

ente kadha novel madhavikutty Study Guide

ente kadha novel madhavikutty is a profound literary work that captures the essence of human emotions, societal norms, and personal introspection through the lens of one of Kerala's most celebrated writers, Madhavikutty, also known as Kamala Das. This novel, like her other writings, reflects her candid approach to themes of love, longing, identity, and societal constraints, making it a significant contribution to Indian literature in Malayalam. In this article, we will explore the depths of the novel, its themes, characters, and its impact on readers and literary critics alike.

Introduction to Madhavikutty and her Literary Significance

Who was Madhavikutty?

Kamala Das, popularly known as Madhavikutty, was a renowned Indian poet, short story writer, and novelist. Born in 1934 in Kerala, her writing was characterized by its frankness and exploration of taboo topics, especially related to women's sexuality and societal expectations. Her works often broke conventional norms, paving the way for more open discussions on sensitive issues.

The Literary Style of Madhavikutty

Madhavikutty's writing style is distinguished by:

- Honest and candid narrative voice
- Use of colloquial language
- Deep introspection and emotional depth
- A blend of autobiographical elements with fiction

Her novel **ente kadha**, which translates to "My Story," is considered semi-autobiographical and offers readers intimate insights into her life and thoughts.

Overview of ente kadha novel madhavikutty

ente kadha emphasise> is not just a novel; it is a reflection of Madhavikutty's own life experiences, woven with poetic prose and raw honesty. The book traverses through themes of love, loss, identity, and societal hypocrisy, making it a compelling read that resonates with many.

Plot Summary

While the novel is semi-autobiographical, it narrates the journey of a woman navigating her desires and societal expectations. The story often oscillates between her personal feelings and the external world, highlighting:

- Her childhood and early influences
- Her experiences with love and relationships
- The societal pressures faced as a woman
- Her quest for self-identity and independence

The narrative is marked by introspective monologues, poetic expressions, and vivid descriptions of her inner conflicts.

Key Characters

- The Protagonist (Madhavikutty): A reflective woman grappling with her emotions and societal constraints.
- Family Members: Depicting traditional values and expectations.
- Lovers and Relationships: Showcasing her explorations of love and intimacy.
- Society: Portrayed as both a critic and an oppressor, influencing her decisions and outlook.

Themes Explored in ente kadha novel madhavikutty

1. Female Identity and Liberation

The novel delves deep into the struggles faced by women in a patriarchal society. Madhavikutty's candid narrative sheds light on:

- The repression of female desires
- The quest for independence
- Challenging societal norms surrounding femininity

2. Love and Desire

Her exploration of love is raw and honest, often challenging traditional notions. Themes include:

- The pursuit of genuine love
- The complexities of romantic relationships

- The conflict between societal expectations and personal feelings

3. Societal Hypocrisy and Moral Constraints

Madhavikutty critically examines the double standards prevalent in society, especially regarding women's sexuality and behavior. She highlights:

- The hypocrisy of societal morals
- The impact of communal judgments
- The struggle to maintain personal integrity

4. Self-Discovery and Expression

A significant aspect of the novel is the protagonist's journey towards self-awareness, emphasizing:

- The importance of authentic expression
- Overcoming internal and external conflicts
- Embracing one's true self despite societal pressures

Literary Significance and Impact of ente kadha novel madhavikutty

Breaking Taboos and Challenging Norms

Madhavikutty's **ente kadha** was groundbreaking for its time, as it openly discussed themes considered taboo in Indian society. Her frankness encouraged other writers and women to express their truths without fear.

Autobiographical Narrative and Poetic Style

The novel is lauded for its poetic language and lyrical prose, blending autobiographical elements with literary artistry. This style makes the narrative deeply personal and emotionally resonant.

Influence on Malayalam Literature

The book's candid exploration of women's inner worlds contributed significantly to Malayalam literature's evolution, inspiring a new wave of feminist and introspective writers.

Critical Reception and Controversy

While celebrated for its honesty, **ente kadha** also faced criticism for its explicit content, leading to debates on morality and artistic freedom in Indian society.

How to Approach Reading ente kadha novel madhavikutty

Understanding the Context

Readers should approach the novel with an open mind, understanding the cultural and societal backdrop of 20th-century Kerala.

