

# DAWORD

**The Vienna African Writers (VAW)**

**Quarterly Newsletter**



**Volume 2, Issue 1, March 2015**

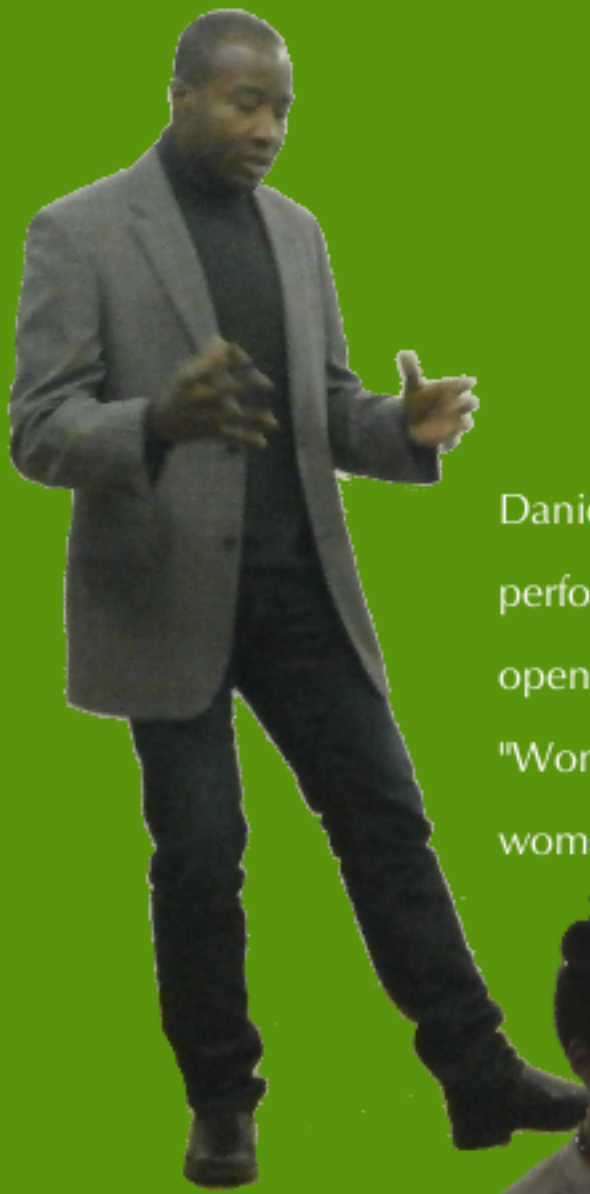
The VAW end of year/Poetry Slam Party was attended by twenty participants. The event was chaired by Prof. Adams Bodomo and he was supported by the VAW team. All of the participants introduced themselves and they were given the time to get to know each other. Daniel R. Bitouh started the event with a poetry slam performance called "Woman, Wo(e)men, women." Three participants had registered for the competition, Ashura Kayupayupa, Anesu Dzvuke, and Yayra Sumah. But Sumah did not participate for health reasons.

The judges were Mathias Müller, Eunice Wangui Stuhlhofer, and Sarah Udoh. In line with the VAW guidelines, each of the participants performed three poems. It was indeed a lively competition in which Ashura Kayupayupa came 1st and Anesu Dzvuke came 2nd. And both won 50 € and 30 € respectively. Both participants were then asked to perform one of the poems that the audience liked most. Afterwards, Udoh talked about her work as an author and poet and there were various other discussions that took place while everyone was having buffet.

*Ashura Kayupayupa reads her winning poem in Kiswahili "Lia" ("Cry").*

## Vienna African Writers (VAW) Christmas Party 2014





Daniel Bitouh performs his opening poem "Woman, Wo(e)men, woman".

Anesu Dzvuke begins reading her poem in front of the audience.



Sarah Udoh talks about her work as an author and a poet.



Participants pose for a photo at the end of the competition (right to left): Adams Bodomo, Tomi Adeaga, Ashura Kayupayupa, Anesu Dzvuke and Daniel Bitouh.



Participants greet and get to know each other.

## Lia - Cry

*Here is a taste of Kayupayupa's poem in Kiswahili:*

Lia tu ndugu yangu upunguze machungu yako, Lia kwa nguvu zote kwikwi ziwe angani mwako,  
Ila lia taratibu usiamshe na wenzako LIA KWA NGUVU ZOTE UIOKOE NCHI YAKO.

