

# THE ORTHODOX POST

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*St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 181-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, New York, NY 11432*  
*Web site: www.stnicholasalbanian.org E-mail: fr.nathan@stnicholasalbanian.org Tel: (718) 380-5684*

## Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

For just a couple days more now, we will continue in the celebration of the Paschal season. The Sunday services that we know without thinking or glancing at the book remain interrupted. The greeting between Christians is not "Hello," or "Good morning," or even "Christ is in our midst." It is "Christ is Risen! Krishti u Ngjall!" The very hymns and prayers that comprise our personal and corporate worship are intruded upon, muscled out of the way, to mark this singular point and emphasize this singular event—Christ's death and resurrection. While it is true that every Sunday and every Liturgy is itself a Pascha, a reliving of these saving acts of our God, only the forty days of this season of Pascha intrude. The truth of these forty days irrupts into our lives, interrupting them, disturbing our norms and expectations. But it is a truth from which we must not hide. There is a theme of new beginning in every service of the Church. We are asked to come to a place,

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the precipice of choice, and leave behind us our cares and wants in order to seek communion with God alone. As our father St. Anthony, the first monk, remarked more than a millennium and a half ago, our task in life is to fall and pick ourselves up again, fall again and rise until the end. We know we fall; the message of Pascha is that we need not rise alone. The new beginning is always with Christ. He is there with us in the dust not because that is His

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## President's Message

by Bill Peters

Summer is here and we are all looking forward to vacations, picnics, beach parties and other fun activities.

In June, we celebrate Fathers' Day and graduations. Best Wishes to all the Fathers and Grandfathers. And, Congratulations to all the Graduates!!!

Also, on Sunday, June 19, St. Nicholas Church will hold its Annual Picnic. The Picnic will be held at Manorhaven Beach Park in Port Washington. See page 3 for more details.

Make your plans to attend!!!

On the day of the Picnic, Sunday Liturgy will be held at the Church and will start earlier than normal, at 9:30 a.m. However, throughout this Summer, we will keep the starting time for Sunday Liturgy at 10 a.m.

One of our responsibilities to our Church is Stewardship. To keep St. Nicholas Church operating and to enable it to continue serving the Parish Community, we need to support the Church financially. We do this primarily through the Annual Pledge Program and Fundraising activities. In this issue of The Orthodox Post, on pages 4-5, we say "Thank You" to those who have made a Pledge for 2011. If you made a Pledge for 2011 and are not listed or you want to make a Pledge, please contact Jim Liolin, Lou Foundos or me.

Remember, even though it is Summertime, we look forward to seeing you in Church on Sundays!!!

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!!!!!

## DAUGHTERS' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

Congratulations to all those graduating at this time. It is a time of mixed emotions.....sadness leaving good friends, experiences and familiarity behind; anxiety looking ahead and wondering what's to come and your ability to handle it; pride in your accomplishment; excitement anticipating new venture, etc. We wish you all much success taking your next step.

We wish all of the fathers, grandfathers and those serving as fathers a Happy Fathers' Day! Perhaps it isn't said often enough how much you are greatly appreciated for all the love, advice, care and comfort you offer. Thank you!

If you would like to be included in our Fellowship Coffee Hour Rotation, or even to host one special Sunday (birthday, anniversary, memorial, etc.), please contact Christina Liolin.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual Church Picnic. It's a very enjoyable way to spend your Fathers' Day with family and friends.

Wisdom:

"Life is like a coin.....you can spend it any way you wish, but you can only spend it once."

## St. Nicholas Parish Council

*Elections have been held and the Council Officers & Members selected for the year.*

Bill Peters	- President
Tomi Beno	- Vice President
Lou Foundos	- Treasurer
John Jance	- Secretary

### Members

Ken Gjika	Ardian Mile
Joanne Heiser	Beti Beno Tsamblakos
Jim Liolin	Isidoros Tsamblakos

Pastor: Fr. Nathan Preston

## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Qershor, 2011

Këtë muaj po japim një pjesë nga Bibla, "Letra e parë Drejtuar Korintasve" me titull "Si Duhet Parafytyruar Ringjallja?"

...Por ndoshta ndokush do të pyesë: "Çfarë ndodh kur të ringjallen të vdekurit?" ose "Çfarë trupi do të kenë ata atëhere?"

