

Schuggi\* is born

Schuggi\* from the Heuberg was born on October 12th. It was very exciting and everyone was pleased. Mother and Father had longed for a girl, and now their wish was fulfilled. Schuggi's godmother soon came round with a present – a costume from Basle – although baby clothes would really have been more useful. However, a Basle costume is traditional in Schuggi's family, and Mother always wears one – a practical one for weekdays and a special one on Sundays. Of course, little Niggi (Nikolaus) wears a sailor suit, because that is also a tradition in the Bachofen family. Mother has just put her baby to sleep in the cot. Niggi is looking at his sister. Father has finished work and is reading his newspaper. He has no time to do that during the day. He has taken his shoes off, to be more comfortable. Oh dear, there is a hole in his right sock! At the moment Mother has so much to do looking after her baby that she has no time to mend it. She also hasn't noticed that there is a spider's web above the curtain, or that the wilting sunflower on the windowsill needs watering. Schuggi's costume and the matching hat are hanging on the stand. Portraits of Grandma and Grandpa hang over the chest of drawers. The budgies are twittering. The clock, which Father inherited from his godfather, is striking a quarter to six, so it will soon be supper time.

You can see the Cathedral, the Town Hall of Basle and St. Martins Church through the window. There is a touch of Autumn in the air, but it is nice and snug in the living room.

\*Schuggi is the Swiss diminutive for Julie/Julia

## The Christening

Schuggi was christened here in St. Margaret's Church in Binningen. She was very good, but her brother Niggi was very naughty. He stood up and sat down all the time, and annoyed his father.

Hans, who is wearing patched trousers, wants to take some photos, so everyone is standing round on the grass. Mother is happy with her baby, who is wearing the beautiful robe worn by Grandma and Greatgrandma at their christenings. It is a bit too small for Schuggi, which is not surprising, as it is now six months since she was born, last October. Father looks very serious, while the godparents are holding hands secretly. Why is Godmother staring at the pram like that? Can she see the snail that is crawling towards Schuggi's dummy?

Niggi is being silly again. He is sitting on the ground sucking his thumb. He is annoyed because no one is taking any notice of him, they are all interested in his sister. He is very bored and would like to go and stroke the sheep. «Stand up», says the photographer. «Everyone is ready except you. It's a lovely day. Look at the horse chestnut tree with its beautiful flowers and at the two ducks up there flying home to the zoo. Be a good boy and stand up.»

## Petersplatz

I don't know which I like better on Petersplatz, the Wildsche Haus with its interesting history, or the Autumn Fair. Both have their own traditions and both are a part of Basle.

Mother is at the fair in her Sunday costume, with Schuggi and Niggi. They have just come from the crockery market. Mother needed a new lid for her coffee pot. She found the right one in a huge basket containing almost 100 different lids. Now she would like to buy a new vegetable grater. Niggi, in his sailor suit, is fascinated by the man who grates so many apples and carrots, as quick as lightning. There's a whole heap there already. «What is he going to do with that pile of fruit and vegetables?» Niggi asks himself. «It would make a delicious salad.» His mouth waters. «Look at that doll over there!» cries Schuggi, «The one with the the blue hat. It's waving at me. I want to look at it closer.»

The little boy with the yellow balloon tugs at his grandfather's hand. «Look, a rocking horse and a toy stove!». The two ladies dressed in purple are very busy, because every child who comes to Petersplatz gets some candies, or buys a cake with his pocket money. The young couple are going to buy a gingerbread heart with a motto written on it. The fair on Petersplatz is part of old Basle, like the Carnival and the Morgestraich.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>A procession at 4 a.m. on Carnival Monday.

## The Gemsberg Fountain

Look what Schuggi and Niggi are doing! They are bathing in the Gemsberg fountain. They have taken off their clothes and thrown them in the street, and they have put a crate at the edge of the fountain so that they can climb in better. The old man is mumbling to himself about modern youth and poking crossly with his stick in the pile of clothes. The street-sweeper just wants to sweep everything up. He thinks, «It would teach them a lesson if they had to go home with nothing on.»

Father, who is pleased to be coming home from work, cannot believe his eyes. There are his two children jumping around in the fountain! He drops his briefcase in surprise, and claps his hands above his head. Mother comes running round the corner, because a neighbour told her a few minutes ago what was happening.

«Whatever do you think you are doing?» she cries. «Come out at once! As a punishment you'll have to go to bed without any supper.»

## Circus Maus

Henri Gugelmann has come to Basle with his Circus Maus. He has parked his wagon between the market stands, right in front of the Town Hall. He is almost a part of our town. Niggi and Schuggi have begged their mother to bring them to the market place to watch the circus.

The star of the programme is Napoleon the sow. She can balance herself elegantly on a see-saw. The cock plays the harmonium, and does not even make many mistakes. Louise the goose spreads her wings importantly and Idefix makes a figure-of-eight twenty times around his master's legs. So many things are happening at the same time that you don't know where to look in case you miss something.

The Siamese cat would like a bit of the ice cream that the boy is offering her, but, actually, she should be performing in a minute. The doves, the hens, and the two rats are waiting patiently to do their tricks.

Mrs. Isenschmid in the red dress isn't taking any notice of the circus. She is in a hurry, and is thinking how everything is getting more expensive every day.

A policeman keeps an eye on things, and an American tourist is taking a lot of photos. He has never seen a mini-circus like this one before. The lady at the newspaper stand is having her afternoon sleep.

## Vogel Gryff

Vogel Gryff is the day which is dedicated to the guilds of Kleinbasel<sup>1</sup> and it is celebrated in turn on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of January. One of the guilds has a lion as its heraldic emblem, another a wild man, and a third a griffin.

At 11 o'clock in the morning, the Wild Man climbs onto a raft and floats down the Rhine. He is accompanied by two cadets of the Kleinbasel<sup>1</sup> guilds, two drummers and two gunners, who shoot in the air all the time. The Wild