



The Sharon Star

A Word Fitly Spoken

By David Luff

I am writing to you today about the importance of the ministry of encouragement. God seems to have gifted some people with a special gift of encouragement. It seems the apostle Barnabas had a special ministry of encouragement. It was so evident in his life that the apostles, instead of addressing him by his given name of Joseph, called him Barnabas which means Son of Encouragement. In the 15th chapter of the Book of Acts we see the evidence of Barnabas' ministry of encouragement. "Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.' Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord" (Acts 15:36-40 NIV). It appears that Paul had lost patience for John Mark because he felt John Mark had "deserted" them on a previous journey. Perhaps John Mark had showed some immaturity and had sort of bailed out when things got a little too uncomfortable. The scripture does not give us that detail. Nevertheless, Barnabas was not ready to give up on John Mark and seemed to feel that with his mentoring, Mark's ministry could grow and develop in a positive way. Apparently that was the case because we see later on that Paul asked for John Mark because he had become helpful to Paul in his ministry. "Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry" (2 Tim. 4:11 NIV).

We may not all have that special ministry of encouragement, but we can all seek to become better encouragers. However, we must let the Holy Spirit cultivate that attribute into our lives. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2 KJV). In order for the Spirit to renew our minds in the area of encouragement, we must consciously be alert to His leading and teaching in this area.

After I graduated from college and before I began my career as a chemical engineer, my dad told me to always be sincerely interested in other people, and regardless of their station in life, their input to your work assignments will be very valuable. They will have learned things through experience that you have not had. Acknowledging and showing appreciation for their insight will not only be helpful to you, but will also be an encouragement to them, that you value their expertise. He was right, and I never forgot his advice. It is the same advice God gives us in Phil. 2:4

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(NIV), “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” When we show interest in others it lets them know we have been thinking about them and that we are interested in what is going on in their lives. If we are totally honest, we must admit that all of us enjoy talking about things that are important in our lives; our families, work, hobbies, even our problems. “ ‘I have the right to do anything’ you say—but not everything is beneficial. ‘I have the right to do anything’—but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others” (I Cor. 10:23-24 NIV).

Encouragement is very important when people are going through a difficult time. God knows the importance of encouragement for people who are facing difficult challenges. Before Joshua was to lead the children into the Promised Land, God told Moses to give Joshua some words of encouragement. “But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it” (Deut. 1:38 KJV). “But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see” (Deut. 3:28 KJV). I always thought that the way God spoke to Joshua directly in the first chapter of Joshua was very interesting. In verse 9 He said this, “Have I not commanded you? Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9 NIV). Why did God encourage Joshua not to be terrified and discouraged? It was because He knew he would face terrifying and discouraging things. The same is true in our lives today. Many are literally facing terrifying and discouraging things in their daily lives. As with Joshua, God, through the Holy Spirit, comes along side to help and encourage us in our troubles. However, as members of the Body of Christ, we are all in this walk together. “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep” (Rom. 12:15 KJV). God expects us to speak His words of encouragement to our brothers and sisters who are going through hard times. Sometimes just a word or two at the right time can mean the world to someone who is going through a struggle. “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver” (Proverbs 25:11 KJV).

Another way we encourage others is to provide words and acts of comfort when people are hurting. “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all

comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows” (2 Cor. 1:3-5 KJV).

I have great admiration for Nehemiah. He faced some very difficult challenges as a leader of God’s people in their job to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. His example should be an inspiration to all of us. “And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease. And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you. Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows. And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the LORD, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses” (Neh. 4:11-14 NIV). As husbands and fathers it is important for us to be courageous encouragers of our sons, daughters, and wives as well as our brethren for the days in which we live are evil. “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:15-17 KJV).