Si mund ta bësh një pyetje të tillë? Kur të mbjellësh një farë, me së pari, fara duhet të vdesë që të jetojë bima. Ti nuk e mbjell bimën e rritur, por vetëm farën, një kokërr gruri ose një kokërr tjetër. Por Perëndia i jep secilës farë trupin e bimës, të cilin e caktoi për të. Çdo lloj fare përfshin një formë të vecantë. Edhe qënjet e gjalla nuk e kanë të vetmen formë. Njerzit kanë një formë që ndryshon nga forma e kafshëve, e zogjve dhe e peshqve.

Përveç trupave në tokë, ka trupa të tillë edhe në qiell. Trupat qiellorë kanë një bukuri tjetër nga ato tokësore, edhe ndër to ka ndryshime: dielli ndrit ndryshe nga hëna, hëna ndryshon nga yjet, edhe yjet e veçanta ndryshojnë mes tyre.

Kështu mund ta parafytyroni ringjalljen e të vdekurve. Çfarë vihet në tokë është e vdekshme, por ajo që ringjallet për jetën e re është e pavdekshme. Çfarë vihet në tokë është e dobët dhe e shëmtuar; por ajo që ringjallet për jetën e re është e fortë dhe e bukur. Ç'u vendos në tokë, ishte e frymëzuar nga jeta e natyrshme; por çfarë ringjallet për jetën e re, do të jetë plotësisht e frymëzuar nga Shpirti i Perëndisë. Në qoftë se ka trup të natyrshëm, atëhere duhet të ketë trup të frymëzuar nga Shpirti. Sepse thuhet: Adami, njeriu i parë, ishte i frymëzuar nga jeta e natyrshme. Mesia, përkundrazi, me të cilin fillon krijesa e re e Perëndisë, u bë shpirt jetëdhënës. Por më së pari vjen koha e natyrës, e pastaj koha e shpirtit, e jo anasjelltas. Adami i parë u krijua nga toka. Adami i dytë erdhi nga qielli. Njerzit tokësorë i ngjajnë Adamit tokësor, kurse njerzit qiellorë i ngjajnë Adamit qiellor. Tani ne i ngjajmë njeriut që u krijua nga toka. Më vonë do t'i ngjajmë Atij që erdhi nga qielli.

## Mother's Day Celebration



On Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, Mothers' Day was celebrated by honoring Mothers, both past and present. All ladies were given flowers. And as a special treat, the men prepared and served them a deluxe breakfast.

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church

# PICNIC

Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, Fathers' Day

Manorhaven Beach Park - Port Washington, NY

11:00 a.m. til dark

Games for all Ages!!

Volleyball Basketball Handball Softball Tennis Soccer

Donation: \$5 per person or \$15 per family

## 2011 Pledge Program

Every year, St. Nicholas Church conducts a Pledge Program to seek each parishioner's financial pledge to support the Church. The Pledges provide the money that enables the Church to serve the community, to perform its day-to-day operations, and to be there when we need the Church. The Pledge Program campaign runs from November into the Spring and begins with letters going to parishioners seeking pledges. It is important that everyone participates in the Annual Pledge Program. To "Thank" all those who have made a Pledge for 2011 and to assure that the office has recorded all submitted Pledges, a list of those whose Pledge for 2011 was received is provided below. *If you made a Pledge for 2011 and you are not on the list, or you want to make a Pledge, please contact Jim Liolin, Bill Peters or Lou Foundos. Also, advise us of any spelling corrections or the addition of a spouse's name.*

