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THE UNFOUNDED MASS BURIALS OF THE SO-CALLED ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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ABSTRACT

According to some sources, The Armenian Genocide Appeals (the so-called Armenian Genocide or the Unfounded Armenian Claims) indicate that the Armenian deportation, which was carried out by the Ottoman State in Eastern Anatolia for internal security reasons from May to November 1915, was aimed at destroying the Armenian community in the region. Millions of Armenians are alleged to have been killed by this reason. In the early years of the First World War, the Ottoman State while fighting in many fronts with Allied Powers, the Armenians attacked the Ottoman army jointly with the Russian army in the region up to Central Anatolia in the East, and rebelled in many cities. In order to overcome these rebellions, the Ottoman State held a joint meeting with the Armenian Patriarchs, especially the Armenian Members of the Tanzimat Parliament, and the leaders of the Armenian community, and informed them that the Ottoman State would take countermeasures if the Armenians continued to kill local Muslim people in Eastern Anatolia. On the basis of this notion, the Ottoman State in April 24, 1915 arrested 235 people who had organized the rebellions and closed down all the Armenian Committees and local organizations that supported and organized the rebellions. The Ottoman State promulgated the Temporary Law of Deportation, in 27 May 1915. Accordingly, it was decided some of the Armenians in Eastern Anatolia would be displaced to Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. According to the Armenians' claims, massacre and genocide were carried out

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under the deportation title and 1.5 million Armenians were killed. This article is about the mass graves of 1.5 million Armenians which would form the basis of the massacre allegations, the size, how and by whom they were dug, how the massacred Armenians buried and how the mass graves covered with soil. The paper is written to investigate whether there are mass graves or not.

Keywords: *Ottoman, Armenian, Deportation, Mass grave, Genocide*

SÖZDE ERMENİ SOYKIRIMININ VAR OLMAYAN TOPLU MEZARLARI

ÖZ

Ermeni Soykırımı İddiaları (Sözde Ermeni Soykırımı ya da Asılsız Ermeni İddiaları), bazı kişilerin, 1915 yılının Mayıs ayından Kasım ayına kadar Osmanlı Devletinin Doğu Anadolu’da iç güvenlik nedeni ile gerçekleştirdiği Ermeni Tehciri’nin, gerçekte bölgedeki Ermeni toplumunu yok etme amaçlı olduğu ve 1.5 milyon Ermeni’nin bu gerekçe ile öldürüldüğü iddialarıdır. Birinci Dünya savaşının başlangıç yıllarında Osmanlı Devleti İttifak devletleri ile birçok cephede savaşırken, Ermeniler, Doğu’da İç Anadolu’ya kadar olan bölgede Rus ordusu ile birlikte Osmanlı ordusuna saldırmış ve birçok şehirlerde de isyanlar çıkarmışlardır. Bu isyanların önüne geçebilmek için Osmanlı Devleti, başta Ermeni Patriği olmak üzere Tanzimat Meclisindeki Ermeni Milletvekilleri ve Ermeni toplumunun ileri gelenleri ile ortak bir toplantı yapmış ve kendilerine Ermenilerin Doğu Anadolu’da yerel Müslüman halkı öldürmeye devam etmeleri halinde karşı önlemler alacağını bildirmiştir. Bu uyarının dikkate alınmaması üzerine Osmanlı Devleti 24 Nisan 1915’de isyanları organize eden, destek veren ve örgütlenmeyi sağlayan tüm Ermeni Komitelerini ve yerel kuruluşlarını kapatarak lağv etti, elebaşılık yapan 235 kişiyi tutuklattı ve 27 Mayıs 1915 tarihinde de “Sevk ve İskan Kanunu”nu çıkarttı. Bu kanuna göre Doğu Anadolu’daki Ermenilerin bir kısmının Suriye, Lübnan ve Irak’a göç ettirilmesi kararlaştırıldı. Ermenilerin iddialarına göre Sevk (tahcir) adı altında katliam ve soykırım yapıldı, 1.5 Milyon öldürüldü. Bu makale söz konusu katliam iddialarının temelini ve yasallığını oluşturacak öldürüldüğü iddia edilen 1.5 Milyon Ermeni’nin gömüldüğü toplu mezarlar ile ilgili olup, toplu mezarların var olup olmadığı konusunu araştırmak amaçlı hazırlanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Osmanlı, Ermeni, Tehcir, Toplu Mezar, Soykırım*