It seems to be a popular belief among many that if we compliment students in the classroom or workers in the workplace or children in the home, etc. those people will become complacent and will not be motivated to continue to improve their performance. Nothing could be further from the truth. Positive reinforcement for desirable behavior encourages more of the desirable behavior. Now there is a place for punishment. It must be employed when certain bad behavior must be stopped. Let’s read what God has to say about punishment. “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh

which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby” (Hebrews 12:5-11 KJV). This passage confirms that no chastening (punishment) is joyous. It is rather grievous. It is designed to stop the undesirable behavior. However, when behavior turns 180 degrees into the positive direction and we see even small evidences of good behavior, we should reinforce it with positive and encouraging words. “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it” (Prov. 3:27 KJV). This type of reinforcement will encourage even greater levels of the desired behavior. I heard one time that it takes four acts of positive reinforcement to offset one act of criticism or chastening. Let me say again, there is a need for chastening from time to time for both children and adults. However, let us not forget to train ourselves to look for and reinforce the evidence of desired behavior as soon as we see it. It takes conscious effort to do this. You look for good things in people the way you would look for a valuable lost object. You look for it with purpose. When you observe it you express your appreciation for it and say how it has blessed you. I’m not talking about flattery. Flattery is based in selfishness of the flatterer. Encouragement on the other hand has the interests of the one encouraged at heart. We have the “power” to do “good.” Let us not “withhold it from them to whom it is due.”

Another thing I learned some time ago is that effective positive reinforcement has the following characteristics:

1. It is specific (not general – identifies the specific positive behavior observed).
2. It is timely (is given as close in time to the observed good behavior as possible).
3. It is sincere (it is behavior that has actually been observed – not flattery).

As brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ we have a special opportunity to encourage one another in our Christian walk. “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10 KJV). We should be especially sensitive to encouraging one another in the exercise of our gifts and ministries. We all need the encouragement of one another in this area. We have

all experienced shyness and reluctance especially in public ministry such as prophecy, singing in the Spirit, giving our testimony, etc. When a brother or sister steps out with fear and trembling and ministers their gift, we as fellow members of the Body should listen very carefully so that we can let the Holy Spirit speak to our spirits through them. Then we should, at the earliest appropriate time, say to that person specifically how their ministry spoke to us. Don’t just say you appreciated their ministry in a general way. It takes more effort to really listen to ministry and concentrate on how the Spirit would speak to us. In this way we not only encourage the person in a specific, timely, and sincere way, but we allow ourselves to be truly blessed by their ministry.

Even within the church it seems easier to find the faults of others rather than seeing those Christ-like attributes in them. God knew this would be our tendency, so He gave us this scripture; “Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:16-17 KJV). May the Holy Spirit renew our minds in such a way that we start seeing our Christian brothers and sisters, regardless of how flawed, as new creations and which are becoming new. We are all still flawed in many ways that are easy for others to see, but we are all on the way to sonship. I’m sure that most of you were taught by your mothers as I was, “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” This is good advice as far as it goes, but God calls us to go further. “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen” (Eph. 4:29 NIV). In order to build others up according to their needs, we have to know people well enough to see what their needs are. This takes effort on our part.

Today we are so busy with our own agendas that we don’t take the time to really find out what is going on with other people, even our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord. Let us open our hearts and minds to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit to help us to become more sensitive to the needs of others and the opportunities to encourage them. If we have the desire, the Spirit will help us to identify the opportunities that we have to encourage others. Then it is up to us to be obedient to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to take advantage of the opportunities He shows us.

Knowing Your Ministry

By Andy Snoke

1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

1 Timothy 4:14 -16 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery (group of elders). Be diligent in these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy progress (growth) may be manifest (evident) unto all. Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee.

And so writes the Apostle Paul (about 60 years old) to young Timothy (in his 30's) as an exhortation to be faithful to his ministry. By the time the Lord called the apostle Paul, the Spirit of God had already laid the groundwork for the method in which the believers could be gifted and understand their individual ministry.

You can imagine the blessing that this "laying on of the hands of the presbytery" was to the church at that hour. Souls had been ushered into the Kingdom of God with this new gospel of Grace on the day of Pentecost. Men and women were endued with a new power from heaven with the mighty infilling of

the Holy Spirit. And now, it was possible to receive "gifts of the spirit," and understanding in specific detail regarding each person's individual ministry.

No longer were people destined to spend their days simply waiting for the return of the Lord, now they could live and minister with the gifted calling that the Lord would make known over their lives through the ministry and prayer of the apostles. Prophecy would be given, and the Lord would speak, empower, and gift individuals for their specific callings.

