

**SOCIOLOGY OF LITERATURE ANALYSIS IN NOVEL *UNCLE TOMS  
CABIN BY HARRIET BEECHER STOWE***

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**ABSTRACT**

Slavery still occurred in the America in 18<sup>th</sup> century which resulted in social classification. This study aims are to determine how the social conditions and social stratification in the *Uncle Toms Cabin* novel and 18th century America. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative , using social stratification theory, which in this research use setting of the novel and 18th century America and social conditions. As a result of the research, there are various groups of people in the novel of the upper class: very rich people, middle class : ordinary people usually own small farms, and lower class : slaves, the residence of the upper class is a big house with everything. the furniture was expensive, the middle class was a house that was bigger than the slave house, usually he managed a farm or plantation on a small scale, while the lower class lived in wooden huts. More lower the group it can be depend on upper class. The slave group is very dependent on their employer, their social conditions also depend on their group. The upper class is very well off, while the lower class is very dependent on their employer and usually their social conditions are very bad. In the novel and 18th century America does not have much difference, only there is a slight difference in how they treat their slaves.

**Keywords:** *social stratification, social conditions, class*

**INTRODUCTION**

America at the time of the stowe was very different from America today, at that time there were still many differences, and the most important issue was about slavery, in the south slavery was something important for the national economy, men, holding power while women were asked to obey. this novel was very popular in his era, Even President Lincoln said the novel was the cause of the American Civil War in 1861-1865.

According to Swingewood (1972) Explaining that the limits of sociology are as a science, literary boundaries, after he learned about sociology then he described the differences between sociology and literature. Swingewood (1972) describes that sociology is a scientific and objective study of humans in society, the study of institutions and processes social, in this study sociology is a method that discusses how people can survive. They say that social stratification is the limit of sociology as a science, and after he learned about sociology he has described the difference between sociology and literature, he explains that sociology discusses about how people can survive in society.

Sukanto (1970) "sociology is a science that focuses on general aspects of society and seeks to obtain general patterns of community life". Soerjono said that in social life there are generally patterns of community life, unnoticed by the community can be classified in various types: upper, middle and lower classes. Damono (1979) scientist who developed a sociological approach to literature in Indonesia, that literary works do not just fall from the sky, but there is always a relationship between writers, literature, and society". according to Sapardi Djoko Damono literary work always relate with writer, literature, and society.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Method of this research used descriptive qualitative, it can be used to analyze a state of social and humanitarian conditions of the data obtained in the form of language words. The focus of research is an issue which is the main topic or objective of a study, in which the focus of the research is expected to collect and analyze data accurately. In writing this research focuses on the social life and economic conditions of American society in the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and America in the 18th century. The data obtained from *Uncle Tom's Cabin* novel written by Harriet Beecher Stowe. To collect data used documentation method, a method of collecting data sourced from notes, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, inscriptions, etc.

## RESULT AND DISSCUSION

### Result

#### The social stratification in novel *Uncle Tom's cabin*

NO	CLASS	CHARACTER	SETTING
1	Upper Class	Mr.Shelby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● elegant clothes of good quality, has a farm, in which a lot of slaves work in Mr.shelby's farm</li></ul>
2		St.Clare:	has a very luxurious residence, Tom is amazed at the beauty of his house, in the house there are beautiful and expensive ornaments, in the house Tom is also given his own room for his living place.
3	Middle Class	Mr.Haley	bright clothes, necklaces and gold watches, in his life Haley often went around to sell and buy slaves, to get a lot of money, in the uncle Toms cabin he did not have a permanent place to live. After getting Tom he went straight to Kentucky to buy another slave.

