

## Answering False Religions And Cults 2

Presented By Eric Douma

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### A Brief History of Jehovah's Witnesses

- 1916 - Russell dies – Joseph Franklin Rutherford takes over the Watchtower and starts the term Jehovah's Witness.
- 1925 -1929 Rutherford prophesied that between these years, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would return visibly to promote the kingdom of God. He built a large palatial mansion in San Diego for the patriarchs, but when they failed to show up, Rutherford moved in!
- 1942 - Nathan Knorr – Outreach increases and the *New World Translation* is made. Knorr prophesies in 1966 that 1975 would be the year of Armageddon. 1976 over 1 million JW's leave.
- 1977- Frederick Franz takes over, their leading theologian.
- 1992 - Milton Henschel
- 2001 – Watch Tower Society of New York inc. M.H. Larson

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### Doctrines of Jehovah Witnesses

#### Four Fundamentals

1. Jehovah Witnesses believe that the Watchtower organization is the prophet of God, and the sole avenue for God's truth.
2. They believe that to reject the organization is to reject God.
3. They believe only the organization can interpret the Bible.
4. They believe the Watchtower magazine contains God's truth.

#### Eight Major Doctrinal Errors

1. There is no trinity.
2. Jesus is a creature, Michael the Archangel. (Man on earth)
3. Jesus was not bodily resurrected, but was a spirit being.
4. Jesus returned invisibly and secretly to Watchtower in 1914.
5. The Holy Spirit is merely a force, not a person.
6. There is no eternal damnation. Hell is merely the grave.
7. Only 144,000 will go to heaven.
8. Salvation is by works for Watchtower, and only through the organization.

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**Trinity And Deity of Christ** "And yet the trinitarians teach that the God of John 1:1-2 is only one God, not three Gods! So is the Word only one-third of God? Since we cannot scientifically calculate that 1 God (the Father) + 1 God (the Son) + 1 God (the Holy Ghost) = 1 God, then we must calculate that 1/3 God (the Father) + 1/3 God (the Son) + 1/3 God (the Holy Ghost) = 3/3 God or 1 God... Any trying to reason out the Trinity teaching leads to confusion of mind. So the Trinity teaching confuses the meaning of John 1:1-2; it does not simplify it or make it clear or easily understandable" (*The Word, Who is He According to John?*) Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1962, 7).

**Salvation** "The religion teaches that to be saved, one needs faith, demonstrated by Christian works, including the proper discharge of family duties, kindness and concern for others, proper conduct, and "zealously" preaching"

(The Watchtower, *Christian Works: What Do They Include?*, June 1, 1978, p. 29).

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## Using Their Own Standard Against Them

## They Preach A Different Jesus And Different Gospel

## WE MUST WIN THE DEBATE ABOUT JESUS!

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New World Translation of John 1:1 In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.

John 1:1 ...kai geoV hm̄ o"l ogoV.

Qualitative = "kind"  
Definite = the  
Indefinite = a

- Colwell's rule (As modified by Dixon and Harner)

An anarthrous pre-verbal PN is normally qualitative, sometimes definite, and only rarely indefinite. (Note: In none of the studies was there ever found an example of an indefinite PN in this construction!)

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Refuting Jehovah Witnesses (Trinity And Deity of Christ)

Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

David is king of Israel: Who is His Lord? Matt.22:41-46

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Hosea 1:7 (Yahweh is speaking) But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the LORD their God, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses, or horse-men.

Matthew 3:16-17 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold a voice from the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased."

See also: Matt 28:19; John 14:26; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 12:4-6; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 13:14; Eph 4:4-6; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:2 etc.

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Refuting Jehovah Witnesses

<p><u>Isaiah 45:22-23</u></p> <p>For I <u>am God</u> and there is no other. I have sworn to Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that <u>to Me</u> every knee will bow, every tongue swear allegiance.</p>	<p><u>Philippians 2:10-11</u></p> <p>So that at the <u>name of Jesus</u> every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.</p>
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Refuting Jehovah Witnesses (Trinity And Deity of Christ)

John 5:18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

John 8:58-59 NWT Jesus said to them: "Most truly I say to YOU, Before Abraham came into existence, I have been." Therefore they picked up stones to hurl [them] at him; but Jesus hid and went out of the temple.

