

African tales contes africains Latest Edition

African Tales Contes Africains

African Tales Contes Africains: Exploring the Richness of African Storytelling Traditions

african tales contes africains have long been a vibrant and essential part of African

culture, weaving together history, morals, and entertainment through generations. These stories, told in countless dialects and languages across the continent, serve as more than just simple narratives—they are a bridge connecting communities, teaching values, and preserving ancestral wisdom. Whether shared around a fire under the vast African sky or written down for wider audiences, African tales, or contes africains, continue to capture the imagination of readers and listeners worldwide.

The Essence of African Tales Contes Africains

African tales contes africains encapsulate the spirit and diversity of Africa's many peoples.

Unlike the Western fairy tales that often revolve around castles and royalty, African stories frequently center on animals, natural elements, and everyday life. These narratives are deeply rooted in oral tradition, passed down by griots, elders, and storytellers who use voice, rhythm, and gesture to bring tales alive.

The Role of Oral Tradition in African Storytelling

Oral tradition is fundamental in African cultures, where history, laws, and cultural values were transmitted without written texts for centuries. Storytellers played a crucial role,

acting as historians, educators, and entertainers. The dynamic nature of oral storytelling means that tales could be adapted to reflect changing social circumstances or to emphasize particular lessons relevant to the audience.

This fluidity makes african tales contes africains not only a window into the past but also a living, evolving art form. The emphasis is often on communal values such as respect, honesty, bravery, and the importance of kinship.

Common Themes and Characters in African Tales

African tales often feature a cast of characters drawn from the natural world—animals like the clever hare, the wise tortoise, or the proud lion. These animals are anthropomorphized to teach lessons about human nature and society. Trickster figures, such as Anansi the Spider, are especially popular across West African folklore, embodying cleverness and wit rather than brute strength.

Some of the most recurring themes include:

Morality and Ethics: Stories often convey clear lessons about right and wrong,

1.

encouraging virtues such as kindness, humility, and justice.

Creation Myths: Many tales explore how the world or particular customs came to

2.

be, reflecting the spiritual beliefs of different ethnic groups.

Survival and Ingenuity: Tales highlighting resourcefulness and intelligence in

3.

overcoming adversity.

Community and Cooperation: Emphasizing the importance of working together

4.

and respecting social bonds.

Language and Diversity in African Storytelling

Africa is home to over 2,000 languages and dialects, which means african tales contes africains come in an incredible variety of linguistic forms. Each ethnic group brings its unique ?avor, idioms, and storytelling style, making the landscape of African tales rich and diverse.

Multilingual Storytelling and Its Impact

Many African storytellers are multilingual, often blending languages and dialects to reach broader audiences. This multilingual approach re?ects the continent?s complex social fabric, where language is both a marker of identity and a tool for connection.

Furthermore, the translation of african tales into European languages like French and English has helped introduce these stories to global audiences. The term "contes africains," for instance, is widely used in Francophone countries to describe these traditional narratives, highlighting their popularity beyond Africa.

The Musicality of African Tales

African storytelling is often accompanied by music, drums, and songs that enhance the narrative?s emotional impact. The rhythmic patterns and call-and-response techniques

invite audience participation, making storytelling a communal event rather than a passive experience.

This musicality is not just entertainment?it also aids memory, helping storytellers remember long and complex tales and enabling listeners to internalize the lessons more deeply.

Notable African Tales and Their Influence

Some african tales contes africains have transcended their local origins to become part of global folklore. Characters like Anansi the Spider have appeared in Caribbean and American stories, illustrating the diasporic influence of African storytelling.

Anansi the Spider: The Trickster Icon

Originating from the Ashanti people of Ghana, Anansi is arguably Africa's most famous folklore character. He is a cunning spider who often outsmarts more powerful animals or people through cleverness and guile. Anansi tales teach the value of intelligence over strength and have been adapted into books, plays, and even animated series.

The Tortoise and the Hare: African Roots of a Universal Fable

While commonly associated with Aesop's fables, versions of the tortoise and hare story exist in African oral traditions. These stories often focus on themes of patience and perseverance, highlighting how slow but steady efforts can triumph over arrogance and haste.

