

## Understanding Unknown Facts of Talk

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### ABSTRACT

According to Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, "Nationalism as a thought making process, and one can only felt and cannot be seen". Ramayana and Mahabharata could be the reason for imbibing the concepts of nationalism. Both the literature holds power to create the desire for the well-being of society. In the present paper, the researcher has attempted to bring some unknown facts of Lokmanya Tilak as the proud son of India. The country was never ruled under one king or dynasty before British rule. It was filled with diversity, religions, languages, regions, scripts, and cultures that complete the beauty of the nation. The things got changed after the British ruling, and the country lost its wealth and freedom. Through this paper, the researcher has made investigations on the unknown facts of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak by using prolific available data. Using evocative records on different perspectives and the circumstances of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and his work, the researcher has estimated that he has achieved a strong leadership in the national independence movement. In addition to this, the study showed a clear idea of his desire for unity, nationalism, and self-rule. Here, the researcher has provided keen insight on Tilak's visionary act, various labour gatherings addressed by Tilak.

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### INTRODUCTION

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was born in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, into the Chitpavan Brahmin family. His father was a scholar of Sanskrit and a teacher by profession. Tilak received brilliance from the father, and he completed graduation from Deccan College, Pune, in 1877. Tilak belongs to the Brahmin Marathi family, but he actively participated in public affairs and activities. According to Tilak, "Religion and practical life are not different. To take to Samnyasa (renunciation) is not to abandon life. The real spirit is to make the country your family instead of working only for your own. The step beyond is to serve humanity, and the next step is to serve God." His great thoughts were the foundational element behind his dedication to humanity and participation in the nationalist movement.

While doing lectureship, he became a staunch knocker of the Western education system. He came to know the disrespected heritage of India. To enhance the quality of education for India's youth, he organized the Deccan Education Society along with his college friends. He built a novel system in the form of the Deccan Education Society, and he started educating young Indians about nationalist ideas by taking an emphasis on Indian culture. It was the starting journey of Tilak towards a mass movement. Under the influence of a religious and cultural revival, he obscured independence.

If we go through the above information keenly, then it is clear that the specific steps taken by Tilak were the connecting points describe his personality as a self-ruler or as an inspiration behind freedom movement. Besides this, the researcher has studied a lot of literature to understand Tilak's personality. In the present paper, the researcher has explored various aspects of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Furthermore, fundamental character, nature, the desire may vary from how a person behaves actually. Here, in the present study, the researcher has provided insights on Tilak's personality and factors responsible for his social contribution. Also, while studying, the researcher has gone through various literature, history, and incidences, which were responsible for the Tilak's life as a social reformer.

Various incidences caused and forced Tilak to participate in the freedom movement or establish different leagues for labors. Yet, for the proof, the researcher has collected information on the effect of various social changes on the life

of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Also, the researcher has studied how multiple facts helped him in earning leadership. Based on the pertinent and early learning, the researcher has collected much information about Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. The study has been made to investigate the different aspects of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's life. The study has been made to highlight the journey of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak towards a strong leadership, his visionary act for the national independence movement.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The statement of the problem is “UNDERSTAND THE UNKNOWN FACTS OF LOKMANYA BAL GANGADHAR TILAK”.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- i. To find out the instinct behind the establishment of various labour movements by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- ii. To understand the pioneering work done by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak for the country and country people
- iii. To find out the effectiveness of the various movements started by the Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak

### **BACKGROUND OF UNKNOWN FACTS OF LOKMANYA TILAK:**

On the whole, Tilak was born to rebel and was more attracted to public activities. His interest in moral philosophy and logic draws him to enter a more extensive field during college time itself. During this time, he was influenced by western thinkers and made him realize the condition in which his motherland existed under British Rule. According to Tilak, if the country attained political freedom, then all social evils could get mended. Besides this, Tilak wanted to start social reformation from the Hindus.

While performing studies on Tilak, we come to know that he devoted his time to national awakening. He spurned the Government service for the nation and began the establishment of private schools based on the model of missionary institutions. Besides this, the researcher has come to know the fact that, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a strong-voiced politician. Because under the guidance of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the Indian National Congress acquired a new dimension. With the healthy mind and robust nature, he denied the 'Age of Consent Bill'.

The researcher has found that Tilak co-founded two newspapers with clear objectives to give a fearless account of the existing condition of the country. Also, through these papers, he wanted to provide reviews of Indian books and to attain estimation of political affairs in Britain. Tilak was the first editor of 'Marhatta.' It was English weekly known as an indefatigable fighter for the honour of his country. 'Kesari' was a Marathi newspaper and was about the people's sufferings and holds a soft corner for the rulers of Indian states. The paper got more readers, and it became the best platform to encourage readers about their rights and self-rule.

