivational hedonism, Normative hedonism, Egois hedonism, Utilitarian hedonism'.

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### ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to investigate Hedonism in the Eugene O'Neil's drama A Long Days Journey Into Night. This study uses descriptive qualitative to explore the kind of hedonism on the dialogue utterance of characters in that drama. The results of the data were found that the most frequent types was folk hedonism 24%, value hedonism 10%, motivational hedonism 22%, normative hedonism 16%, egoist hedonism 14% and Utilitarian hedonism 14%. Folk hedonism occurs in the character named James Tyrone because he seeks his own pleasure without thinking about what will happen in the future. Value hedonism occurs in a character named Mary Tyrone, who at that time was looking for her pleasure which she thought was valuable in her life. The motivation states that hedonism was created on the basis of the human desire to relieve the pain experienced by a character named Edmund Tyrone. Normative hedonism was carried out by a character named Mary Tyrone, who at that time was looking for fun as it should be. Egoist hedonism is carried out by characters named James Tyrone and Jamie Tyrone, at that time they were doing pleasure at the expense of others. Utilitarian hedonism was carried out by characters named Mary Tyrone and Edmund Tyrone who at that time were also looking for fun for their families not only for themselves. The final conclusion is folk hedonism is a very dominating problem in the lives of the characters in Eugene O'Neil's drama A Long Days Journey Into Night in accordance with today's life, because humans prefer to seek pleasure but forget the impact that will be obtained in the future.

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## 1. Introduction

Drama can be entertainment for humans, but it can also be used to get information about other cultures and historical information contained therein. Drama can also be a tool for illustrating social issues from a director or playwright, social issues and even then must be related to issues in today's life or from time to time. One of the social issues that is still well known today is hedonism. According to Armstrong (2003) states that this hedonism attitude aims to see how fun life is, and things that are done such as activities to make yourself the center of attention in society. Hedonism is one of the ideology that has developed a lot in society. Especially for the wider community, this hedonism is one of the traits that are considered wasteful, likes to waste money, and this hedonism only think about worldly things. Philosophically, hedonism is a pursuit of pleasure that humans do and according to them it is a good thing for them. They

believe that pleasure is the only good in life, and pain is the only evil, and that our goal in life should be to maximize pleasure and minimize pain.

Vitterso (2011) states that hedonism is a doctrine that pleasure is a good thing. The background of this research is to find out how the nature of hedonism occurs in the characters of the drama entitled, "A Long Day's Journey Into Night." Hedonism arises when there is pleasure in humans. People who embrace this lifestyle are passionate about doing things that can make themselves happy in order to feel alive, therefore, they do not hesitate to justify any means to achieve their happiness. According to Weijers (2012), the term hedonism comes from the Greek word "hedonism" which means for pleasure. This term refers to how we should behave, how to avoid the bad in order to get the good, and what motivates us. Although the meaning of hedonism is for pleasure, the theory also identifies pleasure and pain as the only important elements of any phenomenon they are designed to describe. According to Weijers (2012) there are six types of hedonism, namely (1) Folk Hedonism, (2) Value and Prudential Hedonism, (3) Motivational Hedonism, (4) Normative Hedonism, (5) Hedonism of Egoist, (6) Utilitarianism Hedonistic.

There are several factors that cause humans to adopt an attitude of hedonism. The first is the personal factor, this factor states that every human being wants to have fun and happiness. However, human satisfaction never ends, therefore, hedonism occurs in them. The second is the family factor, this factor states that if an individual is born from a person who has an upper-class economy, is always surrounded by luxury, there is no need to try to find another, and their life has the potential to live extravagantly. The third is social and environmental factors, in this factor we can see that people who are accustomed to making friends with people who have a high economy, themselves will also be easily influenced to live hedonic. In the drama "A Long Day's Journey Into Night" there is an attitude that shows hedonism, but this happens in the conversation between Jamie and Tyrone. Jamie said of his father, Tyrone, "You always buy more instead of paying mortgages." The meaning of the statement is that Jamie's father, Tyrone, prefers to buy a lot of property rather than pay a mortgage. Mortgage here is defined as a credit, loan or guarantee. The drama "A Long Days Journey Into Night" is a drama that is still very popular from 1956 to the present. We took the topic of hedonism because we wanted to examine how the hedonistic attitude possessed or adopted by the characters in the drama A Long Days Journey Into Night. That is the reason why we are interested in the topic of Hedonism. Because

in this mortal life, there are many people who are hedonistic, whether they are economically capable, those who are ordinary, or those who are economically incapable and force themselves to live hedonistically.