Inua kichwa chako ulie na Mungu wako, Lia kwa hisia zote paloe kifuani mwako,  
machozi jasho na damu ziwe shavuni mwako, LIA KWA NGUVU ZOTE UIOKOE NCHI YAKO,

Ugeni si jambo jema usipokumbuka utokako, lia huku umejiinamia huzuni moyoni mwako,  
lia huku ukiwatizama wenyeji machoni mwako, LIA KWA NGUVU ZOTE UIOKOE NCHI YAKO,

Wenyeji wakiuliza kiini cha chozi lako, hakika usiwafiche lililo moyoni mwako,  
shida,njaa na mauti waambie rafiki zako, ngoma jando na kilimo sikike kinywani mwako,  
LIA KWA NGUVU ZOTE UIOKOE NCHI YAKO.

Wambie ukweli wako juu ya nchi yako, kilimo utalii dhahabu almasi zote za kwako,  
uje nao waje nao waokoe ndugu zako, LIA KWA NGUVU ZOTE UIOKOE NCHI YAKO,

Ugenini ni kwa Mungu duniani pote ni pako, tembea pembeni zote ukumbuke utokako,  
urudi kwa mama yako na wageni wenyeji wako, LIA KWA NGUVU ZOTE UIOKOE NCHI YAKO.

Wambie wenyeji wako mazuri ya utokako, waambie waje hima na faida ya nchi yako,  
waambie twaandalia chakula cha asili yako, LIA KWA NGUVU ZOTE UIOKOE NCHI YAKO.

Faida ya kilio chako ni nema kwa nchi yako, jasho mwilini mwako manukato kwa ndugu zako,  
ugeni wako ulipo faida kwa jamii yako, LIA KWA NGUVU ZOTE UIOKOE NCHI YAKO.

-Ashura Kayupayupa

*Another poem also appears below:*

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# Spring

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Spring is a time of renewal;  
of nature and all.  
Freezing winter, bereft of life, is gone.  
Snow has left the ground.  
All is clear and promising to all,  
As they emerge from cocoons  
to enjoy sunshine.

Nature has come alive again!  
Trees are free of overbearing snow  
Leaves sprout; - a beautiful  
Shiny gold then turn green.  
Soft branches sway softly  
In the gently brushing breeze,  
to give hope to all creation.

Creepy-crawlies are no longer hiding  
From the long frosty biting winter  
Robins pick up sluggish ones,  
But underground will not do now  
Or else they miss the radiant sunshine  
As it displaces the grey winter,  
And ushers in brand new delights.

Spring is time to rejuvenate.  
A good time to reconsider,  
To start dreaming once more.  
As flowers blossom, dreams rebirth,  
Keep pressing on.  
Spring with life  
In all spheres of your life.  
Be in unison with spring; relive!

