

Ko 25 tom of finland the complete kake comics Study Guide

ko 25 tom of finland the complete kake comics is a phrase that resonates deeply within the realm of adult comics and underground graphic storytelling. This collection, which encompasses the full body of work by the renowned Finnish artist Kake, offers a comprehensive look into a unique subgenre of comic art that blends humor, taboo, and provocative themes. For enthusiasts and newcomers alike, understanding the significance of these comics involves exploring their origins, thematic elements, artistic style, and cultural impact. In this article, we will delve into the history of Kake's works, analyze the content of the Ko 25 Tom of Finland collection, and examine its influence on both adult comics and popular culture.

Understanding the Background of Kake and the Ko 25 Tom Collection

Who is Kake? An Introduction to the Artist

Kake is a Finnish comic creator whose work has gained notoriety for its bold, explicit, and often humorous portrayal of adult themes. His comics are characterized by their detailed line work, expressive characters, and unabashed approach to sexuality. Kake's art style is heavily influenced by the classic European comic tradition but infused with contemporary sensibilities that push boundaries.

Kake's influence extends beyond Finland, with his comics circulated across the internet and underground comic circles worldwide. His works often explore themes of masculinity, sexuality, and taboo subjects, making them both controversial and celebrated within niche communities.

The Significance of the Ko 25 Tom of Finland Collection

The phrase "Ko 25 Tom of Finland" refers to a specific collection that includes 25 of Kake's comics inspired by or paying homage to Tom of Finland, the legendary Finnish artist known for his homoerotic illustrations. This collection is significant because it consolidates Kake's most impactful works, providing a comprehensive resource for fans and scholars interested in the evolution of adult comic art.

The collection is often regarded as a complete anthology, capturing the breadth of Kake's artistic journey and thematic explorations. It serves as a testament to how Kake's work intertwines with the legacy of Tom of Finland, emphasizing themes of masculinity, eroticism, and freedom of expression.

Content and Themes in the Complete Kake Comics Collection

Overview of the Comic Stories

The Ko 25 Tom of Finland collection features a diverse range of stories, each exploring diff

Ko 25 Tom of Finland The Complete Kake Comics is a comprehensive collection that immerses readers into the iconic and provocative world created by the legendary artist Tom of Finland. This extensive compilation showcases the beloved character Kake, offering fans and newcomers alike an in-depth look at the artist's most influential and daring work. As a definitive volume, it not only preserves the artistic integrity of Tom of Finland's illustrations but also contextualizes his impact on LGBTQ+ culture and artistic expression.

Introduction to the Collection

Tom of Finland, born Touko Laaksonen, revolutionized the portrayal of masculinity and homoerotic art through his bold and highly stylized illustrations. The Ko 25 Tom of Finland The Complete Kake Comics is a meticulously curated anthology that compiles the entirety of Kake comics, one of the artist's most beloved characters. This collection stands as a testament to Tom's mastery of form, his unapologetic celebration of sexuality, and his influence on both art and culture.

The collection covers a vast period of Tom's career, presenting both early sketches and more polished, refined pieces. It serves as a historical document and an artistic tour de force, capturing the raw energy and humor that characterize Kake stories.

Content Overview

The Character of Kake

Kake, a muscular, confident, and often mischievous figure, embodies many of the ideals and fantasies that Tom of Finland aimed to depict. Unlike some of his other characters, Kake is frequently portrayed in humorous, exaggerated situations that highlight masculinity, camaraderie, and sexual liberation.

Artistic Style and Presentation

The collection maintains the integrity of Tom's original artwork, reproducing illustrations with remarkable clarity. The pages are printed on high-quality paper, ensuring that the intricate line work, shading, and textures are vividly preserved. The comics are arranged chronologically and thematically, allowing readers to observe the evolution of Tom's style and storytelling.

Thematic Depth

While the comics are primarily humorous and titillating, they also subtly explore themes of identity, freedom, and societal norms. Kake's adventures often parody traditional masculine stereotypes, challenging conventional notions of sexuality and gender roles.

Highlights of the Collection

Artistic Excellence

Tom of Finland's technical skill is evident throughout the collection. His mastery of anatomy, perspective, and expression brings each character and scene to life. The comics balance humor, eroticism, and artistry seamlessly, making each page engaging on multiple levels.