There are several previous studies that discussed hedonism, namely, (1) Hedonism Practices As Reflected Through The Main Character In The Wolf Of Wall Street Movie by Muhammad Ridho, 2020. (2) Hedonism: A Phenomenological Study of Pleasure And Pain In Everyday Ethical Consumption by Stephanie Chamberlain, 2018. (3) Hedonism and Happiness in Theory and Practice by Daniel Michael Weijers. (4) The Students' Hedonism Lifestyle by Sulastika Ertina, 2019. (5) Hedonism And Culture: Impact On Shopping Behavior A research Agenda by Subhashini Kaul, 2007. (6) Hedonism, A Consumer Disease Of The Modern Age: Gender And Hedonic Shopping In Turkey by Ayca Kirgiz, 2014. (7) See It, Like It, Buy It!: Hedonic Shopping Motivation And Impulse Buying by Merima Cinjarevic, 2011. Research on hedonism in everyday life has often been done. The difference from several previous studies is the object of the research. The object of research in this study is the hedonistic attitude shown by the characters in the drama entitled, "A Long Day's Journey Into Night." While the object they studied was about how hedonism they did when shopping or there was a very impulsive purchase.

## **2. Review of Literature**

Literature is all written works that may be used as a references in various activities in the field of education and other sectors because they are believed to have long-term benefits or advantages. Other language that bind all aspects of life, presented in distinctive and unique ways, are literary works. Literature and language serves as a communication tools, forming or building certain situations in the communication process when combined with the context of the situation. Hedonism is a branch of the universal to show a pleasure. According to an expert named Epicurus, to have a hedonic life is a free life, or hedonism is a form of liberation from pain physically and mentally. Of the few people, surely many go through life feeling high anxiety and

excessive worry. In fact, some of them still feel that they are not as good as they think, they even feel that they are not the center of attention of those around them. However, it becomes bad if we continue to live in extravagance. However, an expert named Epicurus did say that hedonism is one way to relieve pain that humans experience.

Lifestyle is how a person enjoys his life by doing activities that they think are fun, for example doing work, hobbies, often shopping, social activities (such as social gathering for mothers), interest in fashion and the scope of social interactions that fall into this category. There is luxury in it. Dwi Ilham (2014) states that lifestyle is a pattern of money consumption that aims to reflect how they choose to do things. According to Susanti (2011) a person's lifestyle will change from time to time. The routine that a person does can be said as a form of a person's activity as a lifestyle he has. Suwindo (2013) states that someone who has a hedonistic character in life is someone who tends to be extravagant and easily influenced. Being influenced here is like someone who previously didn't want to buy something that was expensive and of course the object wasn't necessarily needed, but because it was influenced by one of his friends, that person bought the item, most likely there will be regrets in the future. Well and Tigert (2015) both state that there are three aspects to a hedonic lifestyle. First, someone's interest will appear if in their mind there is a sense of interest in something. Second, activities, activities that can be done can be in the form of shopping, hanging out at cafes, and buying things that are not necessarily needed. Third, there is an opinion that the hedonic lifestyle is the most important thing in human life.

Weijers (2012) has six types of Hedonism, namely: (1) Folk Hedonism; (2) Value/Prudential Hedonism; (3) Motivational Hedonism; (4) Normative Hedonism; (5) Selfish Hedonism; (6) Utilitarian Hedonism.

1. Folk Hedonism: This type of Hedonism states that a person must achieve their pleasure without thinking about what will happen in the future to themselves or to others according to Weijer (2012). For example, drinking alcohol, indeed this is considered to be the coolest thing if humans do it, but people who take the act of drinking alcohol will not necessarily think about what will happen in the future in their lives and health.