4		John van trope	in the past he lived in Kentucky he had a large plantation he moved to Ohio and lived on a small farm that he bought in the hills, so he could live in peace and quiet, in his plantation he gave a letter of release and let they live and work freely.
5		Simon legree	He occupies a house that used to be the house of a rich man who built a garden around his house, after legree bought it all gardens, flowers and everything was neglected, many windows were broken and the shutters hung on hinges, the house was unkempt and very shabby once.
6	Lower Class	Tom	Tom's living conditions while working with Mr. Shelby. Uncle Tom's residence is a small house made of wood, where Uncle Tom's residence is very close to his employer's house. The area of the house is surrounded by

			<p>fields of strawberries, raspberries and other fruits that grow in the summer, there are also many flowers including vines that grow beside Uncle Tom's cottage. In the residence Tom is also very feasible to live in, because Tom's employer also treats his slaves very well, he is given a comfortable place to live and his slaves have never experienced violence at all.</p>
7		<p>The slaves who lived in Simon Legree's place</p>	<p>The place where Tom and other slaves live is far from proper, from the entrance it is very bad, the slaves that Simon bought are placed in a wooden hut which is a bit far from the main house In that little hut, there is only dirty straw, even this hut is not very suitable for living, in 1 small hut containing 3-4 slaves.</p>

### **The social condition in novel *Uncle Toms cabin*.**

the upper class is someone who is rich or entrepreneurial, while the middle class is a trader, office worker, etc., while the lower class is a slave. The lower class always treats a person well in the uncle Tom cabin novel mr.shelby and his family treat Tom and other slaves who work with him very well, even his slaves were also promised a freedom the slaves also lived in a small cabin would remain a comfortable place to made a place to live, not only Mr.shelby but st.clare is also the same he also has several slaves working in his house but he treats them all well, even Tom also even though he is a new slave that he bought, he also treats him with good.

While middle class people, on average, these people have their own bad qualities, but there are also very good middle class people who give freedom to their slaves, jhon van trope gives freedom to his slaves, but in the past jhon van trope is a landlord. in the city he prefers to move to remote areas in order to live comfortably and safely because he is very concerned about the life of the slaves which was very sad at that time. Senator Bird he also lives in the middle class he is a rule maker about slavery but because of his wife he also wants to help a slave who is running to save himself. Other middle class like Haley he is also a cruel slave trader he does whatever he can so that he can get what he wants even he had time to chain his slaves so he could not run he lived moving around selling his slaves from one city to another . simon legree is a very cruel and very evil person he has a cotton plantation, he treats his slaves very inhumanely, even simon is the one who kills Tom he kicks and beat him until he is baseless.

The lower classes like Tom and other slaves, in the life of slaves are very dependent on their owners, like Tom, he gets very good owners, Mr.Shelby and St.clare, but his life changes when he works with Simon Legree he gets treatment which is very bad, he gets beaten if he doesn't obey his orders, so do the other slaves who work at simon legree's place also get very bad behavior. other slaves such as jhon van trope's slaves found freedom.

*in his small house there is a bed, and a fireplace, in front of the fireplace there is an old wooden table on which there are plates and glasses. (page.22)*

From the quote we can also imagine that Tom lived very comfortably, he was given a bed, a fireplace so that in winter he was not cold, and he could still eat normally because in his house there was still a dining table and on it was still available tableware

Uncle Tom's small cottage was also used as a gathering place for several slaves from the surrounding farms in the hut which was filled with people of all ages. In this story, Tom is a person who is respected by those around him because he is a very religious slave

*Shortly thereafter the little cottage was filled with slaves of all ages, from a man of eighty to a girl of fifteen. Not all of them come from shelby farms. Some of them came from other houses in the area. After a few words the meeting began. They all sang religious songs, some came from the church and others from other gatherings.(Page.23)*

Uncle Tom is a figure that is very respected and even like a religious leader among them, in the above quote it is also explained that Uncle Tom's house was made a meeting place like the place where other slaves performed ceremonies or prayed with songs sung and at the meeting Mr. George also came and read the gospel.

### **The comparison of social stratification between *Uncle Tom's cabin* novel and america in 18 era**

Tabel 1. Comparison

No	Novel <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	America 18 Century
1.	In the lower class, they live in small huts located on plantations or	Many slaves lived in plantations and fields, each plantation was