INTRODUCTION

According to Halaçoğlu: “The Ottoman archives carry instructions to the effect that Armenians and their properties are not to be subject to any harm and ill treatments during their journeys, and protection for them is also to be provided. The Ottoman Ministerial Council decided on 30 May, 1915 to provided all necessary means including housing, tools and funding from the immigration policy including medical check-ups. In addition, those who attacked Armenians during this transportation are to be arrested and punished under severe circumstances by the Court of Divan War.” (Halaçoğlu, 2013) Therefore It is quite incompatible with the facts to claim that the Ottoman State, taking into account the lives, health and residence of the Armenians during their journey, committed a genocide under the referral of the Ottoman State, which issued a law ordering sick, elderly and children to be looked after. It is incompatible with logic as well as mathematical computation.

MATHEMATICAL EVALUATION

According to the Armenians’ allegations, the so-called genocide was carried out within five and a half months from the end of May to the middle of November. It is not possible to actually claim that “Thousands of Armenians were forced to die freezing from the cold” as this can not be realized due to the climatic conditions within the period.

There is also a major calculation error in terms of the claims against the conduct of the Ottoman State that must be looked at more closely. Suffice to say, if a total of one and a half million Armenians were killed during this so-called massacre or genocide, which began at the end of May and ended in the middle of November, the law enforcement officers, ordained by the Ottoman State on average, must systematically kill tens of thousands of people every day.

If one decides to approach these claims optimistically, assuming that every single Armenian murdered is killed by a single bullet, 10,000 bullets must be spent each day and 1.5 million bullets in total. According to the Ballistic Table, a bullet weight of 7.65 mm is 6.5 grams on average. . (Ballistic Table, <http://www.paganx.org/balistics.htm>)

The total daily requirement of 10,000 bullets is 65 kg, together with casings 85 kg. Therefore a total of 12.75 tons of bullets are required. Since these bullets can only be carried on the backs of animals in the mountains, this would be only possible with 2 donkeys or 2 camels and 4 people doing at least 2 shifts in order to carry the necessary daily bullets to the slaughter area.

Also, in order to keep 10 thousand people under control and execute them, it is necessary to have a military unit or armed enforcement force available in the area.

We are talking about the past, and therefore must know that it is not possible that such deep pits cannot be dug without the aid of trucks, excavators and the technology of today. Since thousands of excavators and trucks cannot be used in the past, thousands of people are needed to dig the mass graves, and to throw the slaughtered into the pits, and to cover them again. A service team providing food, beverages, toilets, and bathing for these thousands of armed people who are supposed to have carried out the massacres or genocide must also be in the vicinity of the slaughter field to address the needs of the alleged murderers.

MASSACRES AND MASS GRAVES FOUND IN THE WORLD

In 2018, five new mass graves were uncovered in the Arakan province of Myanmar, revealing the severity of the massacre against the Muslim population. (<http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/dunya/arakanda-5-yeni-toplu-mezar-bulundu-40728105>)

According to the Associated Press (AP) news agency, the discovery of at least 5 mass graves buried 400 unknowns in the Gu Da Pyin village of Buthidaung province, northern part of the province of Arakan province, has been confirmed. (Atwood, 2018)

According to Amor Mashovic, president of the DNA Center in Tuzla, "...When you include the year 2015, the number of public cemeteries in the country is 800. I cannot believe that the war in which 32 thousand 152 people were "lost" to records is still not officially considered "genocide". In 1995, the mass graves of the corpses were buried with shovels and were seen by the American satellites. Some mass graves have 1200, some have 200 people..."