2. Value/Prudential Hedonism: This type of hedonism seems to explain to us that all pleasures are very valuable in human life and pleasure must be obtained even though it has no benefit in humans. For example, mothers who often become housewives will certainly seek pleasure such as gossiping with socialite mothers in their housing complex, but in general gossip does not bring any benefit to their lives, but only creates many sins by telling other people's lives. .
3. Motivational Hedonism: This kind of hedonism is carried out continuously and this kind of hedonism is indeed created on the basis of human desire to relieve the pain they experience. For example, there are some men who solve problems or pain in their hearts by drinking alcohol or going to inappropriate places.
4. Normative Hedonism: Hedonism like this is the attitude of how humans should seek their pleasure. For example, humans may be wasteful but must remain disciplined. Discipline in the sense of being able to overcome yourself.
5. Egoism Hedonism: This hedonism explains that pleasure is sought by doing everything or justifying any means for any pleasure even at the expense of others. For example, a woman wants to go out with her friends, however, the woman sacrifices her sister to lie to their parents that her sister is on group work, when in fact the situation is not group study.
6. Utilitarian Hedonism: This hedonism explains to us that how a person seeks happiness or satisfaction not only for himself but he also seeks that happiness for others as well. For example, an office employee who gets a promotion at his job, it is a happy thing for him, but he also wants to celebrate his fun with his co-workers.

Bentham (1789) states that several types of hedonism, such as Prudential Hedonism, Hedonistic Utilitarianism, and Motivational Hedonism. He says that happiness is the highest good and happiness is pleasure and the absence of pain. Bentham's greatest happiness principle (1789) states that an action is immoral if it does not appear to maximize the happiness of all those who may be affected. Only actions that appear to maximize the happiness of all those who may be affected are morally right actions.

### **3. Method**

The method used for this research is a qualitative explanation method. This qualitative method is used as a broad explanation of the attitude of hedonism (Creswell: 2014). This study focuses on examining the hedonism of each character in the drama *A Long Days Journey Into Night*, Jamie Tyrone, James Tyrone, Mary Tyrone, Edmund Tyrone. This hedonism research will be investigated based on the types of hedonism. Qualitative descriptive method is more suitable for searching data. The source of this research data is sought by examining the dialogues in the drama. Data collection will be carried out in several stages. First, it is done by watching the drama repeatedly. Second, analyze the drama script. Third, identify every drama store dialogue that contains several types of hedonism

### **4. Results and Discussion**

Hedonism is one of the ideologies that has developed a lot in society. Especially for the wider community, this hedonism is one of the traits that are considered wasteful, likes to waste money, and this hedonism only thinks about worldly things. Philosophically, hedonism is a pursuit of pleasure that humans do and according to them it is a good thing for them. *A long days journey into night* shows that there are several hedonism between character that can be analysis into seven types of hedonism.

**4.1. Table the Number of Hedonism**

No	Types of Hedonism	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Folk Hedonism	12	24
2	Value/Prudential Hedonism	5	10
3	Motivational Hedonism	11	22

4	Normative Hedonism	8	16
5	Egois Hedonism	7	14
6	Utilitarian Hedonism	7	17
TOTAL		50	100%

1. Folk Hedonism

a. Jamie : Can't afford? You're one of the biggest property owners around here.

Tyrone : That doesn't mean I'm rich. It's all mortgaged

Jamie : *Because you always buy more instead of paying off mortgages.* If Edmund was a lousy acre of land you wanted, the sky would be the limit.

Jamie and his father, Tyrone, argue about Dr. Hardy takes care of Edmund's health, but Jamie is annoyed that his father always believes in Dr. Hardy, whom according to him the doctor does not look competent to cure his sister named Edmund's illness. Then Jamie was surprised when his father said that he couldn't afford to find a good doctor for Edmund, when in fact Tyrone was the one who owned the single largest property in their town. Then Tyrone said that it all didn't determine that he was a rich man, it was all pawned. How not to be pawned because Tyrone is always being extravagant by buying a lot of property without thinking about the payment. It made Jamie very upset because his father Edmund was getting treatment that was not good for his health. In accordance with folk hedonism which says that pleasure must be obtained, but something happens when the pleasure has been obtained, be it a bad event or a good incident. However, in the dialogue Jamie and Tyrone show that his father's pleasure in accumulating too many assets without thinking about long-term costs, makes it difficult to find a good doctor's care for his son named Edmund. Things like that can have a bad impact on Tyrone himself and his family.

b. Tyrone: You've never saved a dollar in your life! At the end of each season you're penniless! *You've thrown your salary away every week on whores and whiskey!*

Jamie : My salary! Christ!