Preserving and Sharing African Tales Contes Africains Today

In the modern world, the preservation of african tales contes africains faces challenges due to urbanization, globalization, and changing lifestyles. However, there is a growing recognition of the importance of safeguarding these narratives as part of cultural heritage.

Modern Adaptations and Digital Storytelling

Technology has opened new avenues for sharing African tales. Podcasts, digital storybooks, and animated ?lms are bringing these traditional stories to younger generations globally. Many authors and educators are also incorporating african tales into school curricula to foster cultural pride and literacy.

Tips for Exploring African Tales

If you're interested in diving into african tales contes africains, here are some ways to experience them authentically:

Seek Out Oral Storytelling Events: Festivals and cultural centers often host live

1.
storytelling sessions that capture the spirit of traditional narration.

Read Collections by African Authors: Writers like Chinua Achebe and Ng?g? wa

2.
Thiong?o have compiled and retold numerous folktales in their works.

Explore Multilingual Versions: Listening to stories in their original languages or

3.
bilingual formats can deepen your appreciation of their cultural context.

Engage with Visual and Performing Arts: Many african tales are expressed

4.

through dance, theater, and visual arts, enriching the storytelling experience.

African tales contes africains remain a treasure trove of wisdom, humor, and cultural identity. They remind us that stories are not just entertainment?they are vital threads that connect us to our past, shape our present, and inspire future generations. Whether told by a village elder or shared through a modern medium, these tales continue to resonate with universal truths and the vibrant pulse of African life.

Question

Answer

What are African tales

(contes africains)?

African tales, or contes africains, are traditional stories passed down orally through generations in African cultures. They often contain moral lessons, cultural values, and explanations of natural phenomena.

What themes are

common in African

tales?

Common themes in African tales include the struggle between good and evil, the importance of community and family,

wisdom and cleverness, respect for nature, and the consequences of greed and dishonesty.

Who are some famous characters in African tales?

Famous characters in African tales include Anansi the spider, a trickster figure from West African folklore, and animals like the tortoise, lion, and hare, which often represent human traits and convey moral lessons.

How are African tales traditionally shared?

African tales are traditionally shared orally by griots, storytellers, and elders during gatherings, festivals, and family events, using expressive language, music, and sometimes dance to engage listeners.

What is the significance of storytelling in African cultures?

Storytelling in African cultures serves to preserve history, teach moral values, entertain, and strengthen community

bonds. It is a vital way to pass knowledge and cultural identity from one generation to the next.

Can African tales be

found in written form?

Yes, many African tales have been collected and published in books, allowing wider access and preservation. However, the oral tradition remains central to their authenticity and cultural context.

How do African tales

differ across regions?

African tales vary across regions due to diverse ethnic groups, languages, and cultural practices. While some stories share similar motifs, each region adapts tales to reflect local beliefs, environments, and social structures.

What role do animals

play in African tales?

Animals in African tales often serve as symbolic characters representing human traits such as wisdom, cunning, bravery, or foolishness. They are used to teach lessons and explain natural and social phenomena.

How can educators
use African tales in
teaching?

Educators can use African tales to teach cultural diversity,
moral values, critical thinking, and language skills. These
stories can engage students with rich narratives and provide
insights into African heritage and worldview.

African Tales Contes Africains: Exploring the Richness of Oral Traditions Across the
Continent

african tales contes africains represent a vital component of Africa's vast cultural

heritage, offering insight into the continent's diverse societies, values, and worldviews.
These traditional narratives, passed down through generations, form an intricate tapestry
of folklore that reflects the social norms, spiritual beliefs, and historical experiences of
numerous African communities. In this article, we delve deeply into the nature of African
tales contes africains, examining their origins, thematic elements, and enduring
significance in contemporary culture.

The Cultural Significance of African Tales Contes Africains

African tales contes africains are more than mere stories; they serve as foundational tools
for education, moral instruction, and cultural preservation. Rooted primarily in oral
traditions, these tales have been transmitted by griots, elders, and storytellers who act as

custodians of communal knowledge. Unlike written literature, oral storytelling is a dynamic process that adapts over time, enabling communities to interpret their histories and values in ways that resonate with each generation.

One remarkable feature of these tales is their pan-African presence, spanning regions from West Africa to East and Southern Africa. While linguistic and cultural variations shape the nuances of each story, common motifs and archetypes emerge, underscoring shared human experiences and African cosmologies.