**Again, to all of you who made a Pledge for 2011, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!**

Apostolu	Lenore	Liolin	Elizabeth
Baltadori	Stefan and Juliana	Liolin	James and Christina
Beno	Dhimiter and Diana	Llupa	Roland and Adelina
Beno	Thoma and Christine	Logore	Pauline
Bode	Aleko and Klodjana	Logore	Rozeta
Borzuku	Loretta	Luka	Ilia and Agathia
Celo	Roland and Anila	Matute	Carlos and Maria
Coka	Jorgji and Eleni	Mertiri	Themistokli and Antoneta
Dajko	Themistokli and Vasilika	Meta	Fatos and Evelyn
Deonas	Satira and Linda	Mezini	Ermira
Dilo	Frederik and Lori	Mile	Ardian and Irma
Durniak	Peter and Mary	Mitrollari	Artjan and Sirena
Filipi	Altin and Blerta	Mizaku	Roland and Gliqeri
Filis	Nicholas and Barbara	Mone	Thomas and Concetia
Foundos	Albert	Nache	Agatha
Foundos	Louis and Linda	Nasi	William
Foundos	Phillip and Johanna	Oswald	James and Donna
Foundos	Steven	Panajoti	Iilir
Fundo	Alfred	Panajoti	Jani and Liri
Fundo	Iilir and Fjona	Panajoti	Peter and Helen
Fundo	Thomaq and Suzana	Panariti	Kristaq
Gjika	Vasken and Anila	Papalexis	Mark and Barbara
Gjoka	Arben and Ira	Papalilo	Helidon and Odeta
Gradt	Ellen	Papa	Pandeli and Luiza
Grazhdani	Kostandin and Momoza	Pavlo	Nasi
Guma	Dhimiter and Marsela	Pecani	Dhimiter and Keti
Haile	Britu	Pecani	Vasil and Suzana
Heiser	Joanne and Doug	Peter	Lenora
Jance	John	Peters	Bill and Tina
Jance	Larry	Peters	Damian and Jenny
Jones	Stephen and Diane	Petro	Kristaq and Romana
Kallinikos	Viola	Pillary	Helen and Mary
Kasuli	Richard and Georgianne	Phillips	Helen and Nicholas
Kehoe	Alexandra and Michael	Pochari	Charles
Kelapire	George and Betty	Preftes	Christe and Jean
Klimi	Gjergj and Dorina	Preftes	Katherine and Chris Field
Kokonozi	Enkelejda	Preston	Fr. Nathan
Kolovani	Jani	Prifti	Dhiogjen and Dhiandrella
Kondili	Fotaq and Lina	Prifti	Naum
Kondili	Aristotel and Mirela	Pucca	Martha
Korra	Robert and Tina	Rehova	Albert and Hankeleida
Kronja	Nikola and Louise	Rehova	Thoma and Iliana
Kutali	Andrea and Silvana	Rehova	Stavraq and Kostanza

## 2011 Pledge Program – Pledgers List continued

Rembeci	Mikel	Terova	Sotiraq and Eriola
Rrapo	Aleksandri	Trako	Marjanthi
Rupp	Violet	Treska	Alfred and Entela
Sawyer	Gloria	Troja	Petrika and Eli
Sera	Edi and Oneida	Topore	Andrea and Adriana
Sheti	Perikli and Kozara	Tsamblakos	Isidoros and Beti Beno
Shkurti	Eduart and Marcela	Tuku	Miriam
Skendi	Thomas and Odeta	Vangjel	Kristaq and Mimoza
Slane	Tina	Vani	Albert
Stefani	Frederik and Anila	Vesho	Alma
Stroka	Altin and Elda	Vozhilla	Nikollaq and Leonora
		Zacharias	Rosalie