Cultural Significance

The collection not only entertains but also educates. It underscores Tom's role as a pioneer in LGBTQ+ representation, helping to normalize and celebrate gay culture during a time when such expressions were often suppressed. The humor and rebellious spirit of Kake serve as a form of social commentary.

Inclusivity and Representation

Kake's stories showcase a diverse array of characters and scenarios, emphasizing the universality of desire and identity. The collection is an important artifact in the history of gay art, reflecting attitudes and aspirations of a community seeking visibility and pride.

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Comprehensive collection of Kake comics, offering an extensive overview of Tom of Finland's work.
- High-quality printing that preserves the details and vibrancy of original artwork.
- Rich historical and cultural context provided through the collection.
- Humor, eroticism, and artistry are expertly blended.
- An excellent resource for fans, collectors, and scholars interested in LGBTQ+ art history.

Cons:

- The explicit content may not be suitable for all audiences.
- Some readers might find the humor and themes dated or challenging to interpret outside of their historical context.
- The size of the collection can be overwhelming for casual readers; it's more suited for dedicated fans or researchers.
- As the collection is so comprehensive, it may contain duplicates or similar themes, which could lead to redundancy.

Features and Unique Qualities

Authenticity and Preservation

One of the most commendable aspects of this collection is its dedication to authenticity. The reproductions stay true to Tom of Finland's original illustrations, capturing the nuances of his line work and shading techniques. This commitment ensures that fans experience the artwork as close to the original as possible.

Educational Value

Beyond its entertainment value, the collection serves as an educational resource, providing insights into gay culture, art history, and the evolution of sexual liberation movements.

Collectibility

Given the importance of Tom of Finland in art and LGBTQ+ history, this collection holds significant collectible value. It's a definitive edition that appeals to collectors of art books, comics, and LGBTQ+ memorabilia.

Accessibility

While the collection is expansive, it is curated in a way that makes it accessible to both new readers and long-time fans. Clear organization and quality presentation facilitate easy navigation through different stories and themes.

Impact and Cultural Relevance

Tom of Finland's influence extends far beyond his original illustrations. His work helped shape attitudes towards gay identity and masculinity, fostering a sense of pride and visibility. The Ko 25 Tom of Finland The Complete Kake Comics encapsulates this legacy, offering a window into a world that was often marginalized.

The comics challenge stereotypes, celebrate diversity, and promote acceptance through humor and art. They have inspired countless artists, activists, and community members, cementing Tom's place as a cultural icon.

Who Should Read This Collection?

- Art enthusiasts interested in illustration techniques and comic art.
- LGBTQ+ community members seeking representation and affirmation.
- Historians and scholars studying the evolution of gay culture and art.
- Collectors looking for a definitive edition of Tom of Finland's work.
- Individuals curious about the intersection of humor, sexuality, and art.

Conclusion

The Ko 25 Tom of Finland The Complete Kake Comics is more than just a collection of comic strips; it is a celebration of artistic bravery, cultural change, and unfiltered expression. Its meticulous presentation, historical significance, and unabashed celebration of masculinity make it a must-have for anyone interested in art, LGBTQ+ history, or comic culture.

While it contains explicit content that may not be suitable for all, its artistic mastery and cultural importance are undeniable. This collection stands as a testament to Tom of Finland's legacy and his enduring influence on art and society. Whether you are a seasoned fan or a curious newcomer, this collection offers a rich, provocative, and eye-opening journey into a world where freedom of expression reigns supreme.

Question What is 'KO 25 Tom of Finland: The Complete Kake Comics' about? 'KO 25 Tom of Finland: The Complete Kake Comics' is a comprehensive collection of Kake comics created by Tom of Finland, showcasing his iconic homoerotic artwork and storytelling that celebrate gay culture and masculinity. Why is this collection considered a must-have for fans of Tom of Finland? This collection consolidates Kake comics into one volume, providing fans with the complete, high-quality artwork and narratives that have played a significant role in LGBTQ+ art and culture, making it essential for collectors and enthusiasts. How does 'KO 25 Tom of Finland' differ from other Tom of Finland collections? It specifically focuses on the Kake comics series, offering an in-depth look at his comic storytelling, which is distinct from his more famous pin-up illustrations, providing a unique perspective on his artistic evolution. Is 'KO 25 Tom of Finland' suitable for new readers unfamiliar with his work? Yes, the collection is accessible to new readers, offering a comprehensive introduction to Tom of Finland's comic art and themes, though some content is mature and intended for adult audiences. What makes Kake comics a significant part of Tom of Finland's legacy? Kake comics showcase Tom of Finland's talent in storytelling through comics, highlighting themes of masculinity, sexuality, and identity that have influenced LGBTQ+ culture and comic art worldwide.