Historical Origins and Transmission

The genesis of African tales contes africains is deeply intertwined with pre-colonial African societies, where oral narratives were the primary means of recording history and social codes. For centuries, these stories were performed in communal settings, often accompanied by music, dance, and ritual, creating immersive experiences that reinforced collective identity.

Griots in West Africa, for instance, are renowned for their role as oral historians and entertainers. Similarly, among the San people of Southern Africa, storytelling is an essential practice for passing down knowledge about the environment and spiritual beliefs. The performative nature of these tales means that they are not static; storytellers often modify narratives to suit their audience or to reflect contemporary concerns.

Thematic Elements and Motifs in African Tales Contes Africains

African tales contes africains encompass a wide range of themes, from creation myths and heroic epics to fables featuring animals embodying human traits. These stories often

serve allegorical purposes, offering lessons in ethics, community cohesion, and survival.

Common Themes

Morality and Ethics: Many tales emphasize virtues such as honesty, bravery,

1.

humility, and wisdom. They often illustrate the consequences of moral failings,

reinforcing social codes.

Human-Nature Relationship: Stories frequently explore the interconnectedness

2.

between humans and the natural world, highlighting respect for animals, plants, and

ancestral spirits.

Social Order and Justice: Tales sometimes address issues of leadership, justice,

3.

and social responsibilities, reflecting communal values.

Creation and Origin Myths: These narratives explain the origins of the world,

4.

humanity, and cultural practices, providing a cosmological framework.

Animal Characters and Symbolism

Animals play a central role in many African tales contes africains, often personified to

convey complex human traits. The trickster figure, epitomized by animals such as the

hare, tortoise, or spider, is a recurring archetype that embodies cunning, intelligence, and

subversion. For example, the hare appears in West African folklore as a clever character who uses wit to overcome adversity, imparting lessons on resourcefulness.

The use of animal symbolism serves multiple purposes: it allows storytellers to address sensitive social issues indirectly and provides accessible narratives for audiences of all ages. This technique also reinforces the cultural importance of fauna within African ecosystems and belief systems.

Contemporary Relevance and Adaptations

Despite the challenges posed by modernization and globalization, African tales contes africains continue to thrive, adapting to new media and educational frameworks. The preservation and dissemination of these stories have become a focus for cultural institutions, educators, and authors seeking to sustain African heritage.

Integration into Modern Literature and Media

In recent decades, there has been a resurgence of interest in African oral literature, with many traditional tales being transcribed and published in various languages. Writers like Chinua Achebe and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o have drawn inspiration from indigenous storytelling techniques, blending them with contemporary literary forms to reach global audiences. Moreover, African tales contes africains have found new life in animation, theater, and film. For instance, adaptations of Anansi stories have been popularized in children's programming, introducing younger generations to their cultural roots through engaging formats.

Educational and Social Impact

Incorporating African tales contes africains into educational curricula fosters cultural awareness and multilingual literacy. By engaging students with narratives in indigenous languages and dialects, educators promote linguistic diversity and preserve endangered tongues.

Additionally, these tales provide universal themes that encourage critical thinking and empathy. Through storytelling, young people learn about conflict resolution, respect for others, and community values, which are crucial for social development.

Challenges in Preservation and Transmission

While the resilience of African tales contes africains is notable, several factors threaten their continuity. Urbanization, language loss, and the dominance of Western cultural products have led to diminished reliance on traditional oral narratives.

Language Endangerment

Many African tales are inherently linked to specific languages and dialects. As younger generations shift towards dominant languages such as English, French, or Swahili, the transmission of stories in original tongues becomes increasingly precarious. This linguistic shift risks eroding the subtleties and cultural context embedded in the tales.

Commercialization versus Authenticity

The commercialization of African tales contes africains, while beneficial in increasing visibility, also raises concerns about authenticity and cultural appropriation. Simplifying or altering stories for mass consumption may strip them of their deeper meanings and

significance, leading to homogenization.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of African Tales Contes

Africains

African tales contes africains remain a cornerstone of Africa's intangible cultural heritage—a dynamic blend of history, morality, and artistry that continues to influence literature, education, and cultural identity. Their survival hinges on balancing preservation with innovation, ensuring that these narratives remain accessible and relevant in a rapidly changing world. By appreciating the depth and diversity of African storytelling traditions, scholars and enthusiasts alike contribute to a broader understanding of the continent's rich cultural mosaic.