James Tyrone states that his son, Jamie, is very lazy and only spends money on things that are not important, such as spending money on whiskey and going to nightclubs or bars. Jamie did

this every time when he had collected money each week. Jamie's hedonism is in accordance with folk hedonism, which seeks pleasure without thinking about what the impact will be in the future. Jamie likes to drink alcohol, but he doesn't think about the impact it will have on his life later, even from a material economic point of view he doesn't think about his future by wasting money looking for temporary pleasures.

## 2. Value Hedonism

a. Edmund : That's crazy, Mama. We do trust you.

Mary : If there was only some place I could go to get away for a day or even an afternoon, some woman friend I could talk to not about anything serious, *simply laugh and gossip and forget for a while, some besides the servants that stupid Cathleen!*

Value/Prudential hedonism in this conversation is found when Mary says that she is very lonely, so she can only share her many complaints or gossip with their housemaid named Cathleen. Gossip is an activity where two or more people sit together to talk about other things. Gossip is an activity that is not good to do, because gossiping is just like taking care of other people's lives. So in Mary's incident, she often gossiped with her household assistant, even though the gossiping activity did not bring any benefit to Mary's life. This type of hedonism is in accordance with the type of Value hedonism in which this type of hedonism states that pleasure must be obtained by humans even though it is not meaningful for their lives.

b. Mary : *He'd only spend it on drink* and you know what a vile, poisonous tongue he has when he's drunk. Not that, I would mind nything he said tonight, but he always manages to drive you into a rage, especially if you're drunk, too, as you will be.

Tyrone : I won't. I never get drunk!

In their dialogue, they are talking about their son, Jamie, who likes to drink alcohol. Mary said that Jamie's son liked to drink because Tyrone had done the same thing, as if Jamie had learned to drink from Tyrone. The pleasure caused by drinking alcohol is only temporary, because the effects on health are also not good. This type of hedonism is in accordance with the type of value/prudential hedonism which says that pleasure must be obtained by humans even though the pleasure does not bring any benefits to themselves but has a negative impact on human health

and the economy. Just as someone wants to buy an expensive item, but after the item is purchased there is not necessarily a benefit for those who buy it.

### 3. Motivational Hedonism

a. Edmund : what a wench (He grabs the bottle and pours a drink)

Jamie : sneaking one, eh? Cut out the bluff Kid. You are a rotter actor than I am.

Edmund : *Yes. I grabbed one while the going was good.*

Jamie had just returned from the front yard when he had just finished helping his father with something. Then Jamie saw Edmund pouring a drink into a glass, it was an alcoholic drink. In their conversation, there are actions that show hedonism, although not directly, but Edmund's behavior who likes to drink alcohol also shows the attitude that he lives hedonism, even though he is sick. But he drank it because he cleared his mind of the debate and drama between his father, mother and brother Jamie and also he wanted to forget his illness for a moment. The type of hedonism in their dialogue corresponds to the type of Motivational hedonism, which states that pleasure is sought continuously for the desire to relieve pain or stress.

b. Tyrone : *There's a little choice between the philosophy you learned from Broadway loafers and the one Edmund got from his books.*

Edmund : That's the bunk, Papa.

Before their conversation, they discussed the existence of poetry by Edmund. Then Tyrone gave motivation to Edmund about the philosophy they studied extensively. Then Tyrone discusses the philosophy of religion as well. This motivation is in accordance with Motivational hedonism, Tyrone who likes to motivate his children, but only his two children are not very diligent in doing their work. Because motivational hedonism is how pleasure is sought continuously, which is based on the desire to avoid pain and stress.

### 4. Normative Hedonism

a. Edmund : Then Nietzsche must be right. He quoted, "God is dead: of his pity for man hath God died."

