

From Unsaid to Said: Love Emotions in Imran Nazeer's Poetry

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ABSTRACT

Nazeer, a distinguished Pakistani poet, touches upon variety of themes and issues in his poetry. Nazeer's poetic journey embodies a bundle of emotions, intertwining the joys and sorrows of human experience. The theme of love shines and illuminates the poetic productions of Nazeer. He deals with the theme of love in its varied moods and forms. He lends a color of maturity, uniqueness, and superbnness to the idea of love. Nazeer's poetic works radiate with the theme of love, illuminating its diverse shades and forms. His love poems resonate deeply, captivating those entangled in the enchantment of love. Just like Donne, Nazeer deals with the various manifestations of love, be it physical, spiritual, or conjugal. This research article will not only illuminate the thematic richness of his work but also pay homage to the timeless essence of love as a perennial muse, universally resonating across cultures and eras. This research will add to the existing body of knowledge on the theme of love in the domain of literature.

Keywords: Pakistani poet, Imran Nazeer, poetry, love emotions, poetry analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Born in Sargodha in 1993, Imran Nazeer is a young Pakistani poet and fiction writer. Nazeer, is renowned for his enchanting love poems and captivating short stories. He is a prolific author with four books to his credit. He writes with a sense of fun, infusing his work with heartfelt emotions and literary charm. His poetry deals with a variety of themes. "Every line, every stanza, represents a moment of contemplation, a reflection of my own experiences, and the dreams I've witnessed in the tapestry of life" (Nazeer, 2023, p. i). He wrote an amazing story book titled *English Short Stories: Fifteen Short Stories*, pregnant with practical lessons, showing author's creative power. His poetry books include *Love Gestures*, *Love and Dejection*, *Love & Affection*, *Erotic Flames*, and *Dejected Verses*. His writing is characterized by realism, simplicity of language, and musicality. His writings are the outcome of his keen observation of society, culture, and civilization. To him, poetry is a personal and subjective outpouring.

I embark on a deeply personal journey—one that dives into the very essence of the human experience. Each poem within these pages is a fragment of my soul, a reflection of the myriad emotions that have coursed through my veins, inspiring both joy and sorrow. (Nazeer, 2023, p. ii)

Passion leads to the birth of poetry. It is a dynamic activity. "Passion has its physical manifestations, then, but it also prompts us into conscious activity; as we can see, the writing of poems is such an activity" (Hancock, 2007, p. 208). Wordsworth (1979) calls poetry to be a bundle of emotions and feelings recollected in moments of comfort and placidity. Poetry is defined as "the art of rhythmical composition, written or spoken, for exciting pleasure by beautiful, imaginative, or elevated thoughts" (Merriam-Webster, 2022). Love is the strongest passion in man's life. Love is the breath of life to Nazeer, who wrote on love simply because love was a necessary condition of his existence. To

him, love is a gift of nature and an expression of beauty. It is a source of deep communion with the beloved. Love is a dynamic force which fills the lover with invincible power to perform the impossible tasks for the beloved's sake. Love is the strongest emotion which is above all mundane consideration. Love is the dominant theme in Nazeer's poetry. There are a sizeable number of poems in *Love Gestures*, *Love and Dejection*, *Love & Affection*, *Erotic Flames*, and *Dejected Verses* dealing with the theme of love in its varying moods and aspects. Nazeer treats the theme of love in a unique and original way in a style characterized by simplicity. His love poems are based upon his personal love experiences. He also resorts to a variety of images to convey the idea of love in the best possible way. He creates mental pictures in his love verses, transporting the reader into the valley of love. His poetry is characterized by handsomeness, delicacy, deep human emotions, and magic. Nazeer (2023) claims that "I have wrestled with words, attempting to capture the elusive essence of human emotions. I have stood amidst the storm of inspiration, allowing it to wash over me and leave behind the inked trails of my heart" (p. iii). Nazeer in his poem, *Couple* focuses on permanent idea of love. *A Desire* extolls the theme of love in a placid and noise free atmosphere. *Afraid* focuses on fear of losing his beloved. *Eid Mubarak* uses a variety of images taken from the natural world to show poet's love for beloved. The poem *First Romance* is charged with a series of memories of first romance, offering a bundle of emotions related to pre romance, during romance phase, and post romance phase. *Her Eyes* beautifully praise the beloved's eyes portraying them as a window to the soul, brimming with beauty. *Her Hair* is a beautiful poem, painting the picture of the silky long hair of the beloved. *Her Lips* is a beautiful poem, portraying the enchanting beauty of the lips of the beloved. *Love Poem* paints the theme of love in an elegant manner. *Love Song* also offers a picture of the idea of love. It is a poem charged with nostalgic emotions. It is full of memories about the first time of seeing the shining, bright beauty of the beloved. *Love Song* also offers a picture of the idea of love. It is a poem charged with nostalgic emotions. The poet celebrates married love in his well-known poem *Married First Night* in a superb manner. In short, Nazeer's poetry is a pack of emotions navigating the theme of love in an elegant and superb manner by using a variety of images taken from the natural world. His is a style marked by simplicity, musicality, melody, sweetness, calmness, and lightness.