To sum up, Amor Mashovic declares that 32,152 people have been massacred and that these people have buried 800 mass graves that have been replaced three times. (Masovic, 2015)

According to the news of Yeni Safak Newspaper dated March 24, 2018; "110 ÖSO soldiers were killed by the PKK / PYD'deki in Syria in the empty square of the Hallubi village, mass graves were found near the dam." (Yeni Şafak, 2018)

According to Türkiye Newspaper's news on 24 April 2001; "Algeria (UAE) - The traces of the massacres carried out by the French during 1954-1962 in Algeria have still not disappeared. In the city of Tebessa, east of

Algeria, there was a body of 300 Algerian fighters who were estimated to have been killed during the Algerian-French war between 1954 and 1962, the corpses were found during a water-pipe dig. The spokesman of the Ministry of War explained that the corpses belonged to the soldiers of the National Liberation Front and that there were traces of torture on their skeletons. It was stated that this mass grave was the largest mass grave in the last decade. “ (Türkiye, 2001)

The news about the three different regions of genocide and mass graves in the world reveals that the mass graves buried after the massacres are revealed that investigations prove that no mass grave can be hidden, despite the fact that the burial sites have been changed three time, as is the case in Bosnia.

DIMENSIONS OF THE HUMAN BODY

In order to be able to generalize calculations, it is necessary to take the average of the dimensions of the human body.

The average size of people living in Eastern Anatolia region:

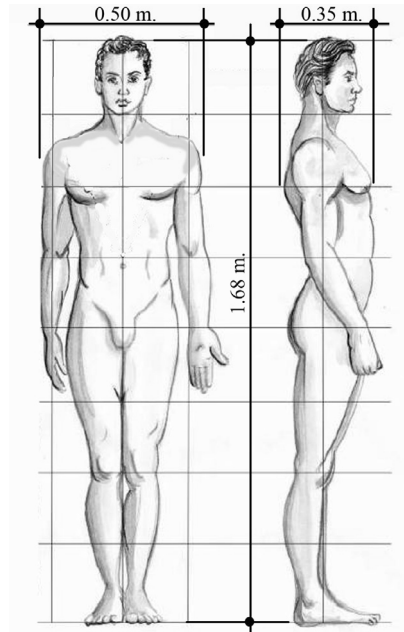
Shoulder width: 0.50 m.

Height: 1.68 m.

Body thickness: 0.35 m.

The body is covered horizontally Area: 0.84 m²

The volume produced horizontally by the body: 0.294 m³



According to unfounded Armenian allegations that 1,5 million Armenians were killed in five and a half months, the average number of people killed per day: 10,000 people.

Assuming that three people were placed on top of a mass grave:

Man in each horizontal row: 3334 people

The height of the volume created by three people on top of each other: 1.05 m.

The minimum soil height that must be covered by 3 people: minimum 0.65 m.

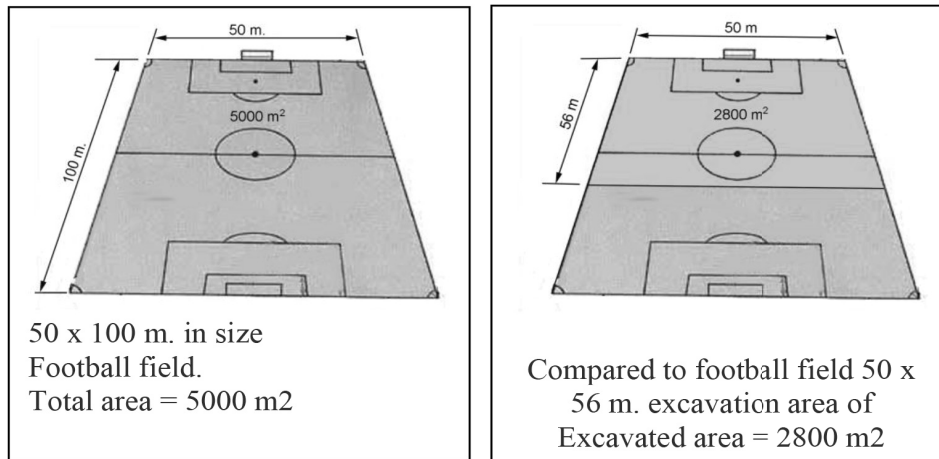
Total excavation depth: Minimum $1.05 + 0.65 = 1.70$ m.

Total excavation area: 3334 (one horizontal row human figure) $\times 0.84$ (horizontal area of the body) = 2800 m² Volume to be excavated: 1.70 m. (Excavation depth) $\times 2,800$ m² (Total excavation area) = 4760 m³

SIZE OF FOOTBALL FIELD

Football field measurements are in the form of a rectangle. The width of the football field should be between 45 and 90 meters and the length between 90 and 120 meters. Regular football stadiums made in international standards are between 64 and 75 meters in size and between 105 and 120 meters in height.