Tyrone : if your mother had prayed, too. *She hasn't denied her faith, but she's forgotten it, untill now there's no strength of the spirit left in her to fight againts her curse. But what's the good of talk? We've lived with this before and now we must again.*

From their conversation above, they are discussing how Mary Tyrone lives her life with the challenges that Tyrone must always face. Tyrone's statement tells us that even though we have bad things in life, or have lived a dark life, we still have norms to have enthusiasm and there are still limits to seeking pleasure. But as the norm, Tyrone states that his children should respect their mother, Mary. Although they always bicker in the family but they still support each other. This type of hedonism is in accordance with the normative type, because the normative hedonism type states that we must know how to seek pleasure and avoid pain.

- b. Mary : That's a silly things to say, James. How could i leave? There is nowhere i could go. Who should i go to see?

Tyrone : *take a drive in the automobile carefully. Get away from home. Get a little sun and fresh air.*

The normative in the conversation was how Tyrone advised Mary to seek fresh air and calm with caution. Until Tyrone bought the car just for Mary alone. This type of hedonism is in accordance with the normative type, because the normative hedonism type states that we must know how to seek pleasure and avoid pain. Because in this day and age, humans want to find pleasure by traveling and driving their vehicles, but there are still those who do not pay attention to the norms of travel rules, they only think about hedonism, they don't think about how to seek pleasure according to the norms.

## 5. Egois Hedonism

- a. Edmund : Stop it, Mama. You're getting Yourself worked up over nothing

Mary : *You're father goes out. He meets his friends in borrooms or at the club. You and jamie go out too. But i am alone. I'm always alone*

In Mary's conversation, we can see that it corresponds to the types of selfish hedonism. Mary stated that her husband always went out to meet his friends as well as his children. He always felt alone. This shows us the selfishness of the husband and son for worldly pleasures. Selfish hedonism states that someone is willing to achieve their happiness, even if they have to sacrifice something, it can be someone's feelings, or sacrifice time or whatever. Like today, humans are willing to do anything to achieve pleasure for their lives, even humans can sacrifice more important time for them, for example work, they are willing to skip work for something they want to buy somewhere, and the price of goods automatically is expensive, while the goods they buy are not necessarily important for their needs.

b. Tyrone : *It's the truth! You've been the worst influence for him. He grew up admiring you as a hero! A fine example you set him! If you ever gave him advice except in the ways of rottenness, I've never heard of it! You made him old before his time.*

Jamie : *All is Right. I did put Edmund wise to thing, but not until I saw he'd started to raise hell and knew he'd laugh at me if I tried the good advice, older brother stuff.*

Here Tyrone says that Jamie is too fast to make Edmund grow up prematurely, while judging by their age gap Jamie is older than Edmund. The meaning of Jamie's attitude was like, Jamie taught Edmund to have fun, to drink alcohol. Jamie's attitude here is very selfish, because he does it with pleasure without thinking about how Edmund feels. Jamie's attitude is in accordance with the type of hedonism, namely Egoist Hedonism which states that someone is willing to do anything for their pleasure without thinking about what will happen to someone they sacrifice.

## 6. Utilitarian Hedonism

a. Edmund : *But listen mama. I want you to promise me that even if its should turn out to be something worse, you'll know i'll soon be alright again. Don't worry, just take care of yourself.*

