how to paint like the old masters Reference

How to paint like the old masters

Mastering the art of painting like the old masters is a pursuit that combines technical skill, deep understanding of materials, and a commitment to mastering traditional techniques. These artists?such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Titian, and Rembrandt?created timeless works by adhering to methods that emphasize craftsmanship, patience, and a profound understanding of light, shadow, and anatomy. Whether you're an aspiring artist or a seasoned painter seeking to deepen your skills, learning how to emulate the old masters can elevate your work and connect you with centuries of artistic tradition. This comprehensive guide explores the essential steps and techniques to help you paint like the old masters.

Understanding the Foundations of Old Master Painting

Historical Context and Artistic Philosophy

To truly emulate the old masters, it's vital to understand the historical and philosophical foundations that guided their work:

- **Renaissance Humanism**: Emphasis on realism, anatomy, and perspective.
- **Chiaroscuro and Tenebrism**: Dramatic contrasts of light and dark to create depth and volume.
- **Layered Techniques**: Building depth through multiple glazes and underpaintings.
- **Material Mastery**: Use of traditional mediums such as oil paints, egg tempera, and natural pigments.

Studying Old Master Works

Before picking up your brush, immerse yourself in the works of renowned artists:

- Visit museums and galleries to observe paintings firsthand.
- Analyze compositions, color palettes, and lighting techniques.
- Read art historical texts to understand the context and methods.

Preparing Your Materials and Workspace

Choosing the Right Materials

Authentic old master techniques rely on specific materials:

- **Oil Paints**: Traditional, slow-drying, allowing for blending and glazing.
- **Supports**: Wooden panels or primed canvas; prepare your surface with gesso.
- **Brushes**: Hog bristle or sable brushes with stiff bristles for detailed work.
- **Mediums**: Linseed oil, walnut oil, or traditional varnishes for glazing and thinning paint.
- **Pigments**: Natural earth tones, ultramarine, lead white, and other historically accurate pigments.

Setting Up Your Studio

Create an environment conducive to traditional techniques:

- Ensure good natural or artificial lighting that mimics natural daylight.
- Organize your brushes, paints, and palettes for easy access.
- Maintain a clean, ventilated workspace to handle fumes from drying oils and solvents.

Mastering Traditional Painting Techniques

Preparing the Underpainting

The foundation of old master paintings often begins with an underdrawing or grisaille:

- Sketch your composition lightly using charcoal or a thin wash.
- Establish tonal values to guide subsequent layers.
- Use a monochromatic palette to create a tonal map of light and shadow.

Building Layers with Glazing and Scumbling

Old master painters built depth through multiple translucent layers:

- **Glazing**: Apply thin, transparent layers of color over dried underpaintings to create luminosity.
- **Scumbling**: Lightly brushing opaque or semi-opaque paint over dry layers to modify color and texture.

Using the Alla Prima Technique

While many old masters used layered glazing, some work directly:

- Apply wet paint onto wet paint for immediate blending.
- Focus on capturing light and form in a single session.
- Best suited for studies and quick sketches rather than finished works.

Understanding Light, Shadow, and Color

Chiaroscuro and Modeling

Old masters mastered the dramatic use of light and shadow:

- Identify a strong light source to create consistent highlights and shadows.
- Use gradual transitions to model forms realistically.
- Practice creating three-dimensionality through contrast.

Color Theory and Palette Selection

Achieving authentic color requires knowledge of historical palettes:

- Limit your palette to traditional colors to maintain harmony.
- Mix colors carefully to emulate the subtlety of old master works.
- Use glazing to modify hue and saturation for depth and vibrancy.

Focus on Composition and Anatomy

Designing a Balanced Composition

Old master paintings often feature classical compositions:

- Use the rule of thirds or golden ratio to arrange focal points.
- Incorporate leading lines and geometric shapes to guide the viewer?s eye.
- Balance figures and elements to create harmony and tension.

Mastering Human Anatomy

Accurate anatomy was central to old master portraiture and figure painting:

- Study anatomy books and life drawings.
- Practice sketching figures from live models or reference photos.
- Pay attention to proportions, musculature, and gestures.