<p>farms. Social Condition and Economy Slaves also depend on their owners, in the novel, Tom and other slaves are also very dependent on their owners, if the owner is good then they will have a good life too, if they get a very bad owner then they will also live in torment.</p>	<p>usually like a small village and owned by one family, the family lived in very large houses, inside the plantation also had several separate buildings such as kitchens, workers' quarters, warehouses, Inside the plantation there are also animal sheds, bars for storing crops, a place for smoking meat, and a building on the riverbank that serves as a shipping point by ship to England. Slaves in the southern part of America amounted to about one third of the population of South America, slaves lived on farms or plantations, there were many systems that governed slave life, learning was prohibited and all activities were strictly restricted, there were all kinds of slaves, slaves living in luxurious homes , slaves as manual labor,</p>
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		<p>and slaves used as indulgence, to attack well-behaved slaves would be treated kindly by their masters while those who rebelled would be tortured and punished. Slaves who live on plantations / farms only live in small houses which are usually filled with more than 5 slaves without. Because they are given facilities, private slaves usually live in the owner's house, they do all the housework, slaves who work in the owner's house have different working hours. shorter than working on a plantation.</p>
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2.	<p>In the middle class in the novel it is told that he is a slave trader, senator and small farm owner, in the 18th century the lower classes were people who owned small plantations and lived in small villages.</p>	<p>There are small farmers. They belong to the campesions group, namely people who work in campo (small villages). The middle class is explained that he is an owner of agriculture on a small scale, they live in small villages. Social condition and economy, all his needs are sufficiently met, not rich or poor</p>
3.	<p>In the upper class in the novel he is a very rich person, he lives in a large house, has beautiful and expensive ornament. All his needs are very fullfiled, even exceed his needs, in tihis class have very good in the economic condition.</p>	<p>in 18th century America the upper class is the owner of a very large plantation / farm, which has slaves of approximately 200 slaves, and had areas such as rural areas where there were houses for storing food materials etc.</p>

## Disscusion

In this discussion the writer uses setting to analyze social stratification. The social strata in the uncle's cabin can be seen from the residence of the characters, from the setting it can be divided into 3: upper, middle, and lower classes. It can show how the social condition and social economics occur in novel and in the America in 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

(Noor 1997) say in general, social class is divided into three groups.

1. upper class

They are a class of wealthy people, in this class the social conditions experienced are very good, because the upper class is filled by conglomerates, executives, etc

2. Middle class

This group consists of a professional, shop owner, small plantation owner. Usually, this group is filled by people who have an ordinary life

3. Lower class

The group that obtains income or acceptance in return for their work which is less in number in their needs. Those who are included in this group are poor people who do not want to develop. Thus the necessities of life of the lower class are never fulfilled, because they also get very little wages after they do their job.

- Mr. Shelby: elegant clothes of good quality, has a farm, in which a lot of slaves work in Mr. Shelby's farm

*I feel bad about Tom's condition, said Shelby, he is a hard worker, reliable, honest and can manage my farm very well. (Page.9)*

- St. Clare: has a very luxurious residence, Tom is amazed at the beauty of his house, in the house there are beautiful and expensive ornaments, in the house Tom is also given his own room for his living place.

*St. Clare brought Tom to his wife, Tom is still amazed by the beauty of the house and all the beautiful and expensive furniture and*

*ornaments. He was almost afraid to put his feet on the floor. (page.77-78)*

The house of st.clare is very luxurious and very nice, the ornaments and all the furniture are very nice and expensive, Tom has never seen such furniture that he is afraid when he steps in his house. Tom no longer lives in the log cabin like before, he now lives with his master in a very large house, he is given his own room which will be in his place as long as he works with the st.clare family.

#### **A. Middle Class**

- Mr.Haley: bright clothes, necklaces and gold watches, in his life Haley often went around to sell and buy slaves, to get a lot of money, in the uncle Toms cabin he did not have a permanent place to live. After getting Tom he went straight to Kentucky to buy another slave.

*Haley pulled a few pieces of newspaper from his coat pocket and began reading. Tom could see that the merchant was not good at reading, "here it is." said the white man,: in washington, kentucky on february 20 will be selling the following niggers: hangar, 60 years, john 30, ben 21 years, albert 14 years old. I have to see them all. (page.55).*

- John van trope: in the past he lived in Kentucky he had a large plantation he moved to Ohio and lived on a small farm that he bought in the hills, so he could live in peace and quiet, in his plantation he gave a letter of release and let they live and work freely.