The Lord through the Holy Spirit would impart some (not all) of the 9 gifts of the Spirit as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10:

Three gifts of Revelation:

1. The word of Wisdom
2. The word of Knowledge
3. The discerning of Spirits

Three gifts of Power.

1. The gift of Faith
2. The gifts of Healing
3. The working of Miracles

Three gifts of Utterances.

1. The gift of Prophecy
2. The gift of Tongues
3. The gift of interpretation of Tongues.

As the decades became centuries after the outpouring on Pentecost, men would gradually substitute natural gifts and abilities for the genuine gifts of the Spirit. As mankind slid into the dark ages, the voice of the apostles slowly faded, to be replaced with religion of tradition. The understanding and empowerment in an individual's ministry became much more difficult without the word of prophecy by the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

By the time the 1900's had arrived, the Lord had begun a new work of restoration and men and women were calling out with a new hunger for God and His gifts.

In Canada some six decades ago, the Holy Spirit moved yet again with spiritual restoration, by restoring this wonderful blessing of prophecy by the presbytery. Though this gift may have operated in a

IMPORTANT DATES

- Fort Collins, CO Feb. 24th - 26th, 2012
- North Carolina Winter Camp Feb. 24th - 26th, 2012
- Feast..... April 5th - 8th, 2012
- Henry, Illinois April 29th - May 1st, 2012
- North Battleford Camp..... July 1st - 8th, 2012
- North Carolina Camp..... July 22nd - 28th, 2012
- Pinelaw (Washington) Camp August 6th - 12th, 2012
- Caribbean Camp (Trinidad) August 5th - 12th, 2012
- Park Valley Labour Day Aug. 31st - Sept. 3rd, 2012
- Winkler Family Camp Aug. 31st - Sept. 3rd, 2012
- Hidden Acres Family Camp. Aug. 31st - Sept. 3rd 2012

crippled or incomplete manner previously, the Lord moved mightily by restoring this blessing to the church with a renewed authority.

In the book “Feast of Tabernacles,” the author recounts what took place in 1948 in North Battleford, SK, Canada as follows:

In the beginning GOD...“So it was that in the spring of 1948 God came forth in answer to the prayer and fasting of his children, poured out the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and revealed the fact that now at this time He would bring His Body together and make of His Church one glorious Church without spot or wrinkle. It was a day long treasured up in the counsels of God. On February 12 and 13, 1948, the Revival started. An eyewitness testifies as follows:

Three buildings on the Airport at North Battleford, SK composed Sharon Orphanage and Schools at its beginning in the fall of 1947. About 70 students gathered to study the Word of God, and fast and pray. After about three months the Revival suddenly began in our largest classroom where the entire student body was gathered for devotional exercises. One young man told me that when he was five years old, God gave him a vision of that classroom. Everything in it was identical. He saw God moving in a way he could not understand.

I shall never forget the morning that God moved into our midst in this strange new manner. Some students were under the power of God on the floor, others were kneeling in adoration and worship before the Lord. The anointing deepened until the awe of God was upon everyone. The Lord spoke to one of the brethren, “Go and lay hands upon a certain student and pray for him.” While he was in doubt and contemplation, one of the sisters who had been under the power of God went to the brother saying the same words, and naming the identical student he was to pray for. He went in obedience, and a revelation was given concerning the student’s life and future ministry. After this a long prophecy was given with minute details concerning the great thing God was about to do. The pattern for the Revival and many details concerning it were given. To this day I can remember the gist of the prophecy, and will try to repeat some things that were spoken. “These are the last days, my people. The coming of the Lord draweth nigh, and I shall move in the midst of mine own.

The gifts of the Spirit will be restored to my Church. If thou shalt obey me I shall immediately restore them... But oh, my people, I would have you to be reverent before. Take the shoes from off thy feet

for the ground on which thou standest is holy. If thou dost not reverence the Lord in His House, the Lord shall require it at thy hands.