Practicing and Refining Your Technique

Creating Studies and Sketches

Regular practice helps internalize techniques:

- Draw from life and masterworks to develop observational skills.
- Experiment with different materials and methods.
- Keep a sketchbook dedicated to studies of anatomy, drapery, and light.

Analyzing Your Work

Self-critique and comparison to old master works are essential:

- Evaluate tonal harmony, composition, and technique.
- Seek feedback from mentors or art communities.
- Identify areas for improvement and focus your practice accordingly.

Final Tips for Painting Like the Old Masters

- Patience is key?layered glazing requires time and careful drying.
- Embrace imperfections?old master paintings often display subtle variations and textures that add character.
- Study their process?many artists left behind sketches, treatises, and letters revealing their methods.
- Stay committed to craftsmanship, and continually seek to understand the principles behind the techniques.

By immersing yourself in the techniques, materials, and philosophies of the old masters, you can develop a painting style that honors tradition while expressing your unique vision. Remember, mastering these skills takes time, dedication, and a love for the craft?so keep practicing and appreciating the timeless beauty of classical painting.

How to paint like the old masters

The allure of the old masters?artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Titian, and Vermeer?continues to captivate art enthusiasts and aspiring painters alike. Their works are celebrated not only for their technical mastery but also for their profound ability to convey emotion, depth, and realism. But how exactly did these legendary artists achieve such extraordinary results? For modern artists eager to emulate their techniques, understanding the methods and principles behind their masterpieces is essential. This article explores the essential elements and practices involved in learning how to paint like the old masters, blending technical insight with accessible guidance to help you elevate your craft.

The Foundations of Old Master Painting

Before delving into specific techniques, it?s crucial to grasp the foundational principles that underpinned the training and work of the old masters. Their mastery was rooted in a disciplined approach to observation, preparation, and craftsmanship.

Rigorous Drawing and Underpainting

Most old master paintings began with meticulous drawing?often using charcoal, chalk, or silverpoint?to establish accurate anatomy, composition, and perspective. This step was critical because it laid the groundwork for all subsequent layers.

- Precision in Sketching: Artists dedicated significant time to sketching the initial design, ensuring correct proportions and spatial relationships.
- Use of Grids and Perspective: Many employed geometric techniques and linear perspective to create depth and realism.
- Underdrawing: Sometimes made with thin, transparent lines, underdrawing guided the application of color and detail.

Layered Approach: Glazing and Fat-Over-Lean

The old masters employed a layered painting technique, primarily through glazing?a process involving applying thin, transparent layers of color over a dry underpainting. This method produced luminous, rich surfaces with depth and vibrancy.

- Fat-Over-Lean Principle: Each successive layer contained more oil or oil-rich mediums to prevent cracking and ensure durability.
- Glazing Technique: Using translucent pigments mixed with a medium, artists built up color gradually, allowing light to pass through layers and reflect back, creating a glowing effect.

Essential Materials and Tools

Recreating the old masters? effects begins with understanding and sourcing the right materials. While modern paints and mediums have evolved, many traditional artists prefer to use historically accurate supplies for authenticity.

Traditional Pigments

The old masters used a palette of mineral and organic pigments, many of which are still available today. Some notable examples include:

- Ultramarine Blue: Made from lapis lazuli, prized for its vibrancy.
- Vermilion: Derived from cinnabar, used for reds.
- Burnt Sienna and Earths: Natural earth pigments for warm tones.
- Lead White: A common white pigment, though toxic, used for its opacity and drying qualities.

Note: Some traditional pigments are toxic or unstable over time; modern equivalents or safer substitutes are often recommended.

Brushes and Supports

- Brushes: Use hog bristle for thick, textured strokes; sable brushes for fine detail; and flat or filbert shapes for versatility.
- Supports: Wooden panels were favored for their stability, but linen canvases coated with gesso are common today.
- Gesso Ground: Prepares the surface with a smooth, absorbent layer that accepts oil paint well.

Step-by-Step Guide to Painting Like the Old Masters

Achieving mastery akin to the old masters requires patience, practice, and a disciplined process. While every artist develops their unique approach, the following stages outline a typical workflow inspired by classical techniques.

- Preparation and Composition

Start by selecting a compelling subject and sketching it accurately. Use:

- Preliminary sketches: Lightly draw with charcoal or graphite.
- Grids: For enlarging sketches or maintaining proportions.
- Underpainting: Create a monochromatic tonal map (often in grisaille?shades of gray) to establish values and composition.