*Eliza and Harry reeling on the train due to the ice and a sharp turn, after midnight the train finally stopped in front of a quiet and dark farmland. After a few minutes, the owner opened the door. He is jhon van trope he is a big man with a big heart he comes to ohio from kentucky, where he has a big farm. After several years of seeing the difficult life of the slaves he bought land in Ohio, gave all his slaves a letter of release and let them live and work freely. (page.48)*

John Van Trope is someone who is rich but he chooses a simple life and buys farmland in Ohio because he sees the life of a slave is very difficult, he buys farmland which is far from the city crowd to get to where he lives, he has to pass through forests and rivers.

- Simon Legree: He occupies a house that used to be the house of a rich man who built a garden around his house, after Legree bought it all gardens, flowers and everything was neglected, many windows were broken and the shutters hung on hinges, the house was unkempt and very shabby once.

*The Legree house looks worse than the road they have been on. Previously, the house was the house of someone who was rich by building a garden around his house. After the death of Legree bought it, now there are no gardens, flowers and everything is neglected. Many windows were broken and the shutters were hanging on hinges. (page.126)*

Legree is a lazy person and does not care about his life, from his house alone it is illustrated that Legree is a very inhuman person and acts all by himself, he has a very large house but never takes care of it, moreover the place where his slaves live will be much more terrible in comparison to the house occupied.

## **B. Lower Class**

- Tom: Tom's living conditions while working with Mr. Shelby. Uncle Tom's residence is a small house made of wood, where Uncle Tom's residence is very close to his employer's house. The area of the house is surrounded by fields of strawberries, raspberries and other fruits that grow in the summer, there are also many flowers including vines that grow beside Uncle Tom's cottage. In the residence Tom is also very feasible to live in, because Tom's employer also treats his slaves very well, he is given a comfortable place to live and his slaves have never experienced violence at all.

*Uncle Tom's cottage is a small building made of wooden blocks very close to the house of his employer, around the house there is a*

*garden full of strawberries, raspberries, and other fruits in summer. There were also lots of flowers including the rose vines that grew on the side of Uncle Tom's cabin. (page.21)*

- The slaves who lived in Simon Legree's place: The place where Tom and other slaves live is far from proper, from the entrance it is very bad, the slaves that Simon bought are placed in a wooden hut which is a bit far from the main house. In that little hut, there is only dirty straw, even this hut is not very suitable for living, in 1 small hut containing 3-4 slaves.

*From that small town legree brought his slaves to their new home, the road to the plantation was like the road to kematin, the area was arid and very few plants were growing. The sky was red and there were several swamps that seemed to be the home of snakes. (Page.125)*

*The legree's men pushed the slaves viciously, to a small wooden hut some distance from the house, inside there was only dirty hay, one of these huts that would be better suited to a hog pen than a human habitation, would be Tom's house. (Page. 126-127)*

The house that Tom was going to live in was very inhuman, he lived in a wooden hut that only had straw in it, he didn't even get a clothes hanger and a shelf for his gospel, even inside there wasn't a bed or any furniture. This place is also very suitable for humans to live. While living there Tom was working on Legree's cotton plantation.

(Abrams 1981) say that in literature is intended to refer to critics and literary historians who are especially concerned with the relationship between the author and his social class, social status and ideology, economic conditions in his profession, and the model of the reader he is aiming for. They view that literary works (both in terms of content and form) are absolutely conditioned by the environment and social forces of a certain period. In the quotation above, it is explained that satire is also related to several things, such as the author and his social class, social status and ideological conditions, economic conditions and his profession. Literary work is also inseparable from environmental conditions and

certain social conditions, that literary works are also used as a media for social criticism, usually the writer criticizes a condition that he experienced when he was alive,

In the sociology of literature there are 3 types according to Wellek and Warren in his book *The Ori of Literature* (1994)

### **1. Author's sociology**

Author sociology is a study that focuses on the author or creator of literary works, in this study the author as a creator of literary works is considered social cohesion and he is bound by social status in society, ideology, position in society and the relationship between authors and readers, the problem under study is the economics of literary production, social background, author status, and author's ideology that can be seen from various author's activities outside of literary works.

### **2. Sosilogy of works**

The sociology of literary works examines the content of the intended literary work, as well as other matters implicit in the literary work itself and relating to social issues. *Sociology of literary works* By Watt (via Damono, 1979) the sociology of literary works examines literature as a mirror of society. In sociology this literary work is closely related to.