Where can I purchase 'KO 25 Tom of Finland: The Complete Kake Comics'? The collection is available through major online bookstores, specialty comic shops, and publishers' websites that focus on LGBTQ+ literature and art collections. Are there any digital versions of this collection available? Yes, some publishers offer digital editions of 'KO 25 Tom of Finland,' which can be purchased and viewed on e-readers and tablets, providing convenient access to the complete collection. What has been the reception of this collection among fans and critics? The collection has been highly praised for its comprehensive nature, high-quality reproductions, and its importance in preserving Tom of Finland's comic work, resonating well with both longtime fans and new audiences.

Related keywords: Kake Comics, Finnish comics, KO 25 Tom, Finnish manga, Tom comics, Finnish graphic novels, Finnish manga series, KO 25 Tom collection, Finnish comic books, Kake comic series

Understanding Comics The Invisible Art

Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art is a seminal classic that has significantly shaped the way readers and creators perceive the comic book medium. Written by Scott McCloud, this groundbreaking work delves into the fundamental mechanics, history, and artistry behind comics, elevating it from mere entertainment to a legitimate form of visual storytelling. Since its publication, *Understanding Comics* has become an essential resource for artists, writers, critics, and fans eager to comprehend what makes comics a unique and powerful art form.

In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the core concepts of *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*, highlighting its insights into the nature of comics, their history, the techniques involved, and their cultural significance. Whether you're a seasoned comic creator or a curious newcomer, understanding these principles can deepen your appreciation and enhance your own work within the medium.

What Is Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art?

Overview and Significance

Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art was first published in 1993 and has since become a cornerstone text in comic studies. Scott McCloud, a cartoonist and comic theorist, uses a combination of clear diagrams, insightful analysis, and accessible language to explore how comics communicate stories through the interplay of images and words.

The title itself hints at the idea that comics are often overlooked or undervalued?considered "invisible" because their mechanics are so ingrained that audiences and creators sometimes fail to recognize the craft involved. McCloud aims to make these "invisible" elements visible, encouraging a deeper appreciation of how comics function as an art form.

Core Concepts of Understanding Comics

The Nature of Comics as a Visual Language

One of McCloud's fundamental assertions is that comics constitute a unique visual language, combining images and text to convey meaning. This language operates through:

- Sequential Art: The arrangement of images in a specific order to tell a story.
- Closure: The process by which the reader's mind fills in gaps between panels, creating a continuous narrative.
- Iconography: The use of symbols and images that evoke specific ideas or emotions.

Understanding these elements helps creators craft more engaging stories and helps readers decode the layered messages within comics.

The Six Steps of Comics Creation

McCloud outlines a process of creating comics that involves:

- Idea: The core concept or story.
- Words: The dialogue and narration.
- Images: Visual representations.
- Choice of Panel Layout: How panels are arranged.
- Timing: The pacing of the story.
- Closure: The reader's interpretation and mental completion.

Recognizing these steps allows creators to manipulate each element intentionally to evoke desired emotional responses.

The Importance of Style and Form

McCloud emphasizes that style is a crucial aspect of comics, influencing tone, mood, and reader perception. Whether minimalist or highly detailed, style choices impact how stories are received and understood.

Historical Context and Evolution of Comics

Origins of Comics

Comics have a rich history that predates their formal recognition as an art form. McCloud traces their roots from ancient sequential images like cave paintings and Egyptian hieroglyphs to modern comic strips and graphic novels.