### **METHOD USED IN THE PRESENT RESEARCH**

To understand the unknown facts of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the researcher has checked and studied a lot of literature available on a frontline fighter Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. For the detailed understanding of the less known facts of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, we used available study material in the form of literature, books, and research paper. The researcher has conducted information from Tilak's family members.

The current research was descriptive and historical and solely based on the secondary data available on Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's life. We collected the information from various sources like many journals, newspapers, books, magazines, and scientific reports, etc. Also, the researcher has referred material available on the internet and websites. Also, the researcher has tested and verified the data.

### **NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH**

To understand the significance of the less known facts of Bal Gangadhar Tilak's life, the researcher has propagated knowledge through their writings and speeches. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a nationalist icon engaged in the Indian national movement and mass movements. Based on a variety of sources, the researcher has presented a holistic picture of a nationalist.

1. To understand the contribution of Tilak for the Indian Labour League
2. To understand the opinion of Tilak on Karl Marx's Manifesto
3. To reveal the role of Tilak in Ganesh Utsav
4. To get insights on Tilak and his writings in the form of books and research publications
5. To make thorough understanding on Tilak and his visionary act

## IMPLEMENTATION OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Here, for the research purpose, the researcher has used primary, secondary data and took guidance from the research guide. For a clear understanding of Tilak's life, the researcher has preferred the secondary data that was in published and unpublished form. Besides this, to obtain more needful information, the researcher has followed the primary data collection process where data collected by using the survey method.

Here, the present study was related to Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and unknown facts about him. Here, the scope of research was limited, and we made by the survey method. Here, few individuals were selected from the Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak family. This survey method was chosen to cross-verify the authenticity of the obtained data. We followed the mentioned research methodology and received the right and adequate information about the same. For the sampling purpose, the researcher has selected the respondents and obtained specific knowledge about the research problem.

## FINDINGS

After obtaining the entire data on the Tilak, the researcher processed the information further. The candidate has edited, organized, and interpreted for the research purpose. Also, it is pre-tested or verified using various procedures and techniques. For data validation, the researcher has taken the support of the survey method and fundamental data collection procedures. Through this entire study, the researcher has received the understanding of the following mentioned information on Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's life.

### Contribution of Tilak for the Indian Labour League

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak has developed a clear conceptualization and visionary thoughts of the liberation from childhood itself. His sense of self-respect and nationalism determines his whole hearted dedication towards the country's freedom. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18. Through this research paper, the researcher looked back at the contributory act of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was hard to miss. He was a nationalistic leader, social reformer, and struggled for the labour.

Before the independence movement, there were no labour communities or unions to fight for labours. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18. The country's working-class was going through exploitation. At that time, there were low wages, long working hours, and unhygienic and dangerous working conditions. (<https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/history-of-the-working-class-movement-in-british-india-1518007920-1>) So, to ban the child labour system, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak established the first League in Poona. (<https://www.gktoday.in/gk/all-india-home-rule-league-1915-1920/>) According to Tilak, it was the need to develop a small and cohesive committee to work for the labours and to perform daily functions. His primary motto was to transform the status of the labours. He was ready to fight for labour, and with such dedication, the country saw the formation of various leagues. While performing studies on the contribution of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, we found that there were very fewer historians who mentioned Lokmanya Tilak's involvement in the labour movement.

There was a strike made by the Mumbai Municipal Cleaning Workers in 1980, and according to the British, it a conspiracy. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18. Tilak supported the various leagues and working class, and the researcher has given the proof of this. There was the first strike took place in the Indian Peninsula Railways in 1899. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18. To support the strike the Tilak launched the campaign for months through 'Kesari' newspaper. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18. (<https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/history-of-the-working-class-movement-in-british-india-1518007920-1>)

While performing research on Lokmanya Tilak, the researcher came to know that Tilak appealed for the establishment of the Indian Labour League in 1906. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18. During the same years, Tilak introduced the four-fold programme of Swaraj, Swadeshi, boycott and national education. Through this programme, he supported labours in cotton mills, the Central and Western Railways, the postal services, and other factories. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18. As a result of the four-fold programme, the boycott affected the mills in Manchester, and the labours were on strike and caused labour welfare movement in England. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18.