- Underpainting (Imprimatura)

Apply a thin, transparent wash of earth tones or grisaille to establish light and shadow. This underpainting acts as a tonal blueprint for the subsequent layers.

- Use burnt sienna or umber diluted with solvent or oil.
- Focus on capturing the overall light-dark relationships.

- Building Up Layers with Glazing

Gradually add transparent color layers to develop depth and luminosity.

- Mix pigments with a medium such as linseed oil or a traditional varnish.
- Apply thin, even glazes, allowing each to dry thoroughly.
- Use a soft brush to blend and smooth transitions.

- Modeling and Details

As the painting progresses, introduce more opaque pigments for highlights, details, and textures.

- Use thicker paint sparingly for emphasis.
- Employ fine brushes for intricate features like eyes, fabric textures, and hair.

- Final Touches and Varnishing

Once the paint is dry, often after weeks or months, apply a varnish to unify the surface and enhance vibrancy.

- Use a removable, damar resin-based varnish or a modern acrylic varnish.
- Consider subtle glazes or glottis to correct tonal imbalances.

Key Techniques to Master

Achieving the old masters? finesse involves mastering several critical techniques:

Chiaroscuro and Tenebrism

The dramatic contrast of light and shadow that gives models a three-dimensional appearance.

- Practice modeling forms with gradual tonal shifts.
- Use strong light sources and observe real-world lighting.

sfumato and Softening Edges

A technique of seamless blending that creates soft transitions between colors and tones.

- Use glazed layers and soft brushes.
- Avoid harsh lines unless stylistically intended.

Grisaille and Monochrome Underpainting

An initial monochromatic study that emphasizes value before adding color.

- Help achieve accurate modeling and depth.
- Can be completed in oil or tempera.

Emulating the Old Masters? Color and Light

Understanding how the old masters achieved their signature luminosity and color harmony is vital.

- Color Mixing: Study the color wheel and practice mixing to achieve subtle hues.
- Color Temperature: Use warm and cool tones to create mood and depth.
- Light and Reflection: Observe how light interacts with different surfaces?metal, fabric, skin?and replicate these effects.

Practice and Study: The Path to Mastery

While technical skills are essential, the journey to painting like the old masters also involves dedicated study and practice.

- Copy Masterworks: Reproducing paintings by old masters helps internalize their techniques.
- Study Anatomy and Perspective: Accurate human anatomy and spatial understanding underpin realistic depiction.
- Analyze Their Processes: Read art treatises, examine sketches, and understand their workflow.

Modern Adaptations and Continuing Tradition

While traditional methods provide invaluable insights, modern artists can adapt techniques to suit their circumstances, incorporating new materials or digital tools. However, the core principles?careful observation, layered building, tonal mastery?remain timeless.

Conclusion

Learning how to paint like the old masters is a rewarding endeavor that combines technical mastery, patience, and a keen eye for observation. By understanding their methods?meticulous drawing, layered glazing, tonal underpainting?and practicing these techniques diligently, aspiring artists can develop a deeper appreciation for classical craftsmanship. Whether aiming for realistic portraiture, historical scenes, or simply wishing to enrich their artistic toolkit, emulating the old masters offers both a challenge and an inspiration to elevate your painting skills to new heights.

QuestionAnswer What techniques did the Old Masters use to achieve realistic textures in their paintings? The Old Masters often employed meticulous layering, glazing with thin translucent paints, and careful underpainting to build depth and realistic textures. They also used chiaroscuro to enhance the three-dimensionality of their subjects. Which color palettes were commonly used by the Old Masters, and how can I replicate them? They commonly used limited, harmonious palettes often based on earth tones and natural pigments like ultramarine, ochre, and burnt sienna. To replicate their palettes, study historical pigment recipes and practice mixing colors to achieve authentic hues. How did the Old Masters achieve the softness and depth in their shading? They used gradual glazing techniques, applying multiple thin layers of translucent paint to create smooth transitions and depth. Careful observation of light and shadow in their subjects was essential for realistic shading. What materials and tools should I use to paint like the Old Masters? Use high-quality oil paints, traditional brushes made from animal hair, and linen or wooden panels as surfaces. Preparing your own ground layers (like gesso) and using natural brushes can help achieve authentic results. How important is underpainting in the Old Masters' painting process, and how can I incorporate it? Underpainting was crucial for establishing composition and values. Use a monochromatic palette to

sketch out the composition and values, then build up layers with color and glazing to refine the image. Are there specific compositional or stylistic elements I should focus on to imitate the Old Masters? Yes, focus on balanced compositions, accurate anatomy, dramatic lighting, and subtle color harmonies. Studying their use of chiaroscuro, sfumato, and meticulous attention to detail can help you emulate their style.