Research Questions

1. How does the poet project the idea of 'unsaid to said' in theme of love?
2. In what way does the theme of love find expression in Nazeer's poetry?

Research Objectives

- To evaluate the theme of love underlying Nazeer's poetry.
- To know how Nazeer gives expression to the idea of love in his poetry.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Love has perpetually occupied a pivotal position within literary narratives, traversing epochs and genres with their intricate nuances. Unlike other motifs, love possesses a kaleidoscope of perspectives, fostering diverse outcomes. Love is central in Greek myths and modern stories. It is ancient, but it keeps changing while still having its true meaning. Early story times, especially clear in Greek and Roman stories of magic had the details about love. In the middle-ages, love started to represent good and community links. By the 12th century it changed into a feeling of power. This change highlighted ideas of freedom and relaxation, especially among specific groups in society. Shakespeare, in his famous *Romeo and Juliet*, took on traditional ideas of courtship. He showed love as strong and quick-moving while breaking cultural rules about how lovers should behave.

From Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* to Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, and Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*, we can find the theme of love in so many ways. These colorful stories show love as a deep, powerful, and sometimes sad thing. It changes people's actions in tales that charm everyone all around the world without any boundaries of time or culture. The theme of love in literature is a long-lasting main thing. It is a theme of many stories from different time periods, genres, and writers. It shows many different feelings from happiness to sadness. Love is a way to change ourselves. "Love was actually an invention of certain poets writing in eleventh century" (Hancock, 2007, p. 198). Stallworthy (1973) remarks that "feelings of passionate love" have

been ‘common to all mankind’, kindling ‘poets of different periods and places ... by a process of internal combustion’” (p. 22).

Trivedi (2023) focuses on the theme of love, sexuality, and female empowerment in the poems of Kamala Das who is a prominent Indian author. Her poetry is based on personal experiences and observations. It is steeped in strong emotions and her assertion of the significance of emotional connection. It shows rebellion against traditional gender roles. It is a powerful testament to self-assertion and identity exploration. It is a discourse on female sexuality in postcolonial Indian literature.

Aravind and Ravikumar (2018), doing a comparative analysis between the works of Das, and Dickinson, point out that despite cultural, temporal, and geographical differences, “Both the poets write on the theme of love with candor and sincerity” (p. 160). Their poetry is a poignant portrayal of failures in love, individualistic creative processes, and rebellion against cultural and social inhibitions. Their love poems show personal experiences. Both poets explore various facets of love, from physical desires to emotional agony.

Gashti (2020) focuses on Keats’ early poems and letters through the lens of love providing a profound insight into the poet’s philosophical and artistic journey. His poetry is based on personal connections and experiences with Fanny Brawne. In Keats’ poetry love is both profound and transformative, extending beyond romantic relationships to encompass familial bonds and the interconnectedness of humanity. Keats treats love as a universal force in his poetry and letters. It is packed with elements of beauty, truth, and spiritual depth. Sensuousness is also a key element in his treatment of love.

Niraj (2020) explores the fundamental themes of love, life, and death Naidu’s poetry. Naidu’s poetry is highly musical, vibrant, and marked by spontaneity. “Love and death, though very much attempted themes, every writer deals independently and with originality” (p. 59). Naidu in her poetry often uses sensual imagery and emotional intensity to convey theme of love. His poetry’s significant portion depicts love as surrender and sacrifice.