- By Sibusisiwe Jonathan

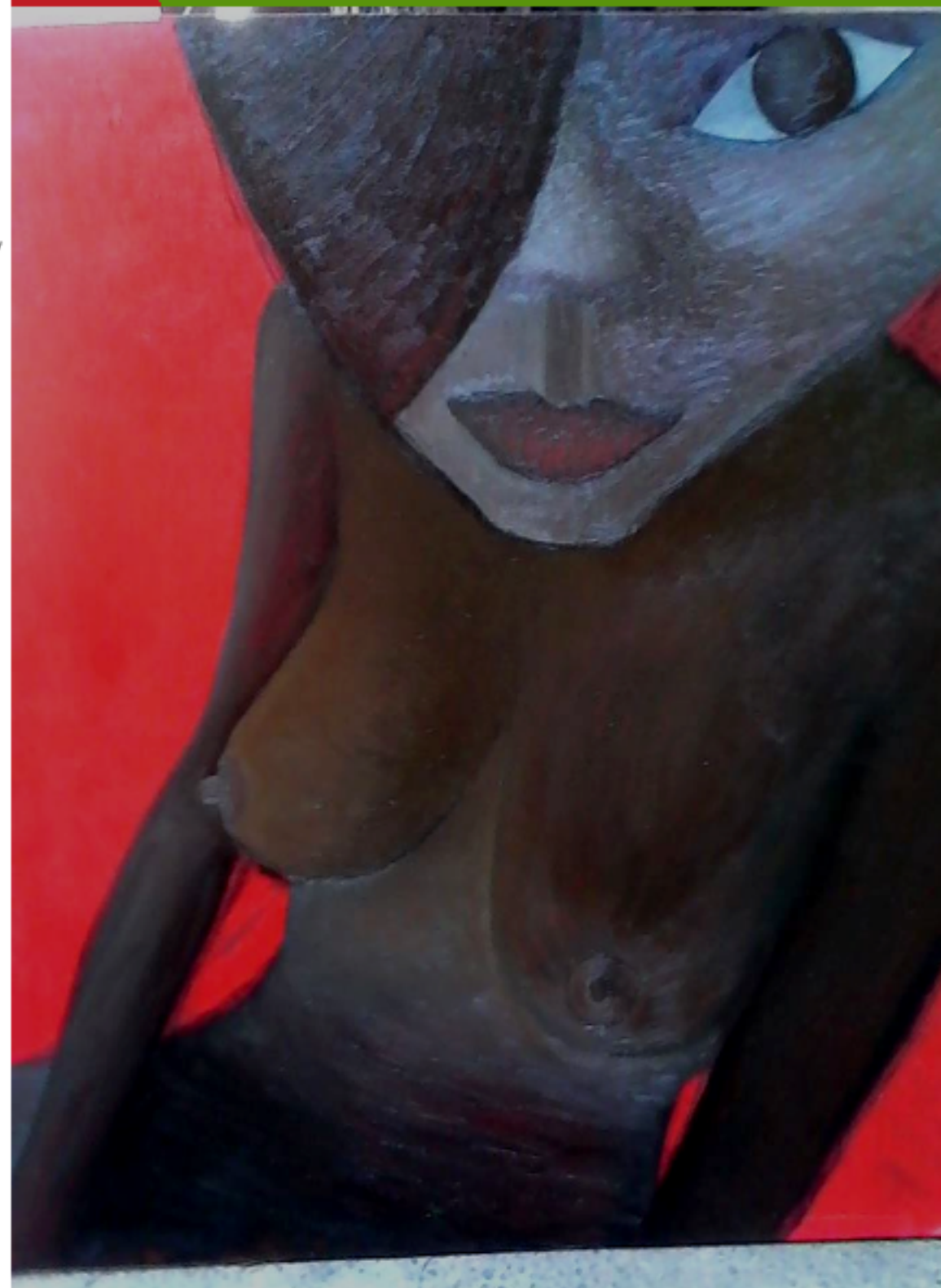


## Book Recommendations

In *Invincible Nubia/Adios Lampedusa*, Philo Ikonya displays unfettered imagination and boundless creativity that categorically refuse to be contained within conventionally defined perimeters in terms of generic specification, thematic conceptualization, locale contextualization and overall artistic envisioning. Action takes place at multifarious levels: the real world of the living; specific geographical spaces; the world of the dead; the world of nature; the surreal; the unknown; the metaphysical realm; the mental and psychological spheres, etc. The work thus transcends physical space and defies borders, while allowing the various “worlds” to flow in and out of each other with incredible fluidity. Form-wise, the narrative is a lacework of: story, epic, drama, poetry, allegory, prosaic poesy, orate utterance in lyrical mode, and an unstoppable stream of consciousness artistic explosion – all in one. For readers who find enigmatic writing jarring, reading Ikonya’s work is likely to be frustrating and alienating; but for those who are intrigued by enigma, the experience will be fascinatingly engaging. Written in a style similar to that of Dambudzo Marechera’s *The House of Hunger* and Bessie Head’s *A Question of Power*, Ikonya’s *Invincible Nubia/Adios Lampedusa* challenges the reader to suspend belief, listen, feel, imagine and then flow with the narrative rather than read it line by line trying to make literal sense of every word. Simply, the psychological depth, imaginative daring and artistic uniqueness of Philo Ikonya’s creativity in this work are stunning.

Micere Githae Mugo, Ph.D. Meredith Professor For Teaching Excellence, Department of African American Studies, Syracuse University, Syracuse New York, USA.

*Philo Ikonya:  
Invincible Nubia/  
Adios Lampedusa*



## Book Recommendations

*Sarah Udoh-Grossfurthner:  
But He Calls Me Blessed!  
When the Unbelievable  
Happens to Believers.*

Have you ever wondered why some people are made better by the same experience that makes others bitter?

Or, how much is too much before it becomes pointless to keep on hoping?

Discover the answers to these questions in this book...