### **3. Sociology of the reader**

Sociology is a study that discusses the relationship between literature and the reader. Wellek and Warren ( 1994) “the areas of study include the problems of the reader and the social impact of literary works, and the extent to which literary works are determined or dependent on social settings, social changes and development”. He revealed that the extent to which literature can affect social life and the extent to which literature can be related to social values.

Social Stratification is a layered system in society; the word Stratification comes from the stratum (plural: strata) which means layer, The definition of social

stratification according to sociology experts described by (Narwoko and Suyanto 2007) and (Wulansari 2009) as follows : Karl Marx Social stratification is the difference between groups of people into social classes determined by their "relation" to "means of production" that is between the upper classes and lower classes". The upper class (borjois) is a group of people who have wealth capital and who control the sources of wealth such as land, raw materials, production machines, and labor. Whereas the lower class (proletariat) is a group of people who have nothing but their labor. According to Marx. social stratification is the difference between two groups, namely the upper class (borjois) and the lower class, the upper class is the community owns a plantation company, etc. while the lower class is an employee of a company and a plantation. Social stratification arises since humans recognize forms of life together in organizations or groups, since then the society's coating system appears, in this system society is differentiated starting from gender, age, differences between leaders and leaders, differences in wealth or differences in education.

Based on Pidarta (2000) basic of social stratification sparated in three basic, Such as :

### **1. Wealth**

Someone who has wealth (the economy is very good) belongs to the upper classes of society, wealth owned in the form of houses, property, cars, land etc. Such a society can be categorized as a high class society, in groups of people if there is seen to have abundant wealth, it is also categorized as a class of the upper classes.

### **2. Power**

Someone who has high power has great authority and influence is also categorized as a high-class society, power is usually associated with the position of a person, someone with a high position, the higher the award given to the community, such as a president, governor , the mayor, the company owner, is the upper class of society.



### **3. Honor**

Honor is a standard determined by traditional society, the most respected people get the highest social class, usually they are people who have old age, religious leaders, or someone who has served in a community group, in terms of community respect, they do not see they are in terms of education or wealth they have, but they see from the contribution, attitude and behavior, authority in the community.

According Soekanto (1985) basic of social stratification is Science. Science is a measure of society to determine the level of society, the higher education a person they get the higher the social class that is obtained, in a group of people if a person with a high position then he is increasingly respected, and get the top social layer as well.

#### **Slaves in america**

Slavery in America began in 1619 in Virginia, slaves originating from Africa were first brought to America to be petrified in plantations. Initially tobacco was one of the most profitable plants. According ( Macy 1919) Slavery became more prevalent with the development of cotton and sugarcane crops in this region in the end of 18 century. African slaves were employed to produce tobacco, in the 17-18th century slavery was very much developed in all parts of America, they in the Ano were able to build the American economy. After finding a tobacco seed cotton separator machine began to reduce and replaced by producing cotton.

(Krout 1971) say that slaves occure in amerika it's common activity in america in middle of 18 century. Slavery start from middle of 18 century. Around the 19th century, in the western part of America came the slaughtering movement, which triggered a great debate in America, resulting in a civil war in 1861-1865. At that time the Union won the war and succeeded in freeing approximately 4 million people from slavery, but slavery continued to influence American history and continued to grow from year to year.

At first the European settlement was labor and employees of several industries and fields in America, but in the 17th century it all changed after the arrival of some Africans through the British colony from Jamestown Virginia. They changed poor European employees to African people because the price was cheaper.

In the 18th century there were between 6 and 7 million slaves brought to America. In this century black people were also employed in plantations, especially in tobacco plantations, but in western America the people did not place much importance on slavery, until the community linked slavery to people blacks with British oppression.

In the 18th century the South American region experienced economic crisis, land used to produce tobacco was almost exhausted, and slavery also became very declining, the cotton industry was overwhelmed because of the soaring demand for cotton from the textile industry in England, because the yields of the South American region were restricted and not yet he invented the cotton separator machine, they still separate raw cotton which makes cotton production a long time.