- JW's are translating a Greek present tense verb like a perfect tense verb. There is no warrant here to do that (John 14:8-9)

John 8:58-59 NASB Jesus said to them. "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple.

John 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

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### Lies Inserted In The Bible

Colossians 1:16-17 NWT because by means of him all [other] things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All [other] things have been created through him and for him. Also, he is before all [other] things and by means of him all [other] things were made to exist...

Reply: There simply is no Greek word for "other" in the text!

Words for Other: αἰὶν 38, ἑτεροῦ 28, περὶ 28

Colossians 2:9 NWT because it is in him that all the fullness of the divine quality dwells bodily.

Reply: The Greek word θεοτης would be the correct translation for divine quality, but the Greek word here is the genitive form of θεοτης which means "deity" or "God" (Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich – Danker, Greek-English Lexicon, p.358).

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### Proving Jesus Is God

Titus 2:13 NWT while we wait for the happy hope and glorious manifestation of the great God and of [the] Savior of us, Christ Jesus.

Titus 2:13 NASB looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Which is the correct translation?

- Granville Sharp (1735-1813) Noticed a certain pattern in the Bible. (Article, Substantive, Kai, Substantive) when this pattern is seen the two different substantives are the same people granted: 1. neither is impersonal 2. neither is plural 3. neither is a proper name. (can you pluralize it?)

του μεγαλου θεου και ημων σωθροῦ Ihsou Cristou

art. Sub. Kai Sub.

\*\*\* There are 80 such constructions in the Bible, and they all follow this rule without exception!

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### The Revelation Trap

- Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
- Ask who is speaking here? They must say- Jehovah
- Revelation 21:5-6 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Then He said to me, "It is done." I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
- Ask who is speaking here? They must say- Jehovah
- Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
- Ask who is speaking here? They must say- Jehovah
- Revelation 1:17-18 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid, I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and have the keys of death and Hades."
- Ask: When did Jehovah die? (Ron Carlson, *Fast Facts*, 130)

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#### A Brief History of Mormonism

- 1805- Joseph Smith Jr. born in Vermont- fourth of nine children.
- 1817- Smith moves to a farm in Palmyra, New York.
- The Father was involved with the occult – magic dagger, seer stones for treasure. Mother and two brothers join a Presbyterian church.
- 1820 – Joseph Jr. claims to have a vision of the Father and Jesus where he is told that all churches are apostate.
- 1823 – Smith claimed that an angel (Moroni) appeared to him.
  - \* Moroni claims to be a former inhabitant of America who buried golden plates just prior to his death. These plates contained the history of his people and the true gospel.
  - \* Moroni claims that Smith should translate the “Reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics” on these golden plates using special stones called Urim and Thummim. The Book of Mormon is the alleged result. (There is no evidence for this language)

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#### A Brief History of Mormonism

- 1827- Moroni gave Smith permission to dig up the plates along with the Urim and Thummim and to translate the plates.
  - \* Martin Harris (Smith's neighbor) brought writings to Dr. Charles Anthon, an esteemed linguist and professor at Columbia University. (Anthon called Martin Harris's language nonsensical and anything but “Egyptian hieroglyphics.”)
- 1829 - Smith claims to have seen John the Baptist who conferred the Aaronic priesthood upon him. Later in the year, Oliver Crowdy and Smith were given the Melchizedekian priesthood as well!
- 1830 – Smith translated the Book of Mormon with the aid of a seer stone. April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1830, Smith founds the Mormon Church in Fayette New York.
- 1844 – Smith killed with brother in a gun battle in Carthage, Illinois.
- 1847 Brigham Young reaches Salt Lake Valley.

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#### Mormon Doctrines (Authority)

##### The Four Texts

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|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Bible                  | <u>Open Canon</u>                      |
| 2. Book of Mormon         | “The canon of Scripture is not         |
| 3. Doctrine and Covenants | full. God has never revealed at        |
| 4. Pearl of Great Price   | any time that he would cease to        |
|                           | speak forever to men.” (Joseph         |
|                           | F. Smith, <i>Gospel Doctrine</i> , 36) |

##### Mormon case for open canon

Psalm 102:27 But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end. (D&C 132 – polygamy, D&C dec.1 voids it!)

Joel 2:28 It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; and your sons and daughters will prophesy...

Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone...