Thou hast obeyed Me, and I shall restore my gifts to you. I shall indicate from time to time those who are ready to receive the gifts of My Spirit. They shall be received by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Immediately following this prophecy a sister who was under the power of God gave by revelation the names of five students who were ready to receive. Hands were laid upon them by the presbytery. This procedure was very faltering and imperfect that first morning, but after two days of searching the Word of God to see if we were on scriptural grounds, great unity prevailed and the Lord came forth in greater power and glory day by day (end of book excerpt).”

I would like to emphasize, that with this new authority and revelation, there were two key truths involved in “laying on of the hands of the presbytery” and prophecy over individuals.

One- The Lord would indicate from “time to time”.

The Lord had said in prophesy that cold Feb. morning, warmed by the glow of the Holy Spirit, that He would indicate “from time to time” those who were ready to receive the gifts of the Spirit.

God’s timing and leading became of paramount importance. The gifting and prophecy over an individual was not to be done by the will or enthusiasm of man, but only by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Once a soul’s ministry is divinely revealed, empowered, and gifted, it becomes a solemn responsibility to remain faithful to that calling the remainder of his/her earthly days. It would be better to NOT know the specific will of God for one’s life, than it is to know and not be faithful.

Two- They shall be received by prophecy and the laying of the hands of the presbytery.

1Timothy 4:14 -16 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

A presbytery is referring to a “group of elders” and the inference is on those that God has appointed for this work. This ministry of prophetic prayer over an individual was never meant to be performed by one individual acting alone, but only through the safety of a group of elders (divinely appointed by God) under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We live in a day, sad to say, that the air waves are polluted with self appointed, well meaning yet false prophets speaking their words as a substitute

for God's. This is the danger of operating in what a person speculates on his own as to what the Lord's ministry is for others, and then ministers alone with no balance of other brethren.

The Lord has not called this new body of believers to be a conglomeration of individuals who minister unbalanced and unchecked of one another. He has instead called us to be a living, breathing, functioning body, with its own unique order, connected and balanced with one another.

In simple terms, the method we have become blessed and accustomed to through this last outpouring of revelation is as follows;

1. From time to time, the Lord will indicate to those that share in the apostolic calling, that there is a need for a presbytery to visit a certain place/ local assembly.

2. When assembling for this purpose, from time to time, the Lord will indicate to more than one of these brethren, to pray over a specific individual for his/her gifts and ministry.

3. In most cases, the local elders will be asked to join the brethren forming the safety and covering of the presbytery.

4. Hands are laid on the individual, and the presbytery prays and prophesies as the Lord leads and the individual is made aware in specific words what his/her ministry, calling and gifts are.

In closing, if you have never been prayed over for your ministry, ask God for the right timing. If you are blessed as a reader of this article to belong to a local assembly, mention your hunger to the local elders. Be ready to be faithful to your calling. The Lord wants you to know your ministry in clear terms.

And it is he who gifted some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, and still others to be pastors and teachers, to perfect the saints, to do the work of ministry, and to build up the body of Christ until all of us are united in the faith and in the full knowledge of God's Son, and until we attain mature adulthood and the full standard of development in Christ. Then we will no longer be little children, tossed like waves and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, or by clever strategies that would lead us astray. Instead, by speaking the truth in love, we will grow up completely into the one who is the head, that is, into Christ, in whom the whole body is united and held together by every ligament with which it is supplied. As each individual part does its job, the body's growth is promoted so that it builds itself up in love (Ephesians 4:11-16 ISV).

Trust

Lord, help me trust you through testing and trials.
As I am walking this Earth day by day,
Trusting in you as I walk through the fire,
Lord, you have promised to make a way.

Lord, as I walk through very deep waters,
You also promised they'll not overflow.
I'll bear my cross and follow your footprints,
Your word declared I will reign with you.

As I am musing your fire is burning,
I feel your Spirit deep down in my heart.
Lord, fill my heart with your compassion,
Make me a blessing to someone today.

And then one day when my journey had ended,
I've run the race and finished my course.
Oh what joy shall fill my heart,
When you will say "My Child welcome home."