The average width of a football field is 50 m and the length is 100 m. , the soccer field covers an area of about 5,000 sqm.



Since the area of the mass grave to be excavated must be at least 2800 m², in terms of making comparisons this field is about 1/2 football field or 50 m. in width and 56 m. It can be defined as a rectangle in its length.

EXCAVATOR EXCAVATION CAPACITY

Today, with an excavator capacity of 0.75 m³ bucket capacity and 90 percent bucket capacity, an excavator is able to excavate only 258 m³ in one hour with

easy, medium and medium difficulty. Such a scoop can excavate a 4760 m³ cavern at 18.5 hours without stopping and 22.5 hours with food and catering. (Celal et al,)

Manual excavation capacity

According to calculations of King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, the excavation capacity of 3 workers and the top head is 40 m² per 16 hours or 2-4 m³ / hour according to soil structure. According to this finding, the average excavation capacity of a worker for 1 hour is 0.5 m³. (King Fahd, 2017) According to another source; the average amount of excavation that a person can do in a total of about 10 hours by working 2 hours per day for a 15 minute break and for a 45 minute break during lunch is about 4.0 m³. (Calin et al, 2003: p 201). According to this finding, the average excavation capacity of 1 hour is 0.4 m³.

According to the empirical findings of Goldenseal, 1 worker can excavate 1,308 m³ in 2.5 hours. (Goldenseal, 2017) According to this finding, the excavation capacity of one worker is 0.52 m³ per hour according to soil structure. When the average of these 3 differences are taken, the excavation capacity of 1 worker can be taken as 0.48 m³ per hour according to soil structure. According to the empirical findings of Goldenseal, a worker can emit 1,308 cubic meters of excavated soil in an excavation pit in 2.5 hours. According to this finding, the earth-throwing capacity of one worker is 0.52 m³ per hour according to the soil structure. (Goldenseal, 2017)

Another worker puts this land in a hand-held car with an average capacity of 1,308 cubic meters in 2.6 hours and pours back 10 meters away. According to this finding, the carrying capacity of one worker is 0.50 m³ per hour according to soil structure. (Goldenseal, 2017) According to these findings, on average 3 workers are required to excavate 0.5 m³ of soil in 1 hour, to be thrown out of the shovel and to be taken out of the buried area. Minimum mass grave area required to bury 10,000 people: 2800 m² Minimum excavation depth: 1.70 m. Soil volume to be excavated: 2800 m² x 1.70 m = 4760 m³

4760 m³ Number of persons required to be able to perform soil excavation in maximum 10 hours: $4760 \text{ m}^3 \div 10 \text{ hours} \div 0.48 \text{ m}^3 / \text{hour} / \text{worker} = 992 \text{ workers}$. (Digging the pit) Amount of soil excavated in 1 hour = $4760 \text{ m}^3 \div 10 \text{ hours} = 476 \text{ m}^3$ The number of workers required to discharge 476 m³ of land excavated in 1 hour; $476 \text{ m}^3 \div 0.52 = 916 \text{ workers}$ (landing) The number of workers required to move one third of the land ($1.70 - 1.05 = 0.65 \text{ m}$) out of the excavation pit in one hour to outside the excavation area: One third of the soil mined in one hour = $476 \text{ m}^3 \div 3 = 159 \text{ m}^3$

Number of workers required to remove 159 m³ of soil from the excavation area:
 $159 \text{ m}^3 \div 0.5 \text{ m}^3 = 318$ workers (carrying the surplus of the disposable soil out of the field)

Movement of the bodies of the slaughtered people to the burial site to be thrown immediately to the pits without waiting for it to finish, 3 rows above and 65 cm above them. the number of additional people required for each 1 m² excavation area to be covered with soil is 2.