These passages refute Mormonism!!!

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#### Mormon Doctrines (God)

- God the Father is an exalted man born from a god and goddess from an unknown planet. (Elohim then was made flesh through human parents where he earned his godhood by following Mormonism.)
- Elohim (the Mormon heavenly Father) lives with his many wives on a planet near a star called Kolob. Through sexual relations with his wives, billions of spirit children are created.
- A heavenly council was convened to determine where to put these spirit children. Earth was decided on and built. Elohim's two eldest sons, Lucifer and Jesus made different proposals to "bid" for savior of the world. Lucifer's plan was to force people to become gods, while Jesus' plan allowed for free will to follow Mormonism.
- Lucifer, in an angry rage at his lost bid, convinced 1/3 of the spirits destined for Earth to fight in a revolt. Those who remained neutral in the battle were cursed with black skin.

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#### Mormon Doctrines (Jesus and Holy Spirit)

- (Jesus) "Implicit in his spirit birth as the Firstborn is the fact that, as with all the spirit children of the Father, he had a beginning; there was a day when he came into being as a conscious identity, as a spirit entity, as an organized intelligence" (Bruce McConkie, *The Promised Messiah*, 165).
- Jesus existed forever only in the sense that we all did in the eternal matter.
- Jesus was the god of the Old Testament, but once he took on human form, he had to earn his godhood just as we all must.
- Jesus was the natural child of God the Father and Mary.
- The Holy Spirit was not the agent of conception.
- Jesus enjoyed marriage to at least three wives.
- Jesus received his godhood after his resurrection.
- Holy Ghost and Spirit are different. Ghost is a man, and the Spirit is a divine eminence or force felt by all Mormons.

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#### Mormon Doctrines (Salvation)

##### Mormon's Twofold Salvation

- General salvation: Jesus' atonement happened in the garden of Gethsemane and his atonement was only for Adam's sin. This earned all humanity the right to resurrection. Some to hell, others to the different levels of heaven.
- Specific salvation: Jesus' atonement paid for Adam's sin so humanity is "free" to work for their salvation.  
"Jesus Christ redeemed all from the fall; he paid the price; he offered himself as a ransom; he atoned for Adam's sin, leaving us responsible only for our own sins" (Apostle Legrand Richards, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, 98)
- Baptism must be done for salvation and may be done for the dead.
- Three levels of heaven: Telestial, Terrestrial, and Celestial.
- Hell is not necessarily eternal. People may earn their way out.

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Refuting Mormonism (Closed Canon)
<p><u>Apostolic Authority</u> Only the eyewitnesses of Jesus ministry, or their designee were capable of writing Scripture.</p> <p><u>John 14:25-26</u> These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to remembrance all that I said to you.</p> <p><u>John 15:27</u> ...and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.</p> <p><u>John 17:20</u> I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe through their word.</p> <p><u>Acts 1:21-22</u> Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us- beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us-one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.</p> <p><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:12</u> The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.</p>

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Refuting Mormonism (Closed Canon)
<p><u>Ephesians 2:20</u> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together</p> <p><u>Hebrews 2:3-4</u> how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.</p> <p><u>Jude 3</u> I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Were the Mormon apostles with Christ from the beginning?</b></li> <li>• <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:8-9 = Their Test</b></li> </ul>

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Refuting Mormonism (One God)	
Mormons	Bible
<p>"The Gods organized and formed the heavens and earth...And they said: Let there be light...And the Gods called the light Day" (Pearl of Great price, Book of Abraham, 4:1-5).</p> <p>"In the beginning the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create and populate the world and people it" (<i>Journal of Discourses</i>, 6:5).</p>	<p><u>Gen 1:1</u> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.</p> <p><u>Neh 9:6</u> You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship You.</p>

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Refuting Mormonism (Nature of God)	
Mormons	Bible
<p>"We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you can see" (<i>Documentary History of the Church</i>, 6:304).</p> <p>"This revealed doctrine of the composition and nature of the Godhead teaches that there are at least three Gods" (<i>Evidences and Reconciliation</i>, 65).</p>	<p><u>Psalm 90:1-2</u> Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting You are God.</p> <p><u>Deuteronomy 6:4</u> Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, The LORD is one.</p>