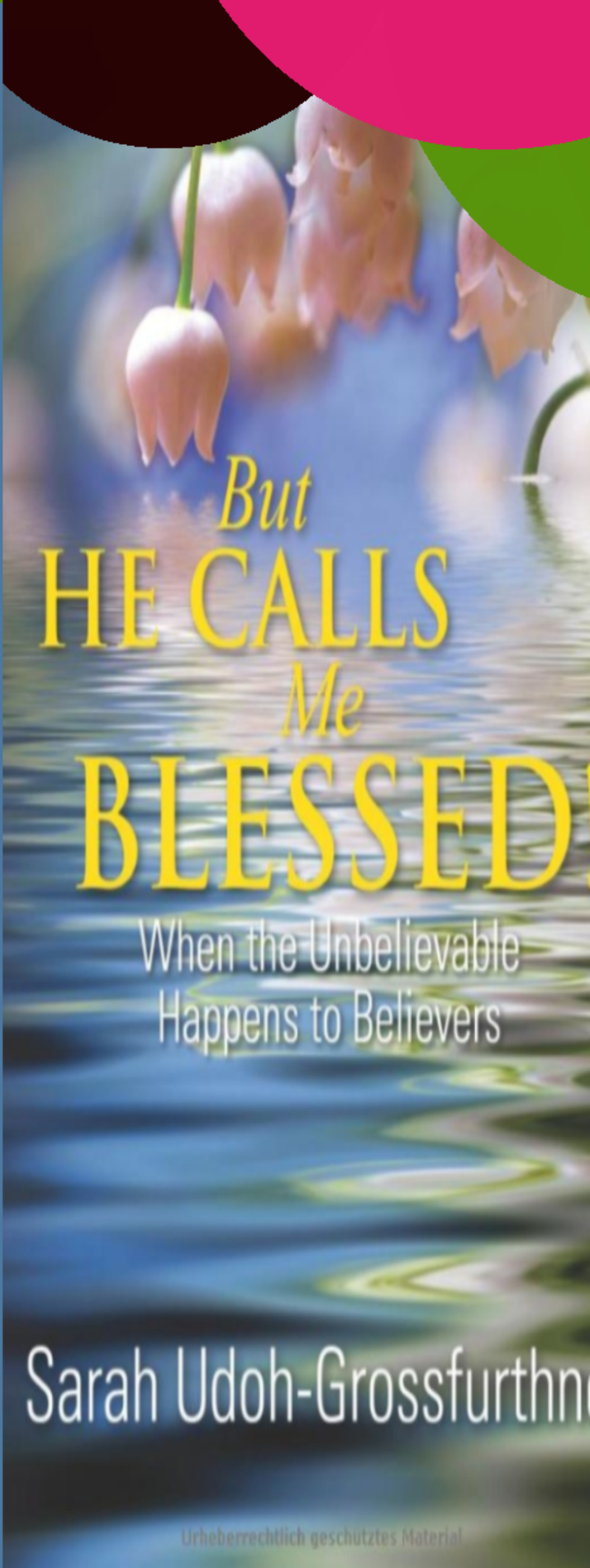
Heartbreakingly true stories of five women with awesome faith. Inspired by the thoughts of whether or not there is more to faith and if hope can be found in the most hopeless of situations, this moving book documents firsthand accounts of people triumphing over the most difficult situations imaginable with the help of faith and positivity. By exploring the central question of why experiences make some people bitter and others better, this wonderful book aims to inspire as it enlightens. As poignant as it is inspiring, this remarkable book will touch readers' heart as it teaches the true power of faith.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/395034330X>

Kindle: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B009F3M79U>

[www.createspace.com/4086821](http://www.createspace.com/4086821)

[ref=1147694&utm\\_id=6026](http://www.createspace.com/4086821?ref=1147694&utm_id=6026)



*But*  
**HE CALLS**  
*Me*  
**BLESSED**

When the Unbelievable  
Happens to Believers

Sarah Udoh-Grossfurthner

## Announcements

### Fresh Magazine - Black Austrian Lifestyle

We are happy to announce a new cooperation with Fresh – Magazine for Black Austrian Lifestyle! The magazine will be distributed at our event and we will be featured in it, so keep your eyes peeled and check out the website: <http://freshzine.at/>



### VAW Facebook Page

VAW now has a Facebook page. It is being managed by Ashura Kayupayupa. Keep yourselves updated on our activities through this page. Here is the link to it:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Vienna-African-Writers-Club/804750209580687?sk=timeline>

Just click on the “like button” of our Facebook page and automatically get updated on our activities.





## Get involved!

We are always looking for volunteers who are highly motivated and interested in becoming members of the VAW editorial team, especially in the areas of graphics and web design. Whatever skill it is you would like to share with us, we will be happy to get to know you!

## Next VAW Event

The next VAW Event will take place on June 18th and the venue will be made known in due course.

**Editorial Board:**

Adams Bodomo – Chief Editor

Tomi Adeaga – Associate Editor

Daniel R. Bitouh – Associate Editor

Caroline Pajancic – Assistant Editor

Yayra Sumah – Graphic Designer

Ashura Kayupayupa – Social Media Platforms

**Vienna  
African  
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