The Development of the Medium

The evolution of comics can be divided into key phases:

- Early Newspaper Strips: The Yellow Kid, Little Nemo, which popularized serialized storytelling.
- Golden Age of Comics: The rise of superhero comics like Superman and Batman.
- Underground Comix: Counterculture movements pushing boundaries.
- Graphic Novels: Literary and artistic maturity, exemplified by works like Maus and Persepolis.

Understanding this history enriches appreciation for comics' versatility and cultural relevance.

Visual Storytelling Techniques in Comics

The Power of Panel Layout

Panel design guides the reader's eye and controls pacing. Techniques include:

- Splash Pages: Large, full-page images to emphasize key moments.
- Gutter Space: The space between panels, which McCloud describes as a "visual punctuation" that influences timing.
- Panel Shapes and Sizes: Variations to evoke speed, tension, or intimacy.

Iconic Styles and Symbolism

Different artistic styles convey distinct atmospheres:

- Realistic: For serious, dramatic stories.
- Cartoonish: For humor or lighthearted content.
- Abstract: To evoke emotion or conceptual ideas.

McCloud also discusses the use of symbols, metaphors, and visual tropes that deepen storytelling.

The Role of Color and Texture

While black-and-white comics focus on line work and shading, color adds emotional depth and atmosphere. Texture, through cross-hatching or digital effects, enhances mood and realism.

Reader Engagement and the Art of Closure

The Concept of Closure

Closure is a core principle McCloud explores extensively. It refers to the reader's ability to subconsciously fill in gaps between panels, creating a fluid and dynamic narrative. This process allows comics to:

- Convey motion and time shifts.
- Suggest emotions and reactions.
- Engage the reader actively in story construction.

The Role of the Reader

Comics rely heavily on the reader's participation, making them a collaborative art form. Understanding how closure works empowers creators to craft more compelling and immersive stories.

Impact of Understanding Comics on the Industry and Academia

Influence on Creators

Many artists and writers credit Understanding Comics with broadening their understanding of the medium, inspiring innovative storytelling techniques, and elevating comics as an art form.

Academic Recognition

The book helped establish comics as a subject worthy of scholarly study, leading to courses, conferences, and research dedicated to comic art and theory.

Why Understanding Comics Matters Today

Enhancing Creativity and Craftsmanship

By breaking down the mechanics of comics, McCloud empowers creators to experiment with form, style, and narrative structure, pushing the boundaries of the medium.

Promoting Cultural Appreciation

Understanding the art and history behind comics fosters greater respect for diverse voices and stories, from superhero adventures to autobiographical graphic novels.

Supporting Literacy and Visual Communication

Comics serve as accessible tools for literacy, education, and cross-cultural dialogue. Grasping their core principles enhances their effectiveness as communication tools.

Conclusion

Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art is more than a guide; it is a manifesto that elevates the comic book medium to an art form worthy of scholarly and artistic respect. By exploring the fundamental mechanics of storytelling through images and words, Scott McCloud offers invaluable insights that benefit creators, critics, and fans alike. Whether you're interested in creating comics or simply want to deepen your appreciation, understanding the core principles outlined in this work unlocks new levels of engagement and enjoyment.

As comics continue to evolve and influence other media, the principles discussed in Understanding Comics remain vital. They remind us that comics, though often considered "invisible," are a complex, layered, and profoundly expressive art form?truly a universal language that communicates the invisible art of storytelling through the power of images.

Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art ? A Deep Dive into the Art and Craft of Visual Storytelling

Introduction: Unlocking the Power of Comics as a Unique Medium

Comics have long been dismissed by some as mere children's entertainment or simplistic storytelling. However, Scott McCloud's seminal work, Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art, elevates this perception by dissecting comics as a complex, sophisticated, and unique art form. The book explores how comics combine images and words to create a seamless narrative experience, emphasizing that comics are not just a combination of pictures and text but a distinctive language with its own grammar and logic.

In this review, we will delve into the core concepts of McCloud's book, exploring how it illuminates the mechanics, history, and future of comics. We aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of why comics are an important art form and how creators and readers alike can appreciate their depth

and potential.

The Essence of Comics: Defining the Medium

What Are Comics?