Themes to Reflect Upon

- The universality of human emotions
- The societal constructs around gender and morality
- The importance of self-expression and authenticity

Recommended Reading Tips

- Read slowly to appreciate the poetic language
- Reflect on the autobiographical elements
- Engage with critical essays and analyses to deepen understanding

Conclusion

ente kadha novel madhavikutty stands as a testament to Madhavikutty's fearless exploration of her inner world and society's hypocrisies. It remains a vital work that challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths about human nature, gender roles, and societal expectations. Whether you are a lover of Malayalam literature, a feminist thinker, or a literary enthusiast, Madhavikutty's novel offers invaluable insights and a compelling narrative that continues to inspire generations.

Additional Resources

- Books by Madhavikutty (Kamala Das) for further reading
- Critical essays on **ente kadha**
- Interviews and autobiographies for context
- Malayalam literature anthologies highlighting her work

By understanding and appreciating **ente kadha novel madhavikutty**, readers can gain a deeper

insight into the complexities of human emotions and societal constructs, making it a timeless piece of Indian literary heritage.

Ente Kadha Novel Madhavikutty: An In-Depth Literary Analysis and Critique

Introduction

The phrase Ente Kadha Novel Madhavikutty immediately evokes a profound engagement with the literary landscape of Malayalam literature, especially in relation to the iconic writer Madhavikutty, also known as Kamala Das. Her seminal work, Ente Kadha (My Story), stands as a transformative autobiography that challenged societal norms, redefined autobiographical writing in Malayalam, and offered an unflinching glimpse into the personal and societal struggles of a woman. This long-form article aims to critically analyze the novel, exploring its themes, stylistic nuances, cultural significance, and the broader implications for Indian literature.

Historical and Literary Context

Before delving into the depths of Ente Kadha, it is essential to understand its place within Madhavikutty's oeuvre and the socio-cultural milieu of 20th-century Kerala.

- Madhavikutty's Literary Persona: Born in 1934 in Kerala, Kamala Das adopted the pen name Madhavikutty for her Malayalam writings. Her works often challenged conservative societal taboos, especially regarding female sexuality, personal identity, and freedom.

- Autobiography as a Genre in Malayalam Literature: While autobiographical writing existed in Malayalam, Madhavikutty's Ente Kadha marked a turning point; her candid narrative broke traditional taboos, paving the way for more honest and personal storytelling.

- Socio-cultural Backdrop: The novel was written during a period of social upheaval in Kerala, where traditional values clashed with modern ideas of individualism and gender rights. Madhavikutty's candidness was both revolutionary and controversial.

Overview of Ente Kadha

Ente Kadha was published in 1983 and is considered one of the most influential autobiographies in Indian literature. It is a raw, poetic, and unvarnished account of Madhavikutty's life, encompassing her childhood, adolescence, marriage, personal struggles, and her quest for self-identity.

Thematic Deep Dive

- Self-Identity and Personal Freedom

At its core, Ente Kadha is a quest for self-understanding. Madhavikutty candidly discusses her feelings of confinement within societal and familial expectations.

- Rejection of Societal Norms: She challenges the traditional roles assigned to women, especially in a conservative society.

- Eroticism and Female Desire: Her open discussion of sexuality was groundbreaking, breaking the silence around female pleasure and desire.

- Autobiographical Honesty: The narrative is marked by unflinching honesty, emphasizing the importance of personal truth over societal acceptance.

- Gender and Society

Madhavikutty's work is a critique of gender roles and patriarchy.

- Womanhood and Liberation: She explores the limitations imposed on women, and her own struggles with these restrictions.

- Marriage and Personal Autonomy: Her marriage is depicted as complex?sometimes nurturing, often oppressive?highlighting her desire for independence.

- Societal Hypocrisy: The novel condemns societal double standards, especially regarding sexuality and morality.

- Cultural and Religious Influences

The novel reflects on the influence of Kerala's cultural and religious ethos.

- Religious Upbringing: Madhavikutty discusses her childhood in a devout Hindu household, and how religious expectations shaped her life.

- Cultural Constraints: The narrative critiques the conservative cultural atmosphere that stifled individual expression.

Stylistic and Literary Features

Ente Kadha is distinguished by its poetic language, lyrical prose, and candid tone.