Excavation area = 2800 m²

Area to be excavated per 1 hour over 10 hours = $2800 \text{ m}^2 \div 10 \text{ hours} = 280 \text{ m}^2$

280 m² Number of additional people required for burial in the excavation area:

$280 \text{ m}^2 \times 2 \text{ people} = 560$ people (burial and covering)

The number of workers required for excavation (992 persons), landing out (916 persons), carrying out the land (318), burial and covering (560 persons) within 1 day with a working time of 10 hours: $992 + 916 + 318 + 560 = 2786$ people.

The minimum total number of workers required for 5 days shifts and 2 teams per day is estimated to be $2786 \times 2 = 5572$ workers, since it is not possible for the mentioned workers to work 10 hours each day without interruption for 150 days.

The number of people required to meet the food, drinking water, rest, sleep, cigarette, disease, treatment, first aid, wash water and toilet needs of 5,572 people working five hours a day, two shifts, this being the most optimistic and minimum estimate;

Delivery of food: 25 people

Travel kitchen and dishwashing: 50 people

Drinking water and washing water supply: 45 people and 20 water transport vehicles, 40 cows and caring.

Establishment and deterioration of the traveling dormitory: 50 people

Expedition hospital and treatment hospital: 15 people

Total service staff: 185 people

Even assuming that tens of thousands of captured prisoners are left hungry and thirsty, if there are no prisoners surrounded by barbed wire around the Nazis, and the prisoners are confiscated outdoors, the minimum number of soldiers required to prevent such prisoners from escaping and revolt is at least 2500.

Systematically slaughtering 10 thousand people a day, so that 1.5 million people can be slaughtered in the timeframe of five and a half months, the opening of the pits in the size 50 x 56 m., the burial of the slaughtered and the covering of them.

A total of at least 8257 people are required to perform these operations. (5572 workers + 185 kitchens and supply + 2500 soldiers)

In addition to human power, there are approximately 1,000 digging tools (992 people for excavation), 1000 shovels (916 people for throwing out land), 200 shovels (318 people for carrying out land), and 600 shovels for burial and 560 people to cover it), in total: 1000 pieces of digging and 1800 shovels are required together with the backups.

1000 pieces of digging and 1800 shovels are required together with the backups.

Armenian population in Anatolia in 1915

The archives have censuses from 1882 to 1915. Instead of Ottoman documents, the population declarations given by the French, British, Germans, Americans and the missionaries there, and especially the Armenian Patriarch to the Ottoman Empire in relation to taxes, helped the determination of the Armenian population in Eastern Anatolia in 1915.

The Armenian population declared by the Armenian Patriarch N. Varjabedian in 1881:

According to the Armenian Patriarchate, the figures of Catholic and Protestant Armenians in six provinces are explained as follows. (Atun, 2013)

<u>State</u>	<u>Year 1881</u>
Erzurum	128,478
Van	133,859
Bitlis	130,460
Diyarbakir	-
Elaziz	107,059
<u>Sivas</u>	<u>243,515</u>
Total	743,371

According to the explanation made in 1882; (Atun, 2013)

<u>State</u>	<u>Year 1882</u>
Erzurum	280,000
Van	400,000
Bitlis	250,000
Diyarbakir	-
Elaziz	270,000
<u>Sivas</u>	<u>280,000</u>
Total	1,630,371

When the lists are placed side by side, it is seen that the population increase within a year is 887 thousand people, 120 percent, it appears that the increase is not normal and quite misleading.

Colonel Henry Trotter, the British Embassy specialist concerning population reports noticed inconsistent figures in the explanation of Patriarch and made a report. On February 15, 1882, the number of Armenians residing in the regions of Erzurum and Van was 372,500 and Nasuri was 85,000. (Atun, 2013)

Other official documents and explanations about the Armenian population in Anatolia:

The total number of the population living in Erzurum, Van, Bitlis, Harput, Diyarbakır and Sivas regions is 2,615,000 - 666,000 Muslims and 1,018,000 Armenian population in a 1912 study by Marcel Leart. (Atun, 2013)

In his book “Armenia On The Road To Independence”, Richard Hovannisian explains that the population of Armenians living in the borders of the Ottoman State in 1914 is between one and two million, including Istanbul.

