

Voices The Final Hours Of Joan Of Arc Reference

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The final hours of Joan of Arc remain one of the most poignant and compelling moments in history. As a young peasant girl who rose to become a military leader and symbol of faith, her demise encapsulates themes of bravery, faith, and injustice. Understanding the voices that reportedly guided Joan in her last moments provides deeper insight into her character, her beliefs, and the historical context of her martyrdom. This article explores the narrative of her final hours, the nature of the voices she claimed to hear, and their significance in her legacy.

The Context Leading to Joan of Arc's Trial and Execution

Before delving into her final hours, it's essential to understand the circumstances surrounding Joan's capture, trial, and eventual execution.

The Capture and Imprisonment

- Joan was captured in 1430 during a military campaign and handed over to the Burgundians, allies of the English.
- She was imprisoned and eventually transferred to Rouen, where her trial would take place.

The Trial of Joan of Arc

- Conducted by Bishop Pierre Cauchon, it was politically motivated, aiming to discredit her and the Dauphin Charles VII.
- The trial was a mix of legal proceedings and ideological persecution, with charges including heresy, cross-dressing, and alleged heretical visions.

The Sentencing and Execution

- Joan was found guilty of heresy and witchcraft.
- She was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431, in Rouen, France.

The Voices of Joan of Arc: An Overview

Joan of Arc consistently claimed that she heard voices from saints and divine figures guiding her actions. These voices played a crucial role throughout her life and, notably, in her final hours.

The Nature of the Voices

- Joan described her voices as clear and authoritative.
- They were identified as saints: Saint Catherine, Saint Margaret, and Saint Michael.
- The voices provided guidance, reassurance, and directives, especially during critical moments.

The Significance of the Voices in Her Life

- They motivated her to lead French troops against the English.
- They reinforced her sense of divine mission.
- They offered comfort and affirmation during moments of doubt and danger.

The Final Hours: A Narrative of Joan's Last Moments

Joan's final hours are documented through trial records, eyewitness testimonies, and later historical analysis. These accounts reveal her composure, faith, and the role her divine voices played in her resolve.

The Day of Her Execution

- Joan was led to the stake, dressed in her penitential garments.
- She was calm and resolute, reportedly singing psalms and praying aloud.
- Her final moments were marked by a profound sense of spiritual conviction.

The Voices in Her Final Moments

- According to testimonies, Joan continued to hear her divine voices during her execution.
- She reportedly maintained her faith and refused to recant her visions.
- Her words at the stake expressed her unwavering belief in her divine mission.

Eyewitness Accounts and Testimonies

- Witnesses noted her fearless stance and composed demeanor.
- Some reports mention her calling out to her voices, reaffirming her faith.
- Her last words included expressions of trust in God and the saints she heard.

Theological and Historical Interpretations of Joan's Voices

Understanding the voices from a theological and historical perspective sheds light on their significance.

The Divine Inspiration Perspective

- Many believe Joan's voices were a genuine divine call, affirming her role as a prophet and martyr.
- Her unwavering faith and courage support the view that her visions were authentic.

The Skeptical Viewpoint

- Some historians suggest her voices could have been a psychological phenomenon or hallucinations.
- The context of her trial and the political motives raise questions about her claims.

The Impact of Her Voices on Her Legacy

- The divine voices contributed to her sainthood and martyrdom.
- They inspired subsequent generations and fueled her canonization process.

The Legacy of Joan of Arc and Her Voices

Joan's final hours and her reported visions have cemented her legacy as a saint, martyr, and national heroine.

Canonization and Recognition

- Joan was canonized in 1920 by the Catholic Church.
- Her visions and voices are celebrated as evidence of her sanctity.

Cultural and Artistic Depictions

- Her story has inspired countless artworks, plays, and films.
- The voices are often portrayed as divine whispers guiding her destiny.

Modern Interpretations and Significance

- Joan's experience continues to be studied in psychology, theology, and history.
- Her unwavering faith and conviction remain an inspiration for many.

Conclusion

The voices the final hours of Joan of Arc depict a young woman steadfast in her faith and divine calling. Whether seen as divine communications, psychological phenomena, or a combination of both, her voices played a pivotal role in shaping her destiny and enduring legacy. Her final moments, filled with conviction and spiritual resolve, continue to resonate through history as a testament to her extraordinary life and unwavering belief. Joan's story reminds us of the profound impact that faith and conviction can have, even in the face of death, inspiring countless generations to stand firm in their beliefs and pursue their divine missions.