African folklore, African myths, traditional African stories, African legends, oral storytelling Africa, African cultural tales, African fables, African proverbs, African heritage stories, African storytelling tradition

A First Of Fairy Tales

A First Of Fairy Tales

The Enchanting Origins: A First of Fairy Tales

a first of fairy tales often evokes a sense of wonder and mystery, transporting us to a

world where magical creatures roam, heroes embark on epic quests, and timeless lessons

are woven into enchanting narratives. But have you ever wondered what truly marks the beginning of fairy tales? Where did these captivating stories originate, and how did they evolve into the beloved genre we cherish today? Delving into the fascinating history behind a ?rst of fairy tales reveals not only the roots of folklore but also the cultural significance and enduring appeal that continue to captivate audiences of all ages.

Tracing the Origins: Where Did Fairy Tales Begin?

Fairy tales, as a genre, are often associated with whimsical fantasies and moral lessons, but their origins are deeply embedded in ancient oral traditions. Before the written word, stories were passed down verbally from generation to generation, serving as a means to entertain, educate, and preserve cultural identity. A ?rst of fairy tales is difficult to pinpoint precisely because these narratives evolved organically across various civilizations.

The Earliest Known Fairy Tales

One of the earliest recorded fairy tales can be traced back to ancient Mesopotamia. The story of ?The Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor,? dating around 2000 BCE, includes fantastical elements such as magical serpents and enchanted islands?hallmarks of fairy tales. Similarly, ancient Egyptian and Indian cultures have rich collections of folk stories that blend reality with the supernatural.

In Western literature, ?Cupid and Psyche,? a tale from Apuleius?s "The Golden Ass" written in the 2nd century AD, is often cited as one of the ?rst fairy tale-like narratives. This story contains many motifs common in later fairy tales: romance, trials, magical

transformations, and ultimate redemption.

Oral Tradition and the Role of Folklore

Long before fairy tales were written down, they lived in the oral tradition of storytellers, bards, and villagers. These stories were fluid, changing slightly with each telling, reflecting the values, fears, and hopes of the community. A first of fairy tales in oral form often included cautionary themes, explanations of natural phenomena, or celebrations of heroic deeds.

The oral transmission of these stories is why many fairy tales have multiple versions across different cultures. For example, the Cinderella story has over 500 variants worldwide, each adapted to fit local customs and beliefs.

The Evolution of Fairy Tales: From Oral Stories to Literary

Classics

As societies developed writing systems, fairy tales began to be documented and transformed into literary works. This transition played a crucial role in shaping what we now recognize as the classic fairy tale genre.

The Role of the Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault

A significant milestone in the history of fairy tales was the publication of collections by Charles Perrault in France during the late 17th century and the Brothers Grimm in Germany in the 19th century. Their works marked a first of fairy tales in the literary sense, standardizing and preserving many folk stories that might otherwise have been lost.

Perrault's tales, including "Sleeping Beauty" and "Little Red Riding Hood," introduced fairy tales to the courts and literate classes, often with moralistic endings tailored to adult sensibilities. Meanwhile, the Grimm brothers collected raw versions from rural storytellers, emphasizing cultural heritage and sometimes darker themes.

How Fairy Tales Changed Over Time

With each retelling and adaptation, fairy tales have evolved to reflect societal changes.

Earlier versions often featured gruesome or violent elements meant to instill moral lessons, while modern retellings tend to emphasize empowerment, diversity, and psychological depth.

This evolution illustrates the dynamic nature of a "first of fairy tales"—it's not just a fixed story but a living tradition that continues to adapt to the needs and values of its audience.

Why Are Fairy Tales Still Relevant Today?

Fairy tales have stood the test of time, and their relevance extends far beyond childhood entertainment. Understanding a "first of fairy tales" helps us appreciate why these stories remain powerful and meaningful across generations.

Universal Themes and Life Lessons

At their core, fairy tales explore universal themes such as good versus evil, courage, love, and transformation. These themes resonate because they reflect fundamental human experiences. Whether it's overcoming adversity or discovering identity, fairy tales provide a narrative framework that helps people make sense of the world.