In his book “Histoire de l’Arménie”, Hrant Pasdermadjian explains that 2,100,000 Armenians lived in 1914, including Istanbul, within the borders of the Ottoman Empire, while the world had an Armenian population of 4,100,000. The number of Armenians living in Anatolia as of that date is 1,400,000 according to the content of the memorandum signed by A. Aharonian and Boghos Nubar on February 12, 1919 and submitted to the Paris Peace Conference by the Armenian Delegation. (Atun, 2013)

The number of Armenians living in Anatolia is about 1,400,000, according to the content presented by the Greek Prime Minister Venizelos at the Paris Peace Conference on 12 February 1919. (Atun, 2013)

Near East Relief Report on Armenians living in Syria in 1921: (Near East Relief Report)

According to the report, after the F. Boullion Agreement signed with the Government of Ankara, the British-French occupations subsequently returned to the 300,000 Armenian Cilicia region and emigrated from the region in 1921. The report clearly states that between 200,000 and 300,000 Armenians are alive in the Syrian territory and that they want humanitarian assistance. (Atun, 2013)

Near East Relief Report on Armenians living in Armenia in 1921: (Near East Relief Report)

The report says that the number of Armenians living in Armenia in the Caucasus in 1921 was one million and half of them (500,000) applied to the Aid Group for help. (Atun, 2013)

According to the US Senate's Resolution 266 of 22 April 1922, the number of Armenians living in Anatolia, Syria and Russia as of December 31, 1921 was 1,414,000 and no mention of genocide by any word, meaning or implication. (Atun, 2013)

The total population of Armenians living in the world according to the contents of the Proof of Entitlement 1-8-58, a US government document signed by US Secretary of State W. R. Anderson in 1922, was 3,004,000. 817,873 of them have migrated from Anatolia and 281,000 of them still live in Anatolia. (Atun, 2013)

760,000 Armenians were living in the Ottoman territories according to the content of Andıç on 2 February 1923 presented to the Lausanne Peace Conference in 1923. (Atun, 2013)

According to the information given by Şükrü Server Aya in the conclusion of the US Senate's review of the "Near East Assistance Report" dated December 31, 1929, the number of Armenians alive in history is 1,300,000 and the number of Armenians who died is incredibly low. The number of Armenians who die as a result of hunger, poverty, illness and regional conflicts is at most 300,000 if the official report of the US Senate is trusted. (Atun, 2013 & Aya, 2013)

CONCLUSION

According to the records in the Ottoman archives, the death was not found in the deportation records starting in May of 1915, to November. The Report of the Near East Assistance Group, created by the US Government, does not refer to the deportation as a massacre or genocide.

(Atun, 2013 & Aya, 2013 & <http://armenians-1915.blogspot.com/2008/02/2335-free-e-book-near-east-relief.html>)

If one and a half million (1,500,000) Armenians were killed within the five-month period of migration as the Armenians claimed, an average of ten thousand (10,000) people a day should be killed by a simple mathematical calculation. According to this average, at least 150, 2800 m² in size, about 50 x 56 m. is necessary as a mass grave in its dimensions to be found.

According to the most basic principle of law, in order for a murder claim to be prosecuted in court, the body of the person killed must also be found and presented to the court as proof. (David, 2003, 817) Despite the fact that the mass graves of 8 thousand Bosnians, which were slaughtered by the Serbs mercilessly and the location changed 3 times, were found, some people doubt the alleged Armenian genocide allegations as they have not been revealed.

The fact that none of the 8,257 people involved in such a massacre or genocide have not opened their mouths or and that no one has even been able to show a mass grave involving people killed in the alleged genocide, casts a shadow over the claims of genocide and undermines its credibility.

When the reports on Armenians living in Anatolia, Syria, Iraq and Armenia in 1915 were examined, it is seen that the number of Armenians ranged from 600 hundred to 1 million 700 thousand. If one and a half million Armenians were slaughtered in 1915 as it was alleged, as in the reports published by the US Senate after the war, the number of Armenians living in Anatolia, Syria and Russia in 1923 could not be 1,414,000 and the number of Armenians migrating to USA and Europe could not be 817,873.

These mathematical calculations and population censuses made in various years, given by the French, British, Germans, Americans and the missionaries there, especially the Armenian Patriarch, to the Ottoman Empire every year, and especially after the First World War reveal that the Armenian Genocide allegation is met with doubt, is groundless, and unfounded.

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