## Community News

- Our sincere sympathy to Orges & Eneida (Kutali) Kabaj on the passing of Orges' mother, Almira Kabaj who lost her battle with breast cancer at only 50 years of age. Almira, who fought hard until the end, leaves behind her husband and two sons that are strong and will make her proud. Almira was an amazing woman and a special wife and mother. May you always cherish the good memories. Ngushellime.
- Kudos to Eneida (Kutali) Kabaj who graduated in May from Saint Francis College with a Bachelor Degree in English/Journalism. Her family is delighted with her accomplishments. We wish Eneida much success and happiness. Bravo!
- Charlie Pochari is so proud of his daughter, Nancy Liber who was recently honored with an award from the Poughkeepsie Schools Superintendent for her life-saving efforts. Nancy has been a school nurse for the past 30 years, 10 years at Krieger Elementary School. A grandfather had come to watch his granddaughter's concert when he collapsed. Nancy immediately ran to answer the calls for help and started cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The family is very grateful. Way to go, Nancy!
- Thomas Mitre traveled to Albania for the 1 year memorial ceremony (ta ndaren) of his belated father, Mihail Mitre, from Worcester, Massachusetts and to visit his mother Dhimitra and brother Vasil Mitre. The family cherished this time together sharing memories of their beloved father, Mihail. I perjetshim kujtimi.
- The skiing Oswald's, Jim, Donna, Kim, Daniel & Alex, had a super time in Park City Utah skiing & snowboarding. What great family fun!
- Gloria Sawyer's great niece, Jennifer Nikola, granddaughter of her sister, Mary Dalaku Nikola, graduated on 5/14/11, from Drew University. She graduated summa cum laude, and received a \$500 award from the Sociology Department, for outstanding work. We are all so proud of her. We wish Jennifer all the best!
- Welcome back to all the snowbird Floridians!! Glad you enjoyed yourselves. You missed out on some spectacular blizzards!!
- A special shout-out to Helen Pillary, absolutely one of the pillars of St. Nicholas church since Day 1. We miss you and your beautiful voice and great choral direction.
- Elizabeth Liolin has been accepted into the Mercy College Masters Physician Assistant Program beginning June, 2011. She will complete the program in August, 2013. After working as a Mechanical Engineer for six years, she is in the process of a major career change to health care which she is very excited about! Elizabeth does a wonderful job whatever she tackles. We are all so proud of you. Good luck Lizzie!
- Our sincere sympathy to the Liolin and Liberta families on the passing of Christina Liolin's father, Mario. He was born north of Naples, Italy in Cantalupo nel Sanio and came to America in 1954. He is survived by his wife Anna of 69 years, 2 children, Anthony & Christina, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. This June, Mario would have turned 90 years old and witnessed his 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild! What a beautiful life all around, full of good livin' and lots of love. May his memory be eternal.
- Double Happy, Happy Birthday to Rosanne & Steve Kallinikos, son of Viola Kallinikos, who both celebrated special birthdays. They threw themselves a beautiful, fun-filled, centennial birthday party with a DJ, games and a trip down memory lane with a great slideshow. Family and friends had a wonderful time.
- Baby boy Jacob was born to Haris & Eva (Sheti) Sehic this past September 29th. The parents and grandparents, Dr. Perikli & Kozara Sheti, are delighted with this wonderful addition. This is their second grandchild with Dr. Drilona & Ralf Sheti having little 3-year-old Alyssa. Jacob is a happy baby with a ready smile and a giggle. Alyssa loves her new cousin Jacob, music and conversation. I am told she speaks in Albanian and then translates her words into English. She's already an interpreter! We wish many blessings on the Sheti family and a long, healthy and happy life to Jacob.
- CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE GRADUATES THIS YEAR, whether from pre-school, elementary school, junior high school, high school, college, graduate school or a trade school. What a wonderful accomplishment. We wish you much success as you move on to the next step in life. Bravo!

## Pastor's Message

Continued from Page 1

place but to show us that it is not ours either. He finds us, who through frustration begin to love the grime and lowliness of our fallen estate. We possess our worries and concerns, claiming them even as fundamental parts of ourselves—our identities, our roles. But these, our collections of lonely problems, are not who we are. The Lord calls to us to choose to find ourselves and our world in Him. This new beginning, every new beginning, and there must be many: daily, hourly, seasonally, this is Pascha intruding upon our lives.

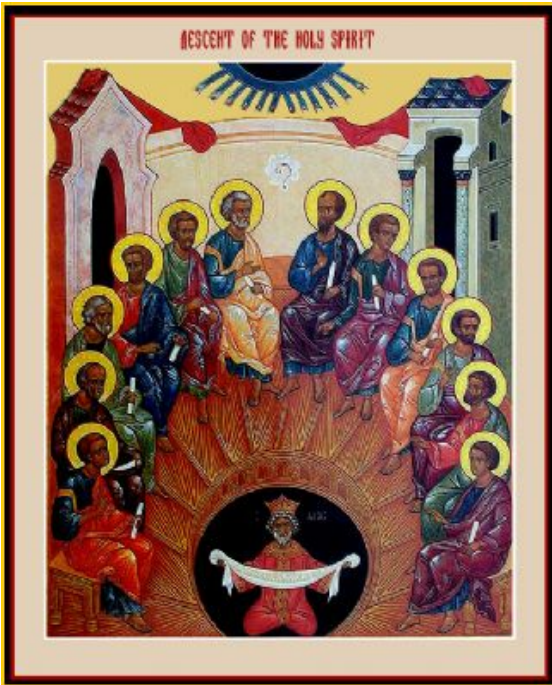
These days, we don't often think much of newness. Once the "New World," the Americas by this phrase seem archaic and naive. With Google maps, no part of creation is uncharted, unfamiliar from the comfort of our chairs. For us, novelty is for the advertisers, whose job it is to sell the old under new guise. The new and unknown, for us Christians, though, is not the stuff of mere legend or children's adventure tales. When we begin afresh with God, the world is blank before us and we are endowed with the charge of Adam: to know and name this place. When we begin afresh with God, our settings and even our selves are not worn and tarnished, known wearily, they are endless avenues and opportunities to see God, His providence, and merciful working always. Pascha is an intrusion because we lazily reach for the familiar with our minds. In love with the dust, we refuse to rise. We see our friends and families as a collection of past wrongs, habits we are sure they cannot break, hurts we can't or won't relinquish. We see our settings as places where we have sinned and witnessed the failings of others. God is not here, for we have banished Him! So Pascha intrudes.