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Refuting Mormonism (The Atonement)	
Mormons	Bible
<p>"Joseph Smith taught that there were certain sins so grievous that man may commit, that they will place the transgressors beyond the power of the atonement of Christ" (<i>Doctrines of Salvation</i>, 1:138).</p> <p>"The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it" (<i>Journal of Discourses</i> 3:247)</p>	<p><u>1st John 1:7</u> If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.</p> <p><u>Romans 10:3</u> For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.</p> <p><u>Hebrews 9:26c</u> He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.</p>

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Refuting Mormonism (Holy Spirit)	
Mormons	Bible
<p>"The Holy Ghost...is a Spirit Person, a Spirit Man, a Spirit Entity. He can be in only one place at one time..." (<i>Mormon Doctrine</i>, 358)</p>	<p><u>Psalm 139:7-8</u> Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.</p>
Sin	
<p>"Divine justice forbids that we be accounted sinners solely because our parents transgressed" (<i>Talmage, Articles of Faith</i>, 475).</p>	<p><u>Romans 5:19</u> Through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners.</p>

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Refuting Mormonism (Salvation)	
Mormons	Bible
<p>"Among the covenants are these, that they will cease from sin and from all unrighteousness; that they will abstain from the use of intoxicants, from the use of strong drinks, from the use of tobacco..." (Smith, <i>Gospel Doctrine</i>, 107)</p> <p>"There is not a man or woman who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt" (<i>Journal of Discourses</i>, 3:247).</p> <p>"There is no salvation outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (<i>Mormon Doctrine</i>, 670)</p>	<p><u>Titus 3:5</u> He saved us, not on basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy...</p> <p><u>Ephesians 2:8-9</u> For by grace you have been saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.</p> <p><u>Romans 10:13</u> Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.</p>

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Appendix	Russell Vs. Ross Transcript
Question: (Attorney Staunton) "Do you know the Greek alphabet?"	
Answer: (Russell) "Oh yes."	
Question: (Staunton) "Can you tell me the correct letters if you see them?"	
Answer: (Russell) "Some of them, I might make a mistake on some of them."	
Question: (Staunton) "Would you tell me the names of those on top of the page, page 447 I have got here?"	
Answer: (Russell) "Well, I don't know that I would be able to."	
Question: (Staunton) "You can't tell what those letters are, look at them and see if you know?"	
Answer: (Russell) " My way..." (he was interrupted)	
Question: (Staunton) "Are you familiar with the Greek language?"	
Answer: (Russell) "No."	
(Walter Martin, <i>The Kingdom of The Cults</i> , 43-44)	

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Appendix	Refuting Jehovah Witnesses
<p>➤ JW's Claim: "...Jesus never spoke of himself as God or called himself God. He always put himself below God rather than on an equality with God...Jesus was not God whose will was to be done, but was lower than God, doing God's will" (Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, <i>The Word, Who is He? According to John</i>, 32)</p> <p>➤ <u>Philippians 2:3b;5-9</u> NASB ...but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves...<u>Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus</u>, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <i>but emptied</i> Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, <i>He humbled</i> Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,</p> <p>➤ <u>Isaiah 48:11b</u> For how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.</p>	

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Appendix      Refuting Jehovah Witnesses

➤ 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:16 NWT because the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel's voice and with God's trumpet, and those who are dead in union with Christ will rise first.

JW's claim this verse means Jesus is the archangel. (with the archangel's voice)

Reply: With this logic, Jesus is also God (and with God's trumpet).

➤ Jude 9 Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

➤ Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to him (the devil) "Go Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God and serve Him only.'"

➤ Matthew 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me..."

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Appendix      Refuting Mormon Misinterpretations

Genesis 1:1 Uses the plural form of God, Elohim. Therefore, Mormons believe "gods" is an appropriate translation.

- Reply: Every time the God of Israel is referenced using Elohim, the verbs are always translated in the singular! This is true of "bara" (created) in Genesis 1:1.
- Yahweh-Elohim is used in Gen 2:4; Ex 3:15, 18; 4:5; 5:1; 7:5; 34:6 proving that one God (Yahweh) is in view. These passages always have singular nouns attached to the Name.

Deuteronomy 10:17; Psalm 136:2 Speak of the "God of gods" which Mormons believe implies many gods.

- Reply: The gods spoken about are in the imaginations of men!
- Acts 19:26 ...this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.

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