Voices the Final Hours of Joan of Arc: An In-Depth Exploration

Few figures in history have experienced a death as profoundly symbolic and spiritually charged as Joan of Arc. Her final hours remain one of the most compelling and debated moments in medieval history, shrouded in religious fervor, political intrigue, and personal conviction. The phrase voices the final hours of Joan of Arc encapsulates not only the literal auditory hallucinations she reportedly experienced but also the enduring mystery and myth surrounding her last moments before martyrdom. This guide aims to dissect the historical accounts, analyze the significance of her final words and perceptions, and explore how her voice—both literal and metaphorical—continues to resonate through history.

The Context of Joan of Arc's Final Hours

Before delving into the details of her last moments, understanding the context is crucial. Joan of Arc, a peasant girl from Domrémy, claimed to have received divine visions instructing her to support Charles VII and help reclaim France from English occupation during the Hundred Years' War. Her leadership culminated in the coronation of Charles VII but also led to her capture, trial, and eventual execution.

- Her Capture and Trial: Joan was captured by Burgundian troops allied with the English in 1430. Her trial was politically motivated, aiming to discredit her and undermine French legitimacy.

- The Charges: She faced charges of heresy, cross-dressing (wearing male military attire), and spiritual disobedience.
- Her Final Day: On May 30, 1431, Joan was brought to the stake in Rouen, accused of witchcraft and heresy, and ultimately burned alive.

The Voices She Heard: A Spiritual and Psychological Perspective

One of the most intriguing aspects of Joan's final hours is her reported experience of hearing voices and visions throughout her life, which intensified as she faced death.

What Did Joan Say About Her Voices?

Historical records, primarily from her trial transcripts, indicate that Joan claimed to hear the voices of saints and angels—most notably Saint Catherine, Saint Margaret, and Saint Michael. These voices guided her actions and bolstered her resolve during her campaigns.

- Descriptions of Her Voices:
- Guidance during battle: Joan believed her voices directed her to certain strategic decisions.
- Comfort in her final moments: Witnesses recount her speaking to her voices as she faced her death, sometimes whispering or seemingly conversing.
- Reluctance and resolve: She expressed a desire to obey her divine voices, even if it meant risking her life.

The Psychological and Theological Interpretations

Scholars and psychologists have debated whether Joan's voices were divine, hallucinations, or a combination of both.

- Religious Interpretation: Many believe Joan genuinely experienced divine visions, a sign of her piety and divine favor.
- Psychological Perspective: Some suggest her voices could have been hallucinations—possibly caused by stress, trauma, or mental health conditions.
- Historical Context: In a deeply religious society, claiming divine voices reinforced her legitimacy and moral authority.

The Account of Her Final Moments

Multiple sources, including her trial records, eyewitness testimonies, and later historical analyses, give us a picture of Joan's final hours.

The Day of Her Execution

- Preparation for Death:
 - Joan was dressed in her execution clothes, which included her male attire?a point used against her during her trial.
 - She was calm, resolute, and reportedly aware of her impending death.
- Her Words and Actions:
 - According to witnesses, Joan expressed no fear and maintained her faith.
 - She invoked the name of Jesus Christ and the saints.
 - She reportedly forgave her executioners and expressed hope for her soul?s salvation.

The Role of Her Voices in Her Final Moments

While direct accounts of her last words vary, some narratives suggest:

- Joan was heard speaking softly, possibly to her voices or saints she believed were present.
- She might have had a vision or hearing the voices as she faced the flames?a moment where her spiritual experiences culminated.
- Her composed demeanor has been interpreted as evidence of her divine conviction or mental resilience.

The Aftermath: Echoes of Her Voice and Legacy

The significance of voices the final hours of Joan of Arc extends beyond her death, influencing her legacy and the way her story is remembered.

Posthumous Recognition

- Her canonization efforts: Joan was canonized as a saint in 1920, with her divine visions and voices viewed as evidence of her sanctity.
- Historical debates: Some skeptics argue her visions were psychological; others see her as a genuine mystic.