(Krout 1971) say that cotton cultivation trned out to bring abundant benefits for farmer in the south, plus there was still large area of land that could be turned into field, they switched to planting cotton, sugarcane and tobacco, in america cotton sugarcane and tobacco became the famouse plant because can add alot of profit, every opend new land they need more slave to manage the plantation.

1793 was the beginning of the cotton seed separator machine, namely Eli Whitney, a resident of east america who was a teacher, the cotton separator was then widely used, and in that year the southern Americans could produce large amounts of cotton, a production that conducted in south america resulted in the need for labor (slaves) greatly increased. But slavery did not develop in the United States in the north, but there were also many wealthy businessmen in the north who sold their slaves in South America.

Many slaves lived on plantations and farms, each plantation was usually like a small village and owned by a family, the family who lived in a very large house, inside the estate also had several separate buildings such as kitchens, workers' quarters, warehouses, in in plantations there are also animal cages, barns for storing crops, a place to smoke meat, as well as a building on the river bank that functions as a place to ship goods using ships to England. Usually a person who has a farm or plantation has approximately 200 slaves, slaves are employed with long hours of work, from sunrise to sunset, slaves who live on plantations / ranches only live in small houses which are usually filled with more than 5 slaves without being provided with facilities, a private slave usually lives in his owner's house he does all the housework, slaves who work at the owner's house have shorter working hours compared to working on plantations

Slaves in the southern part of America account for about one third of the population of South America, slaves live on farms or plantations, there are many systems that regulate the life of slaves, it is forbidden to study and all activities are very restricted, there are various types of slaves, slaves who live on luxury houses, slaves as abusive labor, and slaves used as gratification of lust, for attacking slaves who behave well will be treated well by their employers while those who rebel will be tortured and punished. (Catton 1985) say that the fugitive slave law its help the employ to catch the slaves who escaped and fleeing into a slave free state, many slaves run away, because they want to get freedom, with this rules, slaves owner can catch their slaves back.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis that has been carried out from the novel *Unle Toms Cabin*, the author can conclude that in the novel there are various levels of society according to the setting, their lower class lives on someone's farm or plantation, they live in small wooden huts in which there are various equipment such as mattresses, dining tables, warmers etc., there were also

the lower class people who lived in wooden huts where there was only straw for sleeping in which 3-4 slaves were occupied, not equipped with any equipment, not even a shelf and clothes hanger.

The middle class lives in houses that are larger than the dwellings of slaves, generally the middle class houses have various furniture such as mattresses, heaters, dining tables etc., in each house they also have slaves to take care of various household chores, there are also class groups middle class whose life is always moving from place to place, he is a slave trader, he spends his life moving around selling and buying slaves from one place to another

The upper class is very rich people, they live in large houses with all the furniture that is very expensive and luxurious, the upper class groups also have farms or plantations but are very large in scale.

In the novel can be classified as follows:

1. Upper class: Mr. Shelby, St. Clare, Eva, George
2. Middle class: Haley, Simon Legree, Jhon Van Trope, Senator Bird
3. Lower group: Toms, Eliza, George Harris and slaves.

The social life of the lower class is very dependent on their employers, if they get a good employer they will get a good life too, if they get a very cruel employer then their life will also be very miserable. The middle class are people whose life needs are fulfilled, some of the middle class are good people while there are also many middle classes who are very bad and often torture their slaves, the upper class economically this group is very rich people whose living needs are very fulfilled but it is not uncommon for this class to also have debts.

Comparison between America in the 18th century with the novel Uncle Toms Cabin, in 18th century America the lower class people or

slaves lived in wooden huts is the same as in the novel Uncle Toms Cabin. In 18th century novels and America the slaves or lower class groups were very dependent on their owners, but what distinguishes them is that the view of slaves as an outlet for sex in the novel is not explained. In the middle class in 18th century America, they are people who have small plantations or farms, they live in remote villages, in the novel it is also explained that in the character of Jhon van trope he lives in remote forests and has small plantations. The upper class in 18th century America was a person who owned a large plantation or farm which had approximately 200 slaves, in the novel it is explained that people who have upper class are wealthy people who live in large houses and have items and goods. - expensive goods, this group is also explained to have large-scale plantations.

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