Related keywords: oil painting techniques, classical painting methods, master artist styles, Renaissance painting tips, chiaroscuro techniques, glazing methods, underpainting techniques, brushwork mastery, color mixing for realism, historical art tutorials

PEOPLE LIKE US ENGLISH EDITION

People like us english edition has become a popular phrase in contemporary culture, resonating with audiences worldwide who seek stories, shows, and narratives that reflect their own experiences, values, and identities. This phrase often encapsulates themes of belonging, community, and shared understanding, making it a powerful title or concept for books, TV series, movies, and social movements. In this article, we explore the significance of ?people like us english edition,? its origins, cultural impact, and why it continues to resonate with diverse audiences across the globe.

Understanding the Concept of ?People Like Us? in English Culture

The Origin of the Phrase

The phrase ?people like us? has roots in colloquial English, often used to refer to individuals who share similar backgrounds, values, or experiences. Its usage can be traced back to social conversations emphasizing commonality and solidarity, especially among marginalized or underrepresented groups. Over time, the phrase gained popularity through media, literature, and political discourse, becoming a way to foster a sense of community.

Its Cultural Significance

In modern contexts, ?people like us? embodies the desire for inclusion and understanding. It promotes the idea that shared experiences can bridge gaps in race, class, gender, or sexuality. The phrase also hints at a collective identity that challenges societal divisions, fostering empathy and mutual support.

The Impact of ?People Like Us? in Media and Entertainment

TV Series and Films

One of the most notable representations of ?people like us? in media is the 2016 American drama film titled *?People Like Us?*, starring Chris Pine and Elizabeth Banks. The story revolves around a man reconnecting with his estranged family after his father?s death, exploring themes of family secrets, reconciliation, and understanding.

In television, shows that focus on everyday life, struggles, and triumphs of ordinary people often carry the spirit of ?people like us.? Examples include:

- **Brooklyn Nine-Nine**: Celebrates diverse, relatable characters working in law enforcement, emphasizing community and friendship.
- **Shameless**: Chronicles the chaotic but heartfelt lives of a working-class family navigating economic hardships.

Literature and Books

Books that focus on authentic, relatable stories often appeal to ?people like us? audiences. These narratives foster empathy and understanding by depicting everyday struggles and joys. Examples include:

- *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls: An autobiographical tale of resilience and family bonds.
- *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng: Explores complex social dynamics and personal identities in a suburban community.

Music and Cultural Movements

Music genres like folk, indie, and country have historically embodied the ?people like us? ethos, emphasizing storytelling and authenticity. Artists such as Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, and modern singer-songwriters create music that resonates with everyday experiences.

Cultural movements advocating for social justice, equality, and community empowerment also draw strength from this concept. They emphasize that collective voices of ordinary people can lead to meaningful change.

The Significance of ?People Like Us? in the Modern Era

Fostering Inclusivity and Representation

In an increasingly globalized world, the phrase ?people like us? encourages inclusivity by highlighting shared human experiences beyond superficial differences. Media and entertainment that embrace this perspective promote diverse representation, helping marginalized groups see themselves reflected on screen and in literature.

Building Community and Connection

Whether through social media, local initiatives, or global movements, the idea of ?people like us? underscores the importance of community. It reminds us that our struggles, hopes, and dreams are often universal, fostering connections across different backgrounds.

Addressing Social and Economic Inequities

The phrase also has political implications, often used to rally support for policies aimed at reducing inequality. It emphasizes that societal progress depends on recognizing the common humanity of all people, especially those who are underserved or oppressed.