- Poetic Prose: Madhavikutty's background as a poet is evident in her lyrical style, which lends emotional depth to her storytelling.

- Use of Metaphor and Imagery: The novel employs vivid imagery to evoke feelings of longing, repression, and liberation.

- Narrative Voice: The first-person narrative creates intimacy, allowing readers to experience her innermost thoughts.

- Language Choice: The code-switching between Malayalam and English, along with poetic diction, enhances the authenticity and emotional resonance.

Critical Reception and Impact

Ente Kadha elicited mixed reactions upon publication. While many hailed it as a courageous testament to personal freedom and authenticity, others condemned it for its frankness.

Positive Critiques

- Recognized for its literary bravery and honesty.

- Praised for elevating autobiography to an art form in Malayalam literature.

- Celebrated for giving voice to female sexuality and autonomy.

Controversies

- Some critics labeled the work as scandalous or inappropriate, especially in conservative circles.
- The novel sparked debates about morality, literature, and freedom of expression.

Cultural and Literary Legacy

- The book has inspired countless writers, especially women, to explore personal narratives.
- It has contributed to broader conversations on gender, sexuality, and individual rights in India.
- The novel remains a landmark in Indian autobiographical literature, influencing subsequent generations.

Thematic Critique and Sociopolitical Implications

Ente Kadha is not merely an autobiography but also a political statement. It questions the societal fabric that suppresses individual identity, especially that of women.

- Feminist Significance: Madhavikutty's work is seen as an early feminist voice in Malayalam literature, advocating for women's right to express their sexuality and desires.
- Countercultural Discourse: The novel challenges the sanitized narratives of morality, urging society to confront uncomfortable truths.
- Literary Revolution: Its candidness broke taboos, paving the way for more open discussions on personal and social issues.

Critical Perspectives and Interpretations

Scholars have approached Ente Kadha from various angles:

- Feminist Interpretation: Viewing it as a manifesto for female emancipation.
- Psychological Analysis: Exploring Madhavikutty's inner conflicts and search for identity.
- Sociological Perspective: Examining how her narrative reflects societal repression and change.
- Literary Appreciation: Recognizing her poetic style and narrative brilliance.

Challenges and Limitations

While Ente Kadha is celebrated, it also faces critiques:

- Subjectivity: Some interpret her autobiography as overly introspective, risking narcissism.
- Cultural Context: Its candidness might be difficult to reconcile within traditional Indian cultural frameworks.
- Potential Misinterpretations: The explicit content may be misunderstood or misused, leading to moral debates.

Conclusion

Ente Kadha Novel Madhavikutty stands as a landmark in Indian autobiographical and feminist literature. Its unvarnished honesty, poetic language, and courageous exploration of taboo topics have cemented its place in literary history. Madhavikutty's work not only chronicles her personal journey but also ignites ongoing conversations about identity, sexuality, societal norms, and freedom. As a literary piece, it challenges readers to confront their biases and to embrace the complexity of human experience. Its enduring relevance underscores the importance of authentic storytelling—an act of rebellion, liberation, and truth-telling that continues to inspire generations.

In summary:

- Madhavikutty's Ente Kadha is a groundbreaking autobiography that challenged societal norms.
- Its themes of self-identity, gender, sexuality, and societal repression resonate deeply.
- Stylistically poetic and candid, the novel elevated autobiographical writing in Malayalam literature.
- It sparked debates, inspired activism, and remains a vital literary and cultural touchstone.
- Its legacy continues to influence contemporary discussions on gender, freedom, and authentic storytelling.

By critically examining Ente Kadha, we gain insights into Madhavikutty's life and the broader cultural shifts she embodied, reminding us of the power of truthful narratives in shaping societal consciousness.

Question What is the main theme of Madhavikutty's novel 'Ente Kadha'? The novel explores themes of personal introspection, emotional struggles, and societal norms, reflecting Madhavikutty's deep insights into human relationships and inner conflicts. How does 'Ente Kadha' reflect Madhavikutty's literary style? The novel showcases Madhavikutty's characteristic candidness, poetic language, and psychological depth, often blending autobiographical elements with poetic prose. Why is 'Ente Kadha' considered an important work in Malayalam literature? 'Ente Kadha' is regarded as a significant work for its honest portrayal of human emotions and its contribution to feminist literature, challenging societal taboos and encouraging self-exploration. What inspired Madhavikutty to write 'Ente Kadha'? Madhavikutty was inspired by her own life experiences, personal struggles, and the desire to express her innermost thoughts, which she transformed into the poignant narrative of 'Ente Kadha'. How has 'Ente Kadha' influenced contemporary Malayalam literature? 'Ente Kadha' has inspired many writers to adopt a more honest and introspective approach, paving the way for more emotionally raw and socially conscious literature in Malayalam.