Various poets express love differently. Shelley sees it as a force everywhere, Byron links it to rebellion, and Keats connects it to beauty. Keats and the Romantic poets aim to reflect an ideal world that’s beyond their grasp, presenting it in a way that feels beyond this earthly realm. Despite their attempts to idealize people, they reveal a paradox—a deep longing for eternal life within the human experience. Das, Dickinson, Keats, and Naidu capture the theme of love. These poets have contributed diverse perspectives on love, covering emotional depth, personal experiences, and the universality of emotion. However, in this existing research landscape, there seems to be a research gap concerning the contemporary poet Imran Nazeer. The research on Nazeer’s poetry concerning the theme of love is notably scant.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Love is one of the strongest emotions in the world. It is a force which is always dynamic energetic and lively “Only love can heal the wounds of the past” (Hooks, 2000, p. xxviii). “Dictionary definitions of love tend to emphasize romantic love, defining love first and foremost as profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person, especially when based on sexual attraction”. (Hooks, 2000, p. 3). Love is something which regulates and disciplines our activities. Life is dull and drab without love because it gives meaning, purpose and aim to life. “In the realm of the political, among the religious, in our families, and in our romantic lives, we see little indication that love informs decisions, strengthens our understanding of community, or keeps us together” (Hooks, 2000, p. xxvii) There exists a universal yearning to comprehend the essence of love: its significance, actionable steps in our daily existence to both give and receive love, and the means to entice those entrenched in a state devoid of love, encouraging them to embrace it by unlocking the doors to their hearts. “Everywhere we learn that love is important, and yet we are bombarded by its failure” (Hooks, 2000, p. xxvii).

Different scholars and intellectuals have attempted to define and interpret the power and worth of love. As Plato (2019), the revered philosopher, posited in his *Symposium*, love is depicted as a profound force that ignites the soul: "At the touch of love, everyone becomes a poet." "Love was not born out of poetry, then, but it may be the case that poetry was born out of love" (Hancock, 2007, p. 198). Shakespeare (1973), in his renowned work *Romeo and Juliet*, alludes to the paradoxical nature of this sentiment: "Love is a smoke raised with the fume of sighs; / Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes" (p. 115). Fromm (2000) articulated the notion that love is not an innate or effortless occurrence but instead demands discipline, focused attention, perseverance, belief, and the transcendence of self-centered tendencies.

The concept of love is conveyed in different ways by different poets; Shelley envisages love as a universal force, Byron as revolt and Keats as beauty. Besides, Keats and other Romantic poets attempt to reflect an ideal world, which they cannot succeed in attaining in their material realm. Thus, they portray this ideal world at a transcendental level. Although Keats and his Romantic counterparts attempt to idealize human beings, they show a human paradox which displays the thirst to live forever. (Gashti, 2020, p. 92)

"Through the intricacies of language, [poet] endeavor[s] to give voice to the unspoken feelings that often linger within us, yearning to be heard and understood" (Nazeer, 2023, p. ii). Nazeer remarks that as a poet, "I have wrestled with words, attempting to capture the elusive essence of human emotions. I have stood amidst the storm of inspiration, allowing it to wash over me and leave behind the inked trails of my heart" (p. ii). Defining poetry Nazeer (2023) asserts that "In the hushed corridors of the heart, where silence speaks volumes and dreams whisper in the night, we embark on a poetic journey, an odyssey through the depths of emotion, introspection, and human experience" (p. iii).

To open our hearts more fully to love's power and grace we must dare to acknowledge how little we know of love in both theory and practice. We must face the confusion and disappointment that much of what we were taught about the nature of love makes no sense when applied to daily life. (Hooks, 2000, p. xxix)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research will qualitatively analyze Imran Nazeer's poems, selecting verses portraying the journey from unspoken to expressed love emotions. The research employs qualitative methods to explore prevalent themes of love and grief within Nazeer's selected poems. Through meticulous observation and categorization, it explores emotions of love embedded in poetry. It selects and interprets pertinent data, aligning it with the overarching theme of love.

TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

The theme of love shines and illuminates the poetic productions of Nazeer. He deals with the theme of love in its varied moods and forms. He lends a color of maturity, uniqueness, and superbness to the idea of love. His love poems touch and appeal to all those who find themselves snared by the magic of love. He treats different forms of love including physical love, spiritual love, and conjugal love like Donne. Celebrating conjugal love in his poem *Couple* he claims that this type of love is permanent and everlasting. It goes on shining forever. It is the symbol of perfection. The married couple always stand by each other through thick and thin.

Through thick and thin, they stand by each other.

Their bond unbreakable, their love a wonder

In every moment, they find joy.

As if every day was a brand new toy

In the poem *Couple*, the love of the married couple is pure and everlasting. Their love shines through their eyes. “*Their hearts beat in the same sweet pace*” (p. 8). He eulogizes the couple’s love in the following verses as:

Through thick and thin, they stand by each other

Their bond unbreakable, their love a wonder

In every moment, they find joy

As if every day was a brand new toy (p. 8)

Further, the poem *Couple* admires the laughter of the couple by likening it to a song flying in the air. Their laughter is like a “*melody that’s been sung for so long*” (p. 9). Their dance is a perfect rhyme. The poet prays for the perpetuity of the love of the couple:

May their love always be as strong as now

And may it forever continue to shine bright,

somehow. (p. 9)

A Desire is an enchanting poem, extolling the theme of love. In this poem, the lover plans to love the beloved away from the noisy and hectic city life, in the lap of nature. The lover wants an atmosphere surrounded by the brightly shining stars and the whispering and calm moon. The lover wants a place dominated by placidity and tranquility. He wants a “*place where our love can be free in a remote area, just you and me*” (p. 11). The poet paints the idea in the following verses as:

Away from the city’s busy crowd

Our passion will ignite, unbound

We’ll feel the earth beneath us shake

As we make love with every breath we take (p. 9)

In the poem *Afraid*, the poet gives vent to his feeling of fear of losing his beloved. In fact, this poem is charged with feelings of apprehensions. The poet shows loss of optimism in every aspect. He is afraid of love, of loss, of loneliness, of others, afraid of pain, despair, depression, of destiny, of fate and of future as well.

Afraid to love... even a little...

Afraid to lose your love... or my ability to care... (p. 13)

Eid Mubarak also captures the theme of love. Here the poet uses a variety of images taken from natural world to show his love. Their love is ceaseless and eternal. They have “*A bond so strong*” that “*no distance can destroy*” (p. 18) this bond of love. The poet celebrates the special occasion of Eid with his beloved. Admiring the beloved’s smile, he likens her smile to the moon that illuminates and “*lights up my soul, in your embrace, I find comfort, feel whole*”(p. 18). *Their love is like a ‘precious treasure’ that “will forever shine” (p. 18).*

Our love grows deeper, defying any fate.

With gratitude and love, I say once more,

Eid Mubarak, my love, now and forevermore.

With all my love (p. 18)

The poem *First Romance* is charged with a series of memories of the first romance. The poem offers a bundle of emotions related to pre romance, during romance phase, and post romance phase. The preliminary step towards romance is full of heartbeat, embraces, “*gentle touch and tender kiss*”. “*Our souls merge into purest bliss*” (p. 25). The poet captures the first scene of romance so elegantly in the following stanza:

*Our passion ignited, flames so bright,
Our love an inferno, a stunning sight,
With every breath we took, we soared,
Our love, a journey to be adored. (p. 25)*

In the poem *First Romance*, the poet recalls the occasion of first romance and says that their love sounds amazing and strong. During the first romance the poet and beloved were “The perfect match”. The arrival of the sun in the morning saw them holding each other in close embrace. The first romance is still a fresh memory that will remain eternal:

*Our first time, a memory to cherish,
Our romance, a love that will never perish. (p. 26)*

In the poem *Her Eyes* the poet praises the eyes of the beloved by using a variety of images. The poem is full of beauty. The eyes of the beloved serve as a window to the soul. Her eyes are so enchanting and illuminating that go on “*Captivating me, drawing me near*” (p. 32). Her eyes tell a lot of stories “*With every blink, they sparkle anew, A sight that’s simply too good to be true*” (p. 32). The poet likens her golden eyes to a precious treasure containing a pool of liquid gold. The poet is so immersed in the eyes of the beloved that with “*every glance, they steal my breath*” (p. 32). Her eyes are a source of life for the speaker. The poet claims:

*Oh, how I long to gaze upon them more,
To lose myself in their eternal lore.
For in her eyes, I see a love so true,
A love that will forever be my muse. (p. 32)*

Her Hair is a beautiful poem, painting the picture of the silky long hair of the beloved. The beloved’s hairs are long “*that shimmer and shine*” (p. 33). Her hairs are “*Whispering secrets in the breeze, A song of freedom, a melody to please*” (p.33). Her hairs are full of beauty, and marvel. They are so beautiful that they look to be “a work of art” (p; 33). Eulogizing the wondrous beauty of the beloved’s hair the poet says:

*A cascade of colors, a tapestry of hues,
Golden locks and rich browns, blues and purples too,
Each strand a thread in a masterpiece,
Woven with grace and effortless ease. (p. 33)*

Her Lips is a beautiful poem, portraying the enchanting beauty of the lips of the beloved. The speaker/ poet praises the beauty of the lips of his beloved, calling her lips pink, and “*A precious gem that glitters like gold*” (p. 34). Her lips are “*Soft and supple, they invite a kiss*” (p. 34). Her lips illuminate her smile “*Like rose petals bathed in sunlight*” (p. 34). The poet concludes the poem with a lot of praises for the beauty of the lips of the beloved:

Her pink lips, a work of art

A masterpiece that steals the heart

In all their beauty, they stand apart

A symbol of love, a work of art (p. 34)

Love Poem paints the theme of love in an elegant manner. It is replete with nostalgic moments as well. The poet gives vent to the emotion of love in this poem. Love is the strongest element in life. It is a source of strength and vigor for the poet. The poet's beloved's smile, touch, and kiss is a source of joy, and bliss for the poet. The poet calls love a work of art, "*painted with the colors of the heart*" (p. 59). In this poem he explains conjugal love:

For you are the love of my life,

My partner, my soulmate, my wife,

And I will cherish you always,

Through all of life's highs and strife. (p. 60)

Love Song also offers a picture of the idea of love. It is a poem charged with nostalgic emotions. It is full of memories about the first time of seeing the shining, bright beauty of the beloved. The poet says that "Our love was like a melody Playing sweetly, as we danced as one" (p. 61).

I know that we may never be

But I'll always hold on to the memory

Of the love we shared, so pure and true

I'll always cherish the moments with you (p.62)

Despite the beloved is gone from the life of the poet, the poet still goes on loving the beloved, the memories about her, and the ideas about her. He declares:

I'll always love you, forevermore

You'll always have a special place in my heart

And though we may be apart

I'll always hold on to the memories of our love. (p. 62)

The poet celebrates married love in his well-known poem *Married First Night* in a superb manner. The idea of married love is expressed passionately and elegantly by the poet. The poet still remembers that occasion that brought merriment, bliss and delight to his life. As a conventional lover the poet loves the eyes of beloved. He wants to dive deep into his beloved eyes. He remarks that, with his beloved, the future is full of hope and joy.

On this first night of our marriage,

I give you all of me,

My heart, my soul, my everything,

Forever yours to be. (p. 64)

She Was too mirroring the feeling of love sparked in the heart of the poet/ speaker at the site of beautiful women. The feeling of love aroused in the heart of the poet continues to be constant it works as a force which continues to change and haunt the poet. The poet is emotionally enthralled by the captivating beauty of the women. The women for whom the feeling of love develop in the poet's heart is a brave, fearless and bold women. The poet captures this moment in the following stanza as:

*I looked into her eyes,
to see if maybe I could catch
a glimpse of the woman I once knew. (p. 82)*

The Ward, talks about power, vigour and strength of love in the following stanza as

*This is the place where we find it
The truth, the love, the hope
The ones who make us feel alive
The ones who help us cope (p. 102)*

Similar idea is expressed in the poem *Love's Power*:

*So, as I gaze into your eyes,
I'm reminded from above,
Of the enduring, endless force,
That is the power of love. (p. 48)*