Modern Interpretations and Cultural Impact

- Literary and Artistic Portrayals: Her voices have been depicted in countless works, emphasizing her spiritual communication.

- Psychological Studies: Researchers analyze her experiences through the lens of mental health and visionary states.

The Symbolism of Joan's Voices in Contemporary Discourse

Joan's voices symbolize more than her personal spiritual experience—they embody the tension between faith, mental health, and political power.

Key Themes

- Divine Inspiration vs. Mental Illness: Her voices are often at the center of discussions about prophetic visions and hallucinations.
- Martyrdom and Voice of Conscience: Her unwavering commitment to her divine voices underscores her moral conviction and sacrifice.
- Historical Memory and Mythmaking: How her voices have been interpreted reflects cultural attitudes towards mysticism and authority.

Conclusion: The Enduring Mystery of Joan of Arc's Final Voices

The voices the final hours of Joan of Arc remain an enduring symbol of divine inspiration, personal conviction, and the complex interplay between perception and reality. Whether viewed through a religious lens or psychological perspective, her final moments continue to inspire debates about faith, mental health, and the power of voice—both literal and metaphorical—in shaping history.

Joan's story reminds us that her voices—her divine communication—transcended her death, echoing through centuries as a testament to unwavering faith and resilience. As we reflect on her last hours, we recognize the profound impact of her spiritual voice, which continues to speak to us across time, inviting us to consider the deeper truths of conviction, mysticism, and sacrifice.

Further Reading and Resources:

- Trial transcripts of Joan of Arc's trial
- Biographies: "Joan of Arc: A History" by Helen Castor
- Psychological analyses of visionary experiences
- Documentaries and films exploring Joan's life and death

Question What are the voices Joan of Arc reportedly heard during her final hours? Joan of Arc claimed to hear divine voices calling her to lead France to victory. During her final hours, she reportedly heard these spiritual voices urging her to remain steadfast and accept her fate, which she

believed were messages from saints guiding her toward her destiny. How do historical accounts describe Joan of Arc's demeanor in her last moments? Historical accounts suggest that Joan of Arc faced her execution with courage and composure. She reportedly expressed faith in her divine voices, believed she was fulfilling her divine mission, and maintained her spiritual resolve during her final hours. What role did Joan of Arc's visions and voices play in her trial and execution? Joan of Arc's visions and voices were central to her trial, as her accusers accused her of heresy for claiming divine guidance. Her insistence on hearing these voices and her divine mission ultimately led to her condemnation, but these spiritual experiences remain a key part of her legacy. Are there any modern interpretations of Joan of Arc's final voices? Modern scholars and psychologists sometimes interpret Joan's voices as personal spiritual experiences or psychological phenomena. Some suggest they were genuine divine visions, while others see them as a product of her intense religious conviction and mental state. How have depictions of Joan of Arc's voices influenced her legacy in art and literature? Depictions of Joan's divine voices have profoundly shaped her legacy, inspiring countless works of art, literature, and film. They emphasize her spiritual mission and martyrdom, portraying her as a prophet guided by divine voices, which has cemented her status as a symbol of faith and patriotism. What significance do Joan of Arc's final words and voices hold in understanding her martyrdom? Joan's final words and her claimed divine voices underscore her unwavering faith and conviction. They highlight her view of herself as a chosen messenger, and her steadfastness in the face of death has made her a martyr, inspiring generations with her spiritual resilience. How do religious traditions interpret the voices Joan of Arc heard in her final hours? Many religious traditions regard Joan of Arc's voices as authentic divine communication, affirming her sainthood and her role as a prophet. The Catholic Church, for instance, recognizes her visions and voices as evidence of her sainthood, viewing her as a martyr guided by divine inspiration.

Related keywords: Joan of Arc, final hours, death, martyrdom, French history, medieval France, trial, heresy, religious visions, sainthood

SAINT JOAN

Discovering the Life and Legacy of Saint Joan

Saint Joan, also known as Joan of Arc, is one of the most iconic and revered figures in French history and Christian hagiography. Her extraordinary life, marked by her unwavering faith, remarkable bravery, and tragic demise, has inspired countless generations. As a peasant girl who rose to lead armies and challenge societal norms, her story embodies courage, conviction, and divine inspiration. This article explores the life, achievements, and enduring legacy of **Saint Joan**.