For a couple days more, say and sing, "Christ is Risen!" like you mean it. Let this cry break the shackles of mere memory and declare that this very day the world is made new. God is here. Do not forget. Christ is Risen! Krishti u Ngjall!

## Fr. Nathan's Visit to Idaho

With the blessing of His Grace, our bishop +NIKON, Fr. Nathan traveled to Idaho in May to participate in the consecration of a new Church. Just half an hour south of Canada, the community of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women has served the people of this rural area for four years as a mission. The completion of their new temple is a great accomplishment and marks their commitment to remain a place where all are welcome to find God. His Grace, Bishop +JOSEPH of Los Angeles and the West of the Antiochian Archdiocese in America, presided at the consecration. In attendance were fourteen priests from various jurisdictions and numerous states, several deacons, and hundreds of faithful from the surrounding area. Fr. Nathan was glad both for the opportunity to return to that part of the country where he was raised in order to visit his family and to participate in the formal inauguration of this new community. The V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Horton, pastor of the new parish, holds the distinction of having founded three successful Orthodox Churches in North Idaho and Western Washington in the last twenty years—a testament to his own zeal and diligence and the yearning of this land for the Orthodox Faith. May God grant them many years!





**HOLY PENTECOST**

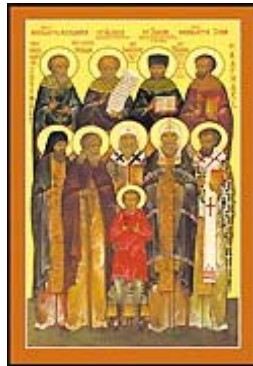
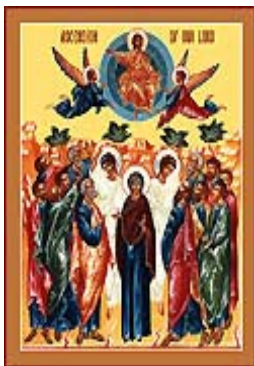
- Commemorated on June 12<sup>th</sup>

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end – the achievement and fulfillment – of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness. This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fullness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fullness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fullness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fullness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation: "Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope, The mystery which is as great as it is precious." In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God "would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh." This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...", the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose "descent" upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit "coming and abiding in us." Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for "verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world." In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles' preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God's Kingdom. All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

**MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN JUNE**



The Ascension of Our Lord  
June 02

Righteous Martha and Mary – sisters of Lazarus  
June 04

Synaxis of the Saints of North America  
June 26

Saints Peter and Paul  
June 29

Synaxis of the All-Praised 12 Apostles  
June 30

Major Church Activities and Events

- Wed, June 01: Vesperal Liturgy for Ascension, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, June 02: Matins for Ascension, 10 a.m.
- Sun, June 05: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
- Mon, June 06: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sat, June 11: Memorial Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.; followed by a Light lunch, and a visit to Mount Tomori for the blessing of graves
- Sun, June 12: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.  
Feast of Pentecost
- Sun, June 19: Divine Liturgy, **9:30 a.m.**  
Fathers' Day – Annual Picnic  
to follow at Manorhaven Park
- Sun, June 26: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Ushers' Schedule  
for Sunday Services  
Lista e sherbimit te dielave ne kishe

- June 05: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera
- June 12: Bill Peters / Ilia Luka
- June 19: Ken Gjika / Izzy Tsamblakos
- June 26: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile
- July 03: Ilir Fundo / Stefan Baltidori

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.stnicholasalbanian.org](http://www.stnicholasalbanian.org)

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church  
181-14 Midland Parkway  
Jamaica Estates, New York 11432



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