McCloud begins with a fundamental question: What are comics? He offers a broad, inclusive definition that encompasses all uses of juxtaposed sequential images to convey meaning. Key points include:

- Sequential Art: Comics are primarily about sequences of images that, when viewed in order, tell a story or communicate ideas.
- Combination of Words and Pictures: While many comics include text, the core of the medium is the interaction between visual and verbal elements.
- Aesthetic and Narrative Unity: Comics are not just pictures with captions; they are designed to blend visual storytelling with language to evoke emotions and ideas.

This broad approach demystifies comics, positioning them as a legitimate, versatile art form capable of profound storytelling.

The "Invisible" Nature of Comics

The title refers to how comics often operate seamlessly in our perception, making their unique language "invisible" when experienced. McCloud emphasizes that:

- The Language of Comics is Subconscious: Readers effortlessly interpret panel transitions, visual cues, and textual elements without conscious effort.
- Comics as a Visual Language: Like spoken language, comics have grammar, syntax, and conventions that, once understood, become second nature.
- The Power of Implied Meaning: Much of what comics communicate is implied through visual cues, allowing for a richer, more layered storytelling.

The Fundamentals of Comic Syntax

Understanding comics requires grasping their fundamental building blocks—the syntax that allows images and words to work together coherently.

1. Panel Transitions: The Core of Narrative Flow

McCloud categorizes panel-to-panel transitions into six types, each shaping the pacing and emotional tone:

- Moment to Moment: Minimal change; slow, contemplative pacing.
- Action to Action: A single movement across panels; dynamic and energetic.
- Subject to Subject: Shifting focus within the same scene or idea; allows for deeper exploration.
- Scene to Scene: Jumping across significant time or space; creates a sense of distance or complexity.
- Aspect to Aspect: Vignettes providing different perspectives; evokes mood and atmosphere.
- Non-Sequitur: Panels with no direct narrative connection; used for humor or abstract expression.

Understanding these transitions helps creators craft compelling narratives and readers interpret the flow with nuance.

2. The Five Types of Image-Word Relationship

McCloud identifies five ways images and words interact:

- Addition: Words add information to images (e.g., labels, captions).
- Substitution: Words replace images (e.g., a character's inner thoughts).
- Enrichment: Words deepen or expand the meaning of images.
- Amplification: Words provide context or background to images.
- Interdependence: Words and images are necessary for full understanding.

This taxonomy reveals how creators can manipulate the relationship between visual and textual elements to achieve specific narrative effects.

The Vocabulary of Comics: Iconography and Symbolism

Icons and Symbols in Comics

One of McCloud's key insights is that comic images often use simplified, iconic representations to evoke complex ideas:

- Icons: Simplified images that stand for objects, characters, or concepts.
- Symbolism: Using visual symbols to convey abstract ideas or emotional states.
- The "Simplicity" Principle: The more simplified an image, the more universally it can be

understood; a principle that allows for broad accessibility.

By manipulating iconography, artists can create expressive, relatable characters and environments that resonate universally.

Closure: Filling the Gaps

A concept central to comics is closure ? the process by which the reader mentally fills in the gaps between panels:

- Psychological Closure: Readers interpret sequences by completing missing information.
- Example: When a character's face changes expression across panels, we infer emotions even if not explicitly shown.
- Importance: Closure makes comics interactive, requiring active participation from the reader.

Understanding closure is crucial for creators to balance what is shown and what is implied, fostering engagement and deeper meaning.

The Art of Time and Space in Comics

Temporal Manipulation

Comics can manipulate time through various techniques:

- Speeding up or slowing down: Using panel size, layout, and transition types.
- Flashbacks and Flashforwards: Visual cues and panel arrangements to depict non-linear storytelling.
- Multiple Panels for Pacing: Larger panels slow down the narrative, while smaller panels accelerate it.

Spatial Composition and Layout

The arrangement of panels influences how viewers experience the story:

- Grid Layouts: Provide clarity and order.
- Irregular or Dynamic Layouts: Convey chaos, emotion, or action.
- Splash Pages: Single, large images for emphasis or dramatic effect.
- Page Turns and Gutter Space: Create anticipation and control rhythm.

Mastery of space and time enables creators to craft immersive and emotionally resonant narratives.