(By – Ewald H. Wanagas. March, 14, 2011)

Based on Scriptures Below

Verse 1

James 1:12 – 1 Peter 1:3-9 – Isaiah 43:2

Verse 2

Isaiah 43:2 – Matthew 11:28-30
– Romans 8:16-18

Verse 3

Jeremiah 20:9 – Psalm 39:3 – Mark 1:40-42
– Matthew 20:30-34

Verse 4

1 Peter 1:8,9 – Isaiah 43:2
– Matthew 25:14-30 – 2 Timothy 4:7,8

BOOKS AVAILABLE:

MESSAGES TO THE CHURCH
- *The writings of Herrick Holt*

BORN FROM ABOVE
- *The writings of W. Douglas Whitter*

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE
- *The writings of Allen M. Hinchliff*

The Pearl of Great Price

By H. Holt

Kingdom is far beyond what the average believer enjoys. This maybe caused because the horizon they have, never allows them to catch a glimpse of that glorious age.

Doom and gloom is the general message that thunders over the air, by T.V. and radio. This is not what Isaiah saw. Jeremiah and many others saw God as victor and the Golden age of the Kingdom near at hand. They saw judgments but they were captivated by the greater.

Jesus mentioned the sower went forth to sow — Seed fell on the Wayside. Roads are never ploughed so there was no chance of survival. Seed fell on the rock pile. Little got started but couldn't continue for there was not enough soil. Some fell on good ground and there it yielded differently. The crop wasn't the same for there were yields according to the soil conditions, one hundred-fold, sixty-fold and thirty-fold.

Jesus then stresses, if you have ears to hear what has been said, most apply this to the poor sinner, but Jesus wanted us to hear. They questioned the parables and wondered why the mystery. Jesus was using a very earthly message loaded with heavenly truth. "Because it is given unto you to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matt. 13: 11). Blessed are the eyes that see, ears that hear.

He explained this mystery for them so all with ears would hear and all with eyes could see. The first seed sown fell on the road. When you hear the Gospel of the Kingdom and it isn't getting into your heart, then the Devil snatches away the little you have heard.

The second was — stony places. Here one hears but dull is the comprehension. No root system is formed, and tribulation and persecution destroys what he heard.

The third was — thorny places. This is more subtle than any other. He heareth the word. Two things more subtle than persecution or tribulation attacks it. These are legitimate forces but more destructive. First, the "cares of this world." If you were to sit down and count what you call the cares of life, they would fill a book. The second is, "The deceitfulness of riches." When these attack one, the utter end is, "they choke out the word and he becomes unfruitful."

The Pearl of Great Price has been described as many things. It could be all these things no doubt. This pearl grows in mollusk in the depths of the sea. It

commences with a little stone finding its place inside the shell and is an irritant. The mollusk keeps covering it for many years with a beautiful substance, layer by layer.

If a pearl was cut through, it would have the same formation as an onion, ring upon ring. It is a precious gem and has held this place over the centuries. It is soft not like a gem of the earth. Earthly gems reflect broken light but this gem absorbs light, then it glows with its borrowed light. This gem if worn must be washed frequently for perspiration will damage it. I need not spend time or space to apply this to your life. Ponder over it for this truth of the coming Kingdom needs ears to hear and eyes to see.

Check the message Jesus gave that day to his own. He was not talking about the dispensation of Grace but of the coming Kingdom. You can be saved but full of cares and anxiety and fears, worrying about all your failures and losses and the things that have gone wrong. You can see where others have everything and you have nothing. You can covet the wealth of this age and all that fills your mind is described as "Getting ahead". The drive to get wealth is called ambition and is lauded by all around us. Jesus said you can get all this and be a loser.

The time has come to HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM. The things of this life are in a bad way. They are explosive. Men's hearts will fail them because they can't cope with the trend.

People are rushing to buy gold for they remember the days when paper money and bank deposits were nothing. The only way to keep from falling into this turmoil is answered in the teachings of our Lord. These are not fancy sermons but rivers of flowing truth.

(reprinted from the Sharon Star,
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PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE

- **The Present Move Of God**
- **The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit**
- **You Are Loved • Growing In Christ**
 - **Born From Above**
- **Honor The Lord With Thy Substance**
- **A Word To The Wise • Sexual Intimacy**
 - **A Testimony - M. Sundbo**

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