Mary : *I won't listen when you're so silly!*

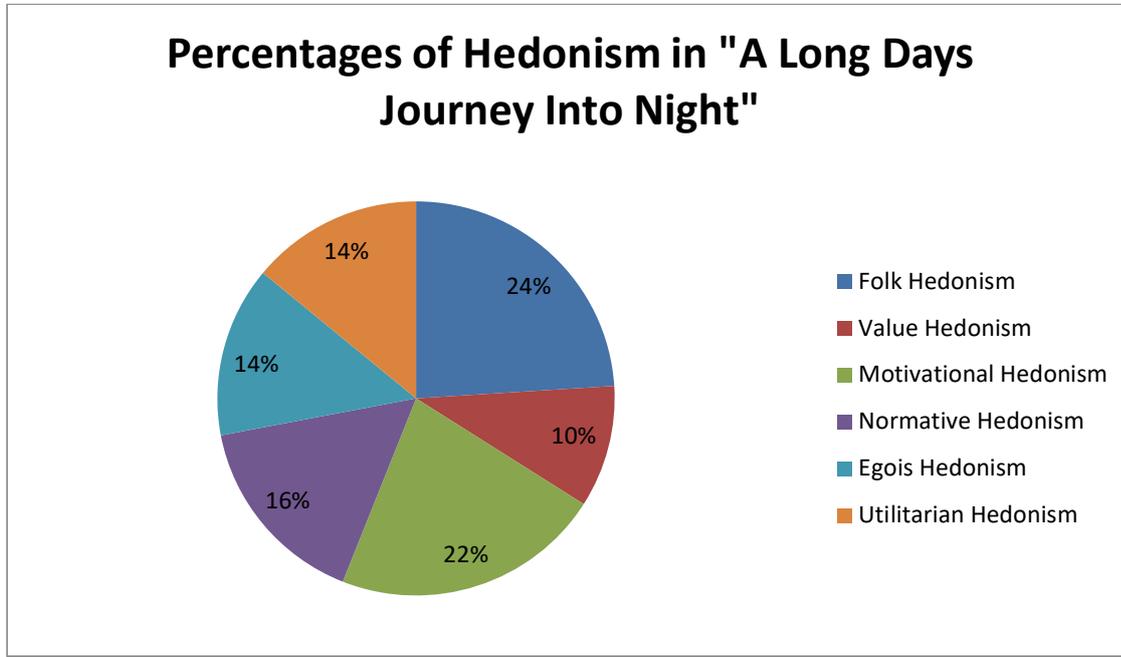
In the conversation above, we can see how Edmund pleases himself and his mother by giving him peace so that his mother doesn't think negatively about his illness, as well as himself who doesn't want to bother with his illness. This is in accordance with the type of utilitarian hedonism which states that pleasure is not only sought for ourselves but for others as well as we need to seek pleasure. There are only a handful of human populations who intend to seek their own pleasure while seeking the pleasure of those around them as well.

b. Mary : The rheumatism in my hands knows. It's a better weather prophet that you are, James.

Tyrone : No, No, Mary!. *None of that foolishness. They're the sweetest hands in the world*

in the conversation above Mary said that because of the rheumatism she was going through she complained that her hands were looking unwell and fresh again. then Tyrone came and said something nice so Mary wouldn't be sad and something nice for him too, because honestly he was tired of hearing Mary's complaints. The pleasure experienced by Tyrone is a pleasure that fits the type of hedonism, namely Utilitarian Hedonism. This type of utilitarian hedonism states that a person is not only looking for pleasure for themselves but the pleasures of others they can also seek. If it is related to the present, only a few humans are willing to do that, who are willing to seek the happiness of others.

## 5. Conclusion



Hedonism is an understanding held by humans, this understanding is an understanding of pleasure. The word hedonism comes from the Greek, namely, "Hedone" which means pleasure or satisfaction. Hedonism can also be referred to as a human activity to seek unlimited pleasure, because humans must maximize their pleasure rather than their pain. Weijer (2012) membagikan enam tipe hedonisme, Folk Hedonisme, Value/Prudential Hedonism, Motivational Hedonism, Normative Hedonism, Egoist Hedonism, Utulitarian Hedonism. From the 6 types of hedonism that have been discussed above, the results we get are, Folk Hedonism produces 12 data with a percentage of 24%, the same data is also obtained Value Hedonism produces 5 data with a percentage of 10%, then for Motivational hedonism there are 11 data and get a percentage of 22%, then Normative hedonism has 8 data and gets a percentage of 16%, Then there is Egoist Hedonism which has 7 data and the resulting percentage is 14%, then the last one is Utilitarian Hedonism which only has 7 data and the resulting percentage is 14%. So the final conclusion, Folk Hedonism occupies the first highest percentage, because in general in drama stories, they adhere to a hedonistic attitude called Folk Hedonism. The second highest percentage was

achieved by the type of Motivational Hedonism. In this drama, only two types of hedonism that dominate.

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