Related keywords: Madhavikutty, Kamala Das, Malayalam literature, autobiographical novel, Ente Kadha, Malayalam author, Indian literature, Malayalam autobiography, Madhavikutty works, Malayalam novels

Ente Kadha Madhavikutty

ente kadha madhavikutty is a phrase that resonates deeply with readers who cherish Malayalam literature and the poetic genius of Madhavikutty, the pen name of the renowned poet and novelist, Kamala Das. Her life and works have left an indelible mark on Indian literature, especially within the Malayalam literary tradition. This article explores the life, literary contributions, themes, and legacy of Madhavikutty, offering an insightful look into her journey as a writer and her influence on contemporary literature.

Understanding Madhavikutty: The Woman Behind the Pen

Early Life and Background

Madhavikutty was born as Kamala Das on December 31, 1934, in Kerala, India. Growing up in a traditional family, her early life was marked by a mixture of cultural values and personal introspection. Her upbringing in a conservative society contrasted sharply with her later bold and candid expression of personal experiences, which became a hallmark of her literary work.

Personal Experiences and Their Influence

Her personal life, including her marriage and struggles with societal expectations, heavily influenced her writing. Madhavikutty's candid portrayal of love, sexuality, and emotional vulnerability challenged societal norms and opened new avenues for Indian women writers to express their inner worlds openly.

The Literary Journey of Madhavikutty

Major Works and Publications

Madhavikutty's literary oeuvre spans poetry, essays, and autobiographies. Some of her most notable works include:

- **Neermathalam Poothu Thadikkunnu** (Poetry collection)
- **Ente Katha** (Autobiography)
- **The Old Playhouse and Other Poems**
- **My Story** (Autobiography in English)

Her writings are characterized by lyrical beauty, raw honesty, and a fearless exploration of personal themes.

Style and Literary Significance

Madhavikutty's style is marked by simplicity combined with emotional depth. Her poetry often employs free verse, making it accessible yet profound. Her autobiographical writings broke taboos by openly discussing topics like female sexuality and emotional struggles, which was revolutionary in Indian literature at the time.

Themes and Motifs in Madhavikutty's Works

Love and Desire

A predominant theme in her poetry and autobiographies is love—its joys, sorrows, and complexities. Madhavikutty's candid depiction of romantic and sexual desire challenged traditional Indian societal norms about female sexuality.

Self-Discovery and Identity

Her works delve into her quest for personal identity, often reflecting internal conflicts and societal pressures. Her autobiographies, especially "Ente Katha," are seminal in understanding her journey of self-awareness and emancipation.

Freedom and Independence

Madhavikutty was an advocate for women's independence. Her writings often emphasize the importance of personal freedom and resisting societal constraints, inspiring countless women to embrace their individuality.

Societal Critique

Through her candid narratives, she critiqued societal hypocrisies, especially regarding gender roles, marriage, and morality, bringing to light the struggles women face within traditional setups.

The Legacy of Madhavikutty

Influence on Indian Literature and Women Writers

Madhavikutty's fearless voice paved the way for future generations of women writers in India. Her honesty and openness about taboo topics inspired many to write authentically about their experiences.

Recognition and Awards

Throughout her life, Madhavikutty received numerous accolades, including:

- Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award
- Padma Shri (India's fourth-highest civilian award)

Her work continues to be studied and celebrated in literary circles worldwide.

Cultural Impact and Popularity

Her poetry and autobiographies remain popular among readers for their emotional honesty and lyrical beauty. Madhavikutty is often regarded as a pioneer who challenged and redefined Indian literature's portrayal of women and sexuality.

How to Engage with Madhavikutty's Works

Reading Her Poetry

To truly appreciate Madhavikutty's literary genius, start with her poetry collections like "Neermathalam Poothu Thadikkunnu" and "The Old Playhouse and Other Poems." Her poems evoke deep emotional responses and offer insights into her worldview.