Imagination and Creativity

Fairy tales ignite imagination like few other genres can. The magical worlds, mythical creatures, and extraordinary adventures inspire creativity in readers and listeners of all ages. This connection to fantasy nurtures problem-solving skills and emotional intelligence by encouraging empathy and open-mindedness.

Modern Adaptations and Cultural Impact

Today, fairy tales permeate popular culture through books, films, theater, and even video games. Disney adaptations, for example, have brought classic tales to global audiences, often reinterpreting them with contemporary values. Meanwhile, authors and creators continue to reinvent fairy tales, exploring diverse perspectives and challenging traditional narratives.

Tips for Exploring Fairy Tales: Discovering Your Own First Tales

If you're intrigued by the idea of a first of fairy tales and want to dive deeper, here are some tips to enrich your exploration:

Read original versions: Seek out collections like the Grimm Brothers' tales or

1.

Perrault's stories to experience the classic narratives in their authentic forms.

Explore global folklore: Fairy tales exist in every culture. Discover stories from

2.

Asia, Africa, the Americas, and beyond to appreciate the rich diversity of fairy tale traditions.

Compare variations: Look at different versions of the same story to see how

3.

themes and characters change with cultural contexts.

Create your own fairy tales: Try writing or telling your own stories inspired by

4.

traditional fairy tale motifs. This can be a fun way to engage with the genre and

develop your storytelling skills.

The Enduring Magic of a First of Fairy Tales

A first of fairy tales is more than just an ancient story; it is the gateway into a timeless

world where imagination and reality intertwine. These stories connect us to our past,

reflect our present, and inspire the future. Whether told around a campfire, written in a

cherished book, or portrayed on the big screen, fairy tales continue to enchant and teach,

proving that their magic is truly everlasting.

Question

Answer

What does 'a first of fairy

tales' refer to?

It typically refers to the very first recorded or written fairy

tale in literature or folklore.

Which is considered the

first known fairy tale?

One of the earliest known fairy tales is 'The Tale of the Two Brothers,' an ancient Egyptian story dating back to around 1200 BCE.

Who is credited with popularizing the first collections of fairy tales?

Charles Perrault is credited with popularizing fairy tales in the 17th century through his collection 'Histoires ou contes du temps passé,' which includes classics like 'Cinderella' and 'Sleeping Beauty.'

How have the first fairy tales influenced modern storytelling?

The motifs, morals, and archetypal characters of the first fairy tales have shaped modern storytelling by providing foundational narratives that continue to inspire books, films, and other media.

What themes are common in the earliest fairy tales?

Common themes include good versus evil, transformation,

morality lessons, magic, and the triumph of the underdog

or virtue.

Why are fairy tales

important in cultural

history?

Fairy tales preserve cultural values, teach moral lessons,

and reflect societal norms, making them important for

understanding historical beliefs and practices.

****A First of Fairy Tales: Tracing the Origins of Storytelling Magic****

a first of fairy tales represents more than just the earliest narratives told to captivate

and educate; it marks the inception of a rich cultural tradition that has shaped literature,

folklore, and popular imagination for centuries. Understanding where and how the first

fairy tale emerged offers valuable insights into human creativity, societal values, and the

evolution of storytelling itself. This article delves into the origins of fairy tales, examining

their earliest known forms, key characteristics, and the lasting impact on modern

narratives.

The Genesis of Fairy Tales: Historical Context and Early Examples

Fairy tales as a genre can be traced back to oral traditions that predate written history.

These narratives were originally passed down verbally, often serving dual purposes:

entertaining audiences and imparting moral lessons. The phrase ****a first of fairy tales****

invites us to explore which story holds the distinction of being the earliest recorded or most influential in the tradition.

The earliest documented fairy tales appear in ancient cultures such as Mesopotamia, India, and Greece. For instance, the "Epic of Gilgamesh," dating back to around 2100 BCE, contains fantastical elements and moral undertones akin to those found in later fairy tales. Similarly, Indian fables like those in the "Panchatantra," composed around 300 BCE, use animal characters and allegory to teach ethical lessons—key features that resonate with the fairy tale form.