Valentine Night too deals with the theme of love here love is captured as a strongest emotion which dominates every human being. Here the poet describes Valentine's night focusing on the copulation of the lovers in a night surrounded by a serene, screen, and sequestered atmosphere. The lovers are engaged in love making in the beautiful and enchanting natural objects. They are in the company of nature. "*The stars above shine bright and clear, As they gaze into each other's eyes*" (p. 104). The poet captures the beauty of valentine night in the following verses as:

*And as the night draws to a close,
They hold each other tight,
Feeling grateful for the love they share,
On this perfect Valentine's night. (p. 104)*

You Will Be Mine shows the poet's hope to gain the love of the beloved. The poet hopes that one day or the other, he will be able to have his love. Moreover, he will continue to love her. Without her, the poet is nothing because the company of the beloved makes him perfect, and the whole. The poet hopes:

*For one day you will be mine,
And all my love will finally shine. (p. 108)*

The poet captures the significance, worth and value of love in the poem entitled *Fire of Love*. The poet is introspective in his love. He tries to give vent to this feeling but eventually fails. Here the readers find the pack of fire of emotions to emerge from the poet's heart. In the poet's heart appear a lot of feelings for the lady for whom the poet has ignited the spark of love.

*So, ignite my soul, my love, my desire,
A little bit risky, set my heart on fire.
Less talk, more connection, in your tender care,
I'm so into you, a love beyond compare. (p. 20)*

Her Curves is a love poem picturing the beauty of the beloved. The poet praises the different body parts of the beloved. Sensuousness is well expressed in the poem. The poet is enthralled by the magnetic beauty and magic of the beloved. He vents too his powerful feeling in the following stanza as:

*In tender grace, her curves adorn,
A masterpiece of dusk and dawn,
Two orbs of beauty, soft and round,
In her embrace, a love profound. (p. 25)*

Journey of Love is a difficult poem to understand. It too talks about the power of love in figurative language. The opening of the poem is amazing:

*Let's journey, my love, to the ocean's embrace,
To the sea of love, our hearts' special place.
I'll share my devotion, words whispered true,
From the day we crossed paths, my love, I knew. (p. 37)*

Love is also a beautiful poem handling the theme of love in a language marked by simplicity, musicality, and musicality. The ending of the poem sheds light on the power of love indicating the permanent value and role of love:

*In fulfilling you, I find myself, and we gleam,
Beyond impossible dreams, in a shared dream,
A love that transcends what our eyes see,
In the boundless expanse of you and me. (p. 40)*

Love Me is a frank expression of emotion of love. It is full of sexuality. The poet is outspoken in his expression of love. Free expression of love saturated with the element of sexuality is well revealed in the following stanza:

*Love me like you do, our hearts in sync,
A melody of passion, so profound, I think.
Touch me like you do, let our desires soar,
In this boundless love, what are you waiting for? (p. 46)*

In short, Nazeer's poetry is a vibrant portrayal of love, showcasing its diverse forms. His treatment of this timeless theme adds a sense of maturity, uniqueness, and profound beauty. His love poetry deeply resonates, capturing the hearts of those enchanted by its magic. His poetry mirrors the complexity of human emotions and connections, inviting readers to immerse themselves in the multifaceted expressions of love.

CONCLUSION

Nazeer's poetic repertoire beautifully captures the theme of love in its myriad forms, painting vivid pictures of conjugal bliss, longing, and romantic nostalgia. His poetry about love spans a diverse array of subjects and themes, catering to readers of all backgrounds through its authentic observations, diverse experiences, profound emotions, and empathetic portrayal of human essence. His verses weave tales of enduring love, eternalized in the imagery of intertwined souls, unbreakable bonds, and cherished moments. In exploring the essence of love, Nazeer focuses on the ethereal beauty of a

married couple's devotion, celebrating their unyielding support for each other amidst life's highs and lows. His verses echo with the sentiments of a hopeful romantic, adorning the beloved's eyes, lips, and hair with exquisite admiration akin to an artist enchanted by a masterpiece. Through the emotional landscape of love's journey, Nazeer wistfully reminisces about first romances, evoking tender memories of passion and longing. His poems exude a profound sense of affection and admiration, etching moments of love's purest manifestations, whether in the nostalgic recollections of past love or the enduring commitment of a married first night.

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