Exploring Her Autobiographies

"Ente Katha" and "My Story" provide a candid look into her life, struggles, and triumphs. These autobiographies are essential reads for understanding her journey of self-discovery.

Attending Literary Events and Discussions

Many literary festivals and seminars focus on Madhavikutty's work and her impact on Indian literature. Participating in these events can deepen your understanding and appreciation of her contributions.

Conclusion: Celebrating Madhavikutty's Enduring Legacy

Madhavikutty, or Kamala Das, remains one of India's most influential and controversial literary figures. Her fearless exploration of love, desire, and self-identity broke societal taboos and inspired generations of writers and readers. **ente kadha madhavikutty** is not just a phrase but a testament to her personal and literary journey—a story of courage, honesty, and the relentless pursuit of self-expression. As her words continue to resonate, her legacy endures as a beacon of artistic authenticity and women's empowerment in Indian literature.

If you're interested in exploring more about Madhavikutty, consider reading her poetry collections, autobiographies, and critical analyses of her work to gain a comprehensive understanding of her life

and literary impact.

Ente Kadha Madhavikutty is a seminal work that holds a special place in the world of Malayalam literature. Authored by the legendary poet and novelist Madhavikutty, also known as Kamala Das, this collection of autobiographical essays and reflections offers an intimate glimpse into her life, thoughts, and creative journey. The book is renowned for its candid tone, lyrical prose, and honest portrayal of personal experiences, making it a vital read for anyone interested in Malayalam literature, feminist literature, or autobiographical writing. In this review, we will explore the themes, stylistic features, significance, and impact of Ente Kadha Madhavikutty, providing a comprehensive understanding of its literary importance.

Introduction and Context

Madhavikutty, born Kamala Das, is widely celebrated for her bold expression of female sexuality, her lyrical poetry, and her candid autobiographical writings. Ente Kadha Madhavikutty (My Story Madhavikutty) was published in 1987 and is regarded as one of her most personal works. Unlike traditional autobiographies that tend to maintain a certain distance from their subjects, Madhavikutty's work blurs the lines between fiction and reality, offering readers an unfiltered account of her life experiences, emotional struggles, and philosophical reflections.

The book is often discussed in the context of feminist literature for its unapologetic portrayal of womanhood, desire, and societal constraints. It also defies the conventional norms of autobiography by integrating poetic language and introspective musings, making it a unique literary form. Its publication sparked debates about morality, freedom of expression, and the role of women in society, cementing its place as a provocative and influential work.

Thematic Overview

Autobiography as Art

Ente Kadha Madhavikutty is not merely a recounting of life events but a poetic exploration of identity, desire, and societal expectations. Madhavikutty employs a lyrical narrative style that elevates her personal stories into universal themes. Her candidness about her struggles with sexuality, love, and societal hypocrisy challenges traditional notions of modesty and virtue.

Feminism and Female Identity

One of the central themes is the exploration of female identity and liberation. Madhavikutty's narrative openly discusses her desires, frustrations, and independence, which was revolutionary for her time. She questions patriarchal norms and articulates a woman's right to express herself freely, often confronting societal taboos.

Love, Desire, and Relationships

The book delves deeply into Madhavikutty's romantic experiences, including her marriages and love affairs. Her honest portrayal of her passions and emotional turmoil provides a nuanced view of love beyond conventional romantic ideals, emphasizing authenticity and emotional truth.

Societal Critique

Madhavikutty does not shy away from criticizing societal hypocrisies, especially in regard to gender roles and morality. Her reflections often highlight the contradictions between societal expectations and personal happiness, fostering a critical view of conventional morality.

Spirituality and Existential Inquiry

While primarily autobiographical, the work also explores existential questions about the meaning of life, death, and the self. Madhavikutty's spiritual reflections are intertwined with her personal narrative, adding depth to her introspections.

Stylistic Features

Poetic Language

Madhavikutty's prose is imbued with poetic sensibility, often employing lyrical, rhythmic sentences that evoke vivid imagery and deep emotion. Her command over language allows her to convey complex feelings succinctly and powerfully.

Honesty and Boldness

The narrative's raw honesty is one of its defining features. Madhavikutty openly discusses her sexuality, mental health, and personal failures without euphemism, which was groundbreaking in the cultural context of her time.