Besides this, the researcher got an idea about Lokmanya Tilak's spiritual as well as intellectual nature. Dr. Dua B, "Epistemological Aspect of Bal Gangadhar Tilak's Philosophical Ideas", International Journal of Research, Jammu, 3. He was the reason behind the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. In 1857, he made the private and household Ganesh Utsav to the gala event. Before independence, lord Ganesh was worshipped by the members belonging to the upper castes, leaders, and followers only. But to fill the gap, the various classes of society and unite Indians more closely and strengthen the bond between them. Tilak performed such rebellion act when the British banned social and political gatherings. (<https://www.indiatoday.in/fyi/story/ganesh-chaturthi-bal-gangadhar-tilak-339232-2016-09-05>)

When Tilak was busy in collecting people on the occasion of Ganesh Utsav and Shivji Jayanti. In the absence of him, Dr. Sathe and Dr. Velkar were Tilak's representatives. They were involved in organizing activities in Mumbai for laborers. There was another incidence that happened on December 4, 1918, where the British government called a meeting to install a memorial for Governor Willingdon in the Town Hall (Central Library), Mumbai. In the absence of Lokmanya Tilak, Dr. Sathe and Dr. Velkar, helped the patriots and stood with Dr. Mohammed Ali Jinnah and B.G. Horniman and opposed the proposed memorial. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 20. Also, they helped ordinary workers during the phase of the spread of an influenza epidemic in 1916. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18. (Ref. Pratap Velkar – Avyakta Lokmanya, page 53)

He propagated Swarajya through various means like gathering of people from all strata of society for cultural celebrations like Sarvajanik Ganesh Utsav and Shiv Jayanti. He considered this as the best platform to communicate with all the people. This paper gives a brief overview of the historical background of this festival along with various restrictions imposed by British Government to curb the movement of Swarajya which was being propagated through this Utsav. (Tilak, 2017)

#### **Lokmanya Tilak and establishment of Home Rule League**

While determining more information on Tilak, the researcher came to know that, in 1915, he established the Hind Home Rule League and re-established his Swaraj movement in India. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18. After re-establishment of the Swaraj movement, Tilak united Hindu, Muslims, and Jains at the Lucknow Congress in December 1917. Here, his primary motto was to gather people in spite of the caste, creed, or religion. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 36.

He suggested to the masses that "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it". Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 18. He reopened the Swaraj movement to establish a feeling of unity, nationalism, and awareness among the people. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak wanted British citizens to make aware of Indians' right to get freedom and work under self-rule. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19.

During the British ruling, there was a provision to have labour representatives in the Home rule Committee. Hence, On July 26, 1919, he visited London as a representative member of the Home rule League. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19. Based on the information given in the literature, we understood that there were three representatives as Lokmanya Tilak, Dr. Velkar, and N. M. Joshi. But afterwards, Tilak replaced N. M. Joshi with Dr. Sathe. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19.

The committee was established by these three to fulfill the fundamental three demands. Tilak, Lokmanya Tilak, Dr. Velkar, and Dr. Sathe wanted to reduce the extended working hours to 8 hours, get weekly paid holiday, and paid leaves for festivals. They thought that these were the fundamental and natural human right and hence, they asked help from the British Labour Party. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19.

#### **Lokmanya Tilak's Visit to England**

Furthermore, the researcher understood a few more things about Lokmanya Tilak and his England visit. At that time, Lokmanya Tilak visited England to fight a defamation case against the British reporter Vincent Chirol. During this visit, Tilak contacted Labour leaders, donated £ 2000 to their election fund, believed to one-third of the labour Party's election budget. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19. With such funding, Tilak wanted to convince the Labour Party in favour of Home Rule. Here, his primary thought was to get freedom. Here, we can see the Lokmanya Tilak's visionary act to

obtain freedom for India. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19.

While performing a detailed study of less known facts of Lokmanya Tilak, the researcher came to know that, along with the visionary act, Lokmanya Tilak addressed various labour gatherings. These gatherings were held on September 25, 1918, in London. At a meeting of the International Brotherhood Welfare, Tilak said, "The labour movement in India is still in its infancy, and even when it comes to the forefront, we will not be able to merely initiate the programme of the labour movement. We will first have to take into consideration the peculiar social structure of the Indian community and then take steps to meet the new situation." (Ref. Pratap Velkar) Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19.

There was a transport strike in London on October 3, 1919. So, to deal with this, the British Parliament set up a committee to meet the Home Rule and the Hind Labour League, respectively. Under the leadership of Lokmanya Tilak, he passed both Home Rule and labour demands.