The Evolution and History of Comics

Origins and Development

McCloud traces comics from ancient visual storytelling (e.g., Egyptian hieroglyphs, sequential cave paintings) through to modern comics:

- Early Sequential Art: 19th-century illustrated newspapers and comic strips.
- Golden Age: The rise of superhero comics in the 1930s and 1940s.
- Silver and Bronze Ages: Expansion of genres and artistic experimentation.
- Modern Diversity: Graphic novels, webcomics, and experimental forms.

The Cultural Significance of Comics

Comics reflect societal values, fears, and aspirations:

- Social Commentary: From *Maus* to *Persepolis*, comics have addressed complex social issues.
- Identity and Representation: Diverse characters and stories challenge traditional narratives.
- Global Impact: Different cultures contribute unique styles and stories, enriching the medium.

Understanding the history emphasizes that comics are a dynamic, evolving art form intertwined with cultural shifts.

The Future of Comics: Innovation and Possibilities

Digital and Interactive Comics

The advent of digital platforms opens new avenues:

- Hypercomics: Incorporate hyperlinks, animation, and sound.
- Interactive Storytelling: Readers influence narrative pathways.
- Webcomics: Democratize creation and distribution, fostering diverse voices.

Hybrid Forms and Experimentation

Artists continue pushing boundaries:

- Mixed Media: Combining traditional drawing with digital effects.
- Augmented Reality: Bringing comics into real-world environments.
- Cross-Media Integration: Comics crossing into film, animation, and virtual reality.

The potential for innovation ensures comics remain a vibrant and relevant art form.

Conclusion: Appreciating Comics as "The Invisible Art"

Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art offers an insightful exploration into how comics function as a sophisticated language of images and words. McCloud's work demystifies the mechanics behind comics, emphasizing their creative potential and cultural significance. By analyzing the syntax, iconography, and narrative techniques, readers and creators gain a deeper appreciation of the medium's complexity.

Comics are more than just entertainment; they are a form of visual literacy that combines artistry, storytelling, and cultural commentary. As McCloud eloquently demonstrates, understanding the "invisible" aspects of comics allows us to see and appreciate the art form in new, profound ways. Whether you are a seasoned creator or an avid reader, embracing the insights from Understanding Comics enriches your engagement with this powerful, expressive medium.

In essence, Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art is both a scholarly guide and a celebration of comics as a true art form—an elegant, layered language that, once understood, reveals its profound beauty and endless possibilities.

Question What is the main thesis of 'Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art'? The book argues that comics are a unique art form that combines visual and textual storytelling, emphasizing their capacity for conveying complex ideas through the interplay of images and words. **How does Scott McCloud define 'closure' in comics?** Closure refers to the mental process of observing the parts of a comic and mentally filling in the gaps between panels to understand the flow of storytelling. **What are the different types of panel transitions discussed in the book?** McCloud describes six types of transitions: moment-to-moment, action-to-action, subject-to-subject, scene-to-scene, aspect-to-aspect, and non-sequitur, each serving different narrative purposes. **Why does 'Understanding Comics' emphasize the importance of iconography?** Iconography allows artists to communicate ideas quickly and universally, as simplified or stylized images can evoke broader concepts and emotional responses more effectively. **How does McCloud explain the concept of 'time' in comics?** He explains that time in comics is flexible; artists can manipulate it through panel size, layout, and transitions to control pacing and emphasize specific moments. **What role does the 'gutter' play in comic storytelling?** The gutter is the space between panels, and it serves as the mental bridge where readers interpret and connect the story, creating implied motion and time. **How does 'Understanding Comics' approach the idea of the 'invisible' art of comics?** McCloud discusses how many aspects of comics, like the use of closure and panel transitions, are subconscious or

'invisible' to the reader, yet crucial for the overall storytelling experience. What impact has 'Understanding Comics' had on comic art theory? The book is considered a foundational work that formalized the study of comics as a legitimate art form, influencing both creators and scholars in understanding how comics communicate. How does the book address the relationship between words and images? McCloud explores how words and images work together to create meaning, often with each element complementing or contrasting the other to enhance storytelling. What is Scott McCloud's view on the future of comics? He believes that comics will continue to evolve as a versatile and powerful medium, especially with digital technology expanding possibilities for creators and audiences alike.

Related keywords: comics theory, visual storytelling, graphic novels, comic book analysis, narrative art, sequential art, comic creation, visual literacy, comic illustration, storytelling techniques

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