Early Life of Saint Joan

Birth and Background

- Born circa 1412 in Domrémy, a small village in northeastern France.
- Belonged to a humble peasant family; her father was a farmer.
- Raised in a devout Christian environment, instilling strong religious values.

Childhood and Spiritual Visions

- From a young age, Joan exhibited a deep piety and a sense of divine purpose.
- Reported experiencing visions and hearing voices of saints, particularly Saint Catherine, Saint Margaret, and Saint Michael.
- These spiritual experiences profoundly influenced her sense of destiny and mission.

The Call to Leadership

The Divine Inspiration

By her teenage years, Joan believed she was chosen by God to lead France to victory during the Hundred Years' War. Her visions directed her to support Charles VII, the Dauphin, and to help him reclaim his throne from English occupation.

Journey to the Court of Charles VII

- Joan left her home to meet Charles VII, risking her life as a young girl and outsider.
- Convinced him of her divine mission after demonstrating her faith and determination.
- Faced skepticism but ultimately gained acceptance and trust from the Dauphin.

Joan of Arc's Military Campaigns

Leading the French Army

In 1429, Joan received permission to accompany the French troops and participate in military strategy. Her leadership boosted morale and inspired troops in critical battles.

The Siege of Orléans

- Marked as a turning point in the Hundred Years' War.

- Joan played a pivotal role in lifting the siege, encouraging the troops and leading assaults.
- Her presence was seen as a divine sign, motivating the French forces to victory.

Advancement Toward Reims

Following the victory at Orléans, Joan guided Charles VII to Reims to be crowned king, reinforcing his legitimacy and consolidating her influence.

The Trial and Martyrdom of Saint Joan

Capture and Trial

- In 1430, Joan was captured by Burgundian troops allied with the English.
- She was handed over to the English and put on trial for charges including heresy, cross-dressing (wearing male military attire), and witchcraft.
- The trial was politically motivated, aiming to discredit her and undermine her influence.

Conviction and Execution

- Joan was found guilty and was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431, in Rouen, France, at approximately 19 years old.
- Her death was seen as a martyrdom for her faith and her country.

Canonization and Recognition as a Saint

Posthumous Rehabilitation

- In 1456, a papal retrial cleared Joan of all charges, declaring her a martyr.
- Her reputation was restored, and she was venerated as a heroine and saint.

Canonization Process

- Beatified in 1909 by Pope Pius X.
- Canonized as a saint in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

The Significance of Saint Joan in History and Faith

Her Role as a National Hero

- Joan is celebrated as a symbol of French unity and patriotism.
- Her story embodies the resilience and spirit of resistance against oppression.

Religious and Cultural Impact

- Recognized as a saint of the Catholic Church, especially venerated in France.
- Her feast day is celebrated on May 30.
- Inspired numerous works of art, literature, and theater, including the famous play by George Bernard Shaw.

Legacy and Modern Interpretations of Saint Joan

In Literature and Art

- Joan's life has been depicted in countless paintings, sculptures, and literary works.
- Notable works include Shakespeare's "Henry VI" plays and Shaw's "Saint Joan."

In Popular Culture

- Joan is portrayed in films, television series, and historical documentaries.
- Her story continues to inspire discussions on faith, patriotism, and women's leadership.

Contemporary Relevance

- Joan's unwavering conviction serves as a model for courage and integrity.
- Her legacy encourages discussions on religious freedom and national identity.
- She remains a symbol of hope and perseverance for many around the world.

Visiting Sites Related to Saint Joan

Rouen, France

- The site of her execution and the place where her final trial took place.

- The Joan of Arc Historical Museum offers insights into her life and legacy.
- Rouen Cathedral, where her trial was held, is a prominent historical landmark.

Domrémy-la-Pucelle

- Her birthplace and a pilgrimage site for those honoring her memory.
- Features a museum dedicated to her life and a reconstructed family home.