Why ?People Like Us? Continues to Resonate in English Edition

Authenticity and Relatability

In a media landscape saturated with polished, often unattainable images, stories that reflect ?people like us? stand out because of their authenticity. Audiences crave genuine narratives that mirror their own lives, creating a sense of comfort and validation.

Universal Themes

Themes such as love, hardship, hope, and resilience are central to ?people like us? stories. Their universality makes them accessible and meaningful across different cultures and societies.

Empowerment and Identity

The phrase empowers individuals by affirming their experiences and identities. It encourages people to embrace their uniqueness while recognizing their place within a broader community.

How to Incorporate ?People Like Us? in Your Content Strategy for SEO

Keyword Optimization

To leverage the popularity of ?people like us english edition,? consider integrating relevant

keywords into your content:

- People like us
- Relatable stories
- Inclusive media
- Authentic storytelling
- Community narratives

Content Ideas

Develop content that appeals to audiences seeking relatable and authentic stories:

- Profiles of everyday heroes and community members
- Stories of overcoming adversity
- Interviews with creators producing ?people like us? content
- Guides on creating inclusive narratives in media

Engagement Strategies

Encourage audience participation through:

- Sharing personal stories on social media
- Creating community forums or groups
- Hosting webinars or podcasts featuring relatable topics

Conclusion

?People like us english edition? encapsulates a universal desire for connection, understanding, and representation. From media and literature to social movements, this concept emphasizes that shared experiences foster empathy and community. As society continues to evolve, embracing the ?people like us? ethos can help bridge divides, promote inclusivity, and celebrate the richness of everyday human stories. For content creators, marketers, and communities alike, understanding and leveraging this phrase?s power can lead to more authentic engagement and meaningful connections with audiences worldwide.

People Like Us English Edition: Exploring the Cultural and Linguistic Significance of a Global Phrase

Introduction

People like us English edition has emerged as a phrase that resonates across cultures, social groups, and media landscapes. It encapsulates themes of identity, belonging, and shared experiences, often serving as a rallying cry for communities seeking recognition and connection. In this article, we delve into the origins, cultural implications, and modern usage of this captivating phrase, examining how it has evolved from colloquial expressions to a symbol of collective identity in a globalized world.

The Origins of "People Like Us"

Historical Roots and Early Usage

The phrase "people like us" is not a recent innovation. Its roots can be traced back to various contexts where groups sought to distinguish themselves from others. Historically, such expressions appeared in social movements, political rhetoric, and literature to emphasize shared traits or experiences.

- Literary Origins: The phrase appeared in early 20th-century literature, often used to evoke solidarity among characters or communities facing common struggles.
- Political Contexts: During social upheavals, leaders would invoke "people like us" to foster unity among marginalized or oppressed groups.
- Everyday Speech: Over time, it seeped into colloquial language, becoming a familiar way for individuals to express camaraderie with similar backgrounds or lifestyles.

Evolution into Popular Culture

With the rise of mass media, "people like us" gained popularity as a relatable, inclusive phrase. Films, music, and television shows began to adopt the terminology, often to create a sense of authenticity or to rally audiences around shared values.

"People Like Us" in Modern Media and Society

The Phrase in Film and Television

One of the most prominent instances of "people like us" in popular culture is the 2012 film titled "People Like Us," directed by Alex Kurtzman. The film explores themes of family secrets, identity, and reconciliation, with the title emphasizing the universal experiences of its characters.

- Themes Explored:
- Family bonds and secrets

- Personal identity and self-discovery
- Social class and economic disparities

Beyond the film, television series and documentaries frequently utilize the phrase to highlight marginalized communities or to promote messages of inclusivity.

Music and Lyrics

Musicians have also harnessed "people like us" to foster connection and convey shared struggles:

- Song Titles and Lyrics: Several songs include the phrase to express unity among listeners or fans, emphasizing that they are not alone in their experiences.
- Genres: From pop to indie and hip-hop, "people like us" resonates across musical genres as a symbol of collective resilience.

Social Media and Internet Culture

In the digital age, "people like us" has become a hashtag and meme to rally online communities. Platforms like Twitter, TikTok, and Reddit see users sharing stories, memes, and posts under banners like PeopleLikeUs to foster solidarity.

- Online Communities: Support groups, hobbyist networks, and advocacy pages often use the phrase to underscore commonalities.
- Memetic Usage: Variants and memes have emerged, such as "people like us do things like this," humorously highlighting shared behaviors or attitudes.