Introspective and Reflective Tone

The writing style is deeply introspective, with Madhavikutty examining her thoughts and feelings in detail. This reflective tone invites readers into her inner world, fostering empathy and understanding.

Blurring of Fiction and Reality

The work often employs poetic license, blending autobiographical facts with creative embellishments. This approach enhances the literary quality and emphasizes the universality of her

experiences.

Impact and Significance

Literary Influence

Ente Kadha Madhavikutty is considered a landmark in Malayalam autobiographical literature. It paved the way for more honest and experimental autobiographies in Indian literature, especially those authored by women. Madhavikutty's lyrical style and candid approach have influenced countless writers to break free from societal shackles and write authentically.

Feminist Discourse

The book has been a catalyst for feminist discourse in India. By openly discussing female sexuality and challenging patriarchal norms, Madhavikutty empowered many women to voice their own struggles and desires.

Controversy and Criticism

The work was met with controversy upon publication, with critics and societal conservatives condemning its frankness. Some accused Madhavikutty of exposing her personal life indiscriminately, while others appreciated her courage. The debates underscored the ongoing tension between artistic freedom and societal morality.

Cultural and Social Reflection

Beyond its literary value, the book offers a snapshot of Indian society in the late 20th century, highlighting the conflicts between tradition and modernity. Madhavikutty's reflections serve as a mirror to societal hypocrisies and the quest for individual freedom.

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Unparalleled honesty and emotional depth
- Beautiful poetic language
- Pioneering feminist perspective
- Deep philosophical insights
- Influential in Malayalam and Indian literature

Cons:

- Explicit content may offend conservative readers
- Personal nature might be uncomfortable for some
- Non-linear narrative can challenge traditional readers
- Some may see it as overly introspective or self-indulgent

Conclusion

Ente Kadha Madhavikutty remains a powerful testament to the human spirit's complexity and the importance of authentic self-expression. Madhavikutty's fearless storytelling breaks societal taboos and encourages readers to reflect on their own lives, desires, and societal constraints. Its lyrical prose, emotional honesty, and thematic richness make it a timeless work that continues to inspire and provoke debate.

Whether viewed as a piece of autobiographical literature, feminist manifesto, or poetic memoir, the book stands out as a landmark in Indian literary history. Its enduring relevance lies in Madhavikutty's unwavering voice, which champions the individual's quest for truth and freedom. For anyone interested in exploring the depths of human emotion, gender dynamics, and societal critique through powerful language, Ente Kadha Madhavikutty is an essential read that will resonate long after the last page.

In summary, Ente Kadha Madhavikutty is more than just an autobiography; it is a bold declaration of selfhood, a poetic testament to womanhood, and a mirror to societal contradictions. Its literary craftsmanship and revolutionary spirit continue to inspire generations, making it a cornerstone of modern Indian autobiographical writing.

QuestionAnswer What is the central theme of 'Ente Kadha Madhavikutty'? 'Ente Kadha Madhavikutty' explores the personal, emotional, and philosophical journey of the author, depicting her reflections on love, life, spirituality, and self-discovery. Who is the author of 'Ente Kadha Madhavikutty'? The book is authored by Kamala Das, also known as Madhavikutty, a renowned Indian poet and writer known for her candid and introspective writing style. How has 'Ente Kadha Madhavikutty' influenced Malayalam literature? 'Ente Kadha Madhavikutty' is considered a seminal autobiographical work that challenged conventional norms, brought feminist perspectives to Malayalam literature, and inspired many writers to explore personal and taboo topics. What are some key autobiographical elements in 'Ente Kadha Madhavikutty'? The book details Kamala Das's early life, struggles with societal expectations, her romantic relationships, her journey towards self-awareness, and her reflections on her identity as a woman and writer. Why is 'Ente Kadha Madhavikutty' considered a groundbreaking work in Indian literature? Because it candidly addresses taboo subjects like female sexuality, personal freedom, and emotional vulnerability, breaking away

from traditional literary norms and paving the way for more open discussions on these topics.

Related keywords: Madhavikutty, Kamala Das, Malayalam literature, Autobiography, Indian poets, Feminist writers, Malayalam poetry, Malayalam autobiographies, Indian women writers, Literary works

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