Conclusion: The Enduring Spirit of Saint Joan

Saint Joan remains an enduring symbol of faith, courage, and national pride. Her story, from humble beginnings to becoming a legendary military leader and saint, continues to inspire millions worldwide. Whether remembered for her divine visions, her leadership in battle, or her martyrdom, Joan of Arc's legacy transcends time. Her life reminds us of the power of conviction and the importance of standing firm in one's beliefs, even in the face of overwhelming adversity. As a saint and national heroine, **Saint Joan** exemplifies the enduring human spirit's capacity for hope, resilience, and divine inspiration.

Saint Joan: An Investigative Exploration of a Martyr, Mystic, and Revolutionary

The figure of Saint Joan has long captivated historians, theologians, and cultural commentators alike. Revered as a martyr, a visionary, and a symbol of unwavering conviction, Joan of Arc's life and legacy continue to resonate across centuries. This comprehensive investigation aims to peel back the layers of her story, examining her historical context, her spiritual experiences, her role in shaping French national identity, and the enduring debates surrounding her canonization and cultural impact.

Introduction: Who Was Saint Joan?

Joan of Arc, born circa 1412 in Domrémy, a small village in northeastern France, is a figure whose life defies simple categorization. She rose from humble beginnings to become a military leader, a religious visionary, and ultimately, a saint. Her story is intertwined with the tumultuous period of the Hundred Years' War, a protracted conflict between England and France that defined her era.

Historically, Joan's life was brief—she was approximately 19 or 20 years old at her death in 1431—but her influence has been profound and long-lasting. Her life encapsulates themes of faith, nationalism, gender roles, and the power of individual conviction against oppressive institutions.

Historical Context: France in the Early 15th Century

Understanding Joan's story requires a grasp of the complex political landscape of France during the early 1400s.

The Hundred Years' War and Its Impact

The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) was characterized by intermittent battles, shifting alliances, and internal conflicts within France. During Joan's lifetime, the war was at a critical juncture:

- The English held significant territories in France, including Normandy and Aquitaine.
- The French monarchy was weakened, embroiled in internal disputes and civil unrest.
- The dauphin (heir to the throne), Charles VII, was largely considered the legitimate king but lacked widespread recognition until Joan's intervention.

Political and Religious Turmoil

This period was also marked by religious upheaval and a crisis of faith within France. The Catholic Church wielded immense influence, but the period saw increasing skepticism and calls for reform. The notion of divine legitimacy became central to the legitimacy of rulers, and Joan's claims of divine guidance directly challenged the political and religious order.

Joan's Early Life and Spiritual Visions

Joan was born into a peasant family and reportedly experienced visions and voices from God from a young age.

Her Spiritual Experiences

Sources recount that Joan began hearing voices around the age of 13, which she identified as saints and angels, including Saint Catherine, Saint Margaret, and Saint Michael. These spiritual encounters inspired her to seek divine guidance for her life and mission.

Key aspects of her spiritual visions include:

- Divine Commands: Joan believed she was called by God to deliver France from English occupation.
- Persistent Voice: Her visions persisted despite skepticism and ridicule.
- Religious Devotion: Her faith was central to her identity and actions.

Her Personal Character and Motivations

Joan's unwavering conviction and sense of divine purpose distinguished her from other contemporaries. Her humility, piety, and courage became defining traits that inspired others and garnered both admiration and suspicion.

The Military Campaigns and Political Influence

Joan's involvement in military campaigns marked a turning point in her life and in French history.

Joining the French Court

In 1429, Joan gained entry to the court of Charles VII, the dauphin. Her claims of divine guidance and her charisma convinced key figures to endorse her mission.

Leading the Siege of Orléans

Perhaps her most notable achievement was her role in lifting the Siege of Orléans in 1429, a turning point that bolstered French morale and helped secure Charles VII's coronation.

Key elements of her military influence include:

- Strategic Inspiration: Her presence galvanized troops and gave them renewed confidence.
- Symbol of National Unity: She became a rallying figure for French patriotism.
- Limited Military Skill: While not a traditional military leader, her leadership was more spiritual and symbolic than tactical.

The Coronation of Charles VII

Following her successes, Joan facilitated Charles VII's coronation in Reims, reinforcing her belief that her divine guidance was instrumental in restoring France's monarchy.

The Trial, Capture, and Execution

Joan's rapid rise was followed by her downfall, which was as politically charged as her ascent.

Her Capture at Compiègne

In 1430, Joan was captured by Burgundian forces allied with the English and handed over to the English authorities.