### **Lokmanya Tilak and his return journey to India**

After this, Tilak returned to India on November 29, 1919, at that time labourers in Mumbai organized a large welcome gathering to honour Tilak with a citation. Around 20,000- 25,000 people were present for that social gathering. He addressed the audience with his great thoughts and speech, and he said, "We have to establish a strong labour organisation to fight for our rights. Labours should be free to elect their representatives. The government should not choose your representative." Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19.

Tilak was against the organizations that creates differences between the industrialist and the worker. He described his thoughts as "I am not in favour of an organisation which will create gaps between the industrialist and labour. But I want to organised labour. I want to draw your attention to organise 'Employee Insurance Co-operative Credit Societies'." Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 20. He was a great thinker and worked hard for a common man; his nature reflected through his actions. We got some references for the same, and here it describes, "We should know that our indigenous industries are fighting against foreign industries. But what we need is to justify the division of capital." (Gavade S. B. "Indian Labour League Report", Dr. Velkar M. B., "London Diary", 1919, Velkar P., Avyakta Lokmanya, Indian Congress Delegation in England, 1918).

### **Lokmanya Tilak and His Writing**

Lokmanya Tilak was a person known for his brutally honest writings. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 2. He kept his writing very simple to ease the communication. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 35. Tilak started the 'Kesari' Marathi newspaper in 1880. It was not only a newspaper, but it was a milestone in vernacular journalism. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 36.

With the dedication and devotion to do something for the nation, he started writing on various topics and to make aware people about the situation. With his master skills of Sanskrit and Astro-mathematics, he educated common man about the Indian heritage. The researcher has found his writeups, in the form of books, newspaper articles, etc. Through his writeups he has covered almost every aspect of human life, including the social, historical, economic, industrial, educational, political, trade, modern sciences and agricultural, etc. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 35.

Lokmanya Tilak was a law graduate and a mathematician, and he used logical steps to give clarifications to his readers. We found some facts that he used stories from Mahabharata in his writings for better understanding. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 35. He wanted to describe the background of various incidences, actions, laws, social or political movements to the people in India and around the globe. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 36. Lokmanya Tilak adopted a storytelling type of writing style, and through such writeups, he attracted more readers.

The researcher found some references in the form of the diaries and documents that were published by 'Kesari'. We found one statement noted by Dr. V.D. Divekar, and it is stated as, "From his actions and speeches after returning to India, one could summarize that he could have led a labour movement in India too". Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G.,

(2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 20. Apart from this, we found that Lala Lajpat Rai said about Lokmanya Tilak, "His close association with the Labourites has been a saga in itself. On his return to India, he could be called 'a nationalist labour leader.'" Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 20. Besides this, the researcher has found many articles written by Tilak about the labour problems, and they were published in 'Kesari'. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 20.

### **Lokmanya Tilak and Karl Marx's Manifesto**

In 1884, Karl Marx's Manifesto was published in England. There was a misbelief that the Amruta Bazaar Patrika first published the Manifesto in 1903 under the title 'Rise of foreign socialists: their remarkable growth in the continent in recent years'. After that, on May 1, 1881, Lokmanya Tilak published an article on Karl Marx's theory in 'Mahratta'. He re-published an article which was in the periodical 'Radical', by adding comments that labour hours create capital or wealth, as stated by Karl Marx. It was an important article for readers to re-think class conflict. (Ref. Dr. Naik J. V., "Loksatta", Sunday, 7th June 1998). Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 20.

### **CONCLUSION**

The researcher has performed the present study to understand the unknown or less known facts about Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. The study was completely performed to appreciate his contribution to various movements, literature, and other activities. The researcher has got a clear understanding of Lokmanya Tilak and his contributory acts to earn free India. Perhaps the primary aim of the study was to provide insights on his work to re-think the conflicts that were happened. The researcher has tried to match the utmost goals of the study.

1. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's sense of self-respect and nationalism determines his whole hearted dedication towards the country's freedom
2. Lokmanya Tilak's involvement in labour movement describes his love for the labour and working class
3. His aim was to transform the status of labour, for this he founded various leagues, committees and conducted gatherings
4. Lokmanya Tilak was a spiritual as well as intellectual person and due to this he started Ganesh Utsav
5. He established feeling of unity, nationalism and awareness among the people
6. Tilak started Marathi newspaper, i.e., 'Kesari' and added a mile stone in vernacular journalism

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Here the researcher has concluded the paper with recommendations for future research.

1. Further the research can be made on the impact of multi-faceted personality and leadership qualities to change the situation.
2. Also, the researcher can perform study to understand Karl Marx's Manifesto and Lokmanya Tilak.
3. Further the researcher can perform studies on Lokmanya Tilak's dedication to towards the country's freedom.

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