When considering European fairy tales specifically, one must highlight the works of the Brothers Grimm in the 19th century, whose collection of folk stories popularized and preserved many classic fairy tales. However, their versions were far from the first; they were part of a larger continuum that includes earlier literary fairy tales from the medieval and Renaissance periods, such as those penned by Giambattista Basile in the 17th century.

The Role of Oral Tradition in Shaping the First Fairy Tales

Before any fairy tale was committed to paper, oral storytelling was the dominant vehicle for sharing these narratives. Oral tradition allowed stories to adapt dynamically, reflecting the cultural, social, and moral fabric of the communities that told them. This fluidity often complicates efforts to pinpoint a singular "first" fairy tale, as tales evolved over generations.

Key characteristics of these early oral fairy tales included:

Simple, memorable plots often revolving around good versus evil

1.

Use of archetypal characters such as heroes, villains, and magical beings

2.

Inclusion of magical or supernatural elements to enhance the narrative

3.

Moral lessons or warnings embedded within the story

4.

The oral foundation of fairy tales also explains why many stories share common motifs across cultures?such as the "Cinderella" or "Sleeping Beauty" archetypes?underscoring the universality of human experiences and values.

Identifying the First Written Fairy Tale

While oral tradition is invaluable, written records provide a more tangible benchmark for identifying **the first of fairy tales**. Among the earliest known written fairy tales is

"Petrosinella," an Italian tale published by Giambattista Basile in his collection

"Pentamerone" (1634-1636). This story, which contains many elements familiar to modern audiences, including magical transformations and a damsel in distress, is considered one of the earliest European fairy tales recorded in print.

Another significant early example is Charles Perrault's **"Histoires ou contes du temps passé"** (1697), which included tales like "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Sleeping Beauty."

Perrault's work helped cement the fairy tale as a literary genre and influenced countless subsequent retellings.

Features Defining Early Literary Fairy Tales

Early literary fairy tales, including those from Basile and Perrault, display a blend of folk motifs and literary refinement. Their features often include:

Structured narrative arcs with clear beginnings, conflicts, and resolutions

1.

A focus on royal or noble characters, reflecting societal hierarchies

2.

Incorporation of magical or enchanted objects and beings

3.

A didactic tone aimed at teaching social norms or morality

4.

These literary adaptations helped transition fairy tales from communal oral stories to texts that could reach broader audiences across geographic and social boundaries.

The Influence and Evolution of the First Fairy Tales in Modern Culture

The importance of recognizing **the first of fairy tales** lies not only in historical interest but also in understanding how these stories continue to influence contemporary culture.

Modern fairy tales, whether in literature, film, or theater, often trace their roots back to these early narratives.

For example, Disney's animated classics frequently draw inspiration from tales popularized by Perrault and the Brothers Grimm, albeit with significant alterations to suit modern sensibilities. This evolution highlights the adaptability of fairy tales, which continue to resonate with audiences by addressing timeless themes such as justice, transformation, and identity.

Moreover, the academic study of fairy tales through fields like folklore, anthropology, and literary criticism relies heavily on analyzing these first stories to understand cultural transmission and human psychology.

Pros and Cons of the First Fairy Tales in Contemporary Context

While the foundational fairy tales have enduring appeal, they also present challenges in modern interpretation:

Pros: They provide rich material for cultural reflection, inspire creativity, and offer

1.

universal themes that transcend time and place.

Cons: Some early tales contain outdated social values, stereotypes, or violent

2.

themes that require sensitive re-examination and adaptation.

This balance between preserving tradition and promoting inclusivity is a continuing dialogue in the world of fairy tale scholarship and media adaptation.

Conclusion: The Legacy of a First Fairy Tale

Exploring ****a first of fairy tales**** reveals a complex tapestry of human expression that has evolved through centuries of cultural exchange and narrative innovation. From ancient oral stories to early literary collections, the journey of fairy tales reflects the ways societies communicate values, fears, and hopes.

Understanding these origins enriches our appreciation of modern storytelling and underscores the timeless power of fairy tales to enchant, educate, and transform. As new iterations continue to emerge, the spirit of that very first fairy tale lives on, inviting each generation to rediscover magic in the art of the story.

classic fairy tales, fairy tale origins, traditional fairy tales, fairy tale themes, fairy tale characters, fairy tale history, folk tales, fairy tale motifs, fantasy stories, fairy tale collections

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