The Trial for Heresy

Joan was tried for heresy, witchcraft, and cross-dressing (she wore male military attire). The trial was politically motivated, aiming to discredit her and diminish her influence.

Key aspects of her trial include:

- Religious Persecution: Her visions and claims of divine guidance were used against her.
- Political Subterfuge: Her association with Charles VII threatened English dominance.
- Legal Process: The trial was marked by irregularities, and her conviction was largely a tool to undermine her authority.

Execution and Martyrdom

Joan was burned at the stake in Rouen on May 30, 1431. Her death transformed her into a martyr, and her legacy persisted despite her enemies' efforts to erase her.

The Posthumous Rehabilitation and Canonization

The story of Joan did not end with her death.

The Trial of Rehabilitation (1456)

A posthumous retrial cleared her of heresy, declaring her innocent and acknowledging her divine mission.

Canonization and Sainthood

- She was canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church in 1920.
- Her feast day is celebrated on May 30.
- She remains one of the patron saints of France and a symbol of faith, courage, and national pride.

Symbolism and Cultural Legacy

Joan of Arc's influence extends beyond religious devotion into cultural, feminist, and national spheres.

As a Religious Symbol

Her unwavering faith, visions, and martyrdom have inspired countless religious narratives and

artworks.

As a Feminist Icon

Her defiance of gender norms?leading troops and asserting divine authority?continues to inspire discussions on women?s roles in leadership and faith.

National Hero and Identity

Joan?s legacy as a unifying patriotic figure persists in French cultural identity, symbolizing resilience against foreign domination.

Modern Interpretations and Debates

Despite her sainthood, Joan?s life remains subject to scholarly debate.

Historical Authenticity of Her Visions

Some historians question the supernatural nature of her visions, proposing psychological or political explanations.

Political and Religious Manipulation

Analysis suggests her trial was deeply politicized, and her sainthood was, in part, a posthumous effort to reclaim national pride.

Gender and Identity

Contemporary scholars examine her cross-dressing and leadership roles through lenses of gender theory, emphasizing her challenge to societal norms.

Conclusion: The Enduring Enigma of Saint Joan

The story of Saint Joan is a tapestry woven with faith, politics, gender, and nationalism. Her life exemplifies the power of conviction and the complex interplay between individual agency and institutional authority. Whether viewed as a saint, a revolutionary, or a symbol of divine inspiration, Joan of Arc?s legacy endures, inviting ongoing reflection and debate.

Her narrative challenges us to consider the nature of leadership, the role of faith in shaping history, and the ways in which individuals can become catalysts for change. As new generations continue to interpret her story, Saint Joan remains an enduring icon of courage and conviction?a true testament

to the transformative power of belief.

Question Answer Who was Saint Joan and why is she significant? Saint Joan, also known as Joan of Arc, was a French peasant girl who led the French army to several important victories during the Hundred Years' War and was later canonized as a saint for her faith and leadership. What is the historical importance of Joan of Arc in French history? Joan of Arc is celebrated for her role in inspiring French patriotism, her pivotal leadership during the Siege of Orléans, and her influence in turning the tide of the Hundred Years' War in favor of France. How did Joan of Arc become a saint in the Catholic Church? Joan of Arc was canonized in 1920 by the Catholic Church after a thorough investigation of her life, martyrdom, and the miracles attributed to her, recognizing her as a model of faith and courage. What are some common symbols associated with Saint Joan? Common symbols include a white banner, a sword, a crown or helmet, and a depiction of her in armor, symbolizing her leadership and divine mission. How is Saint Joan commemorated today? Saint Joan is commemorated through various statues, festivals like the Feast of Saint Joan, and cultural works including plays, films, and literature that celebrate her life and legacy. What lessons can modern leaders learn from Saint Joan's story? Her story teaches values of bravery, conviction, faith in one's ideals, and the importance of standing up for justice even in the face of adversity. Are there any recent popular adaptations or references to Saint Joan? Yes, Joan of Arc remains a popular figure in modern media, inspiring films like 'The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc,' stage adaptations, and contemporary discussions on leadership and faith.

Related keywords: Joan of Arc, French Revolution, martyrdom, Saint Joan, medieval history, military leader, visions, sainthood, Lorraine, Orleans

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