Cultural and Sociological Significance

Identity and Belonging

At its core, "people like us" encapsulates the human desire for connection. It fosters a sense of belonging, providing comfort in the acknowledgment of shared traits, experiences, or values.

- In-group vs. Out-group Dynamics: The phrase often delineates boundaries, affirming who is part of the community versus outsiders.
- Bridging Divides: Conversely, it can be used to bridge gaps, emphasizing commonalities across diverse backgrounds.

The Role in Social Movements

Many social movements leverage the phrase to build solidarity:

- LGBTQ+ Communities: "People like us" is used to affirm identity and challenge societal norms.
- Economic Class Movements: Workers and marginalized groups adopt the phrase to unite against systemic inequalities.
- Cultural Revivals: Minority groups utilize it to preserve language, traditions, and identity.

Commercial and Marketing Uses

Brands and marketing campaigns have adopted ?people like us? to appeal to target demographics, emphasizing authenticity and relatability.

- Authentic Branding: Using the phrase to show alignment with everyday consumers.
- Inclusive Campaigns: Demonstrating diversity and shared values to foster brand loyalty.

The Digital Age and Globalization

The Phrase in a Global Context

While "people like us" originated in specific cultural milieus, globalization has transformed its reach. The phrase now appears in multiple languages and contexts, fostering cross-cultural understanding.

- Localization and Translation: The phrase has equivalents in many languages, often retaining its core message of shared identity.
- Global Movements: International campaigns use the phrase to emphasize unity across borders, such as climate change activism or human rights advocacy.

Challenges and Criticisms

Despite its positive connotations, "people like us" can sometimes reinforce exclusivity or stereotypes.

- Potential for Elitism: The phrase may inadvertently create in-groups that exclude others.
- Cultural Appropriation: Misuse by outsiders can dilute its significance or offend communities it aims to unite.

The Future of "People Like Us"

Trends and Predictions

As society continues to evolve, so will the usage of "people like us."

- Increased Emphasis on Intersectionality: Future iterations may focus on overlapping identities?race, gender, class, and more.
- Digital Activism: Online movements will likely sustain and transform the phrase into new formats and platforms.
- Commercialization: Expect continued branding uses, balanced with efforts to promote genuine inclusivity.

The Power of Shared Identity in a Fragmented World

In an era marked by polarization and division, "people like us" serves as a rallying cry for empathy and connection. Whether in social movements, entertainment, or digital communities, the phrase underscores the universal human need to find kinship in shared experiences.

Conclusion

People like us english edition exemplifies the enduring human pursuit of connection and belonging. From its historical roots in literature and social movements to its contemporary prominence in media, music, and online communities, the phrase encapsulates a universal message: that despite our differences, there are common threads that unite us all. As society navigates the complexities of identity, diversity, and globalization, "people like us" remains a powerful reminder of our shared humanity and the importance of community in shaping our collective future.

QuestionAnswer What is the main theme of 'People Like Us' English edition? 'People Like Us' explores themes of identity, community, and the human connections that bind us despite differences. Who are the authors of 'People Like Us' English edition? The book is written by a diverse group of authors, each sharing personal stories that highlight commonalities across different backgrounds. Is 'People Like Us' suitable for all age groups? The book is primarily aimed at young adults and adults, offering mature themes and reflections on social issues. Where can I purchase the English edition of 'People Like Us'? You can find 'People Like Us' English edition on major online retailers like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and in select bookstores worldwide. Has 'People Like Us' received any awards or recognitions? Yes, the book has been recognized for its impactful storytelling and was awarded the [relevant award], highlighting its significance in contemporary literature. Are there any adaptations of 'People Like Us' available? As of now, there are no official film or television adaptations, but the book has inspired several community discussions and reading

groups. What age group is 'People Like Us' most relevant for? The book is particularly relevant for teenagers and young adults who are exploring themes of social identity and acceptance. How does 'People Like Us' contribute to conversations about diversity? 'People Like Us' provides personal narratives that foster empathy and understanding, making it a valuable resource in promoting diversity and inclusion.

Related keywords: people like us, english edition, novel, romance, contemporary fiction, LGBTQ, coming of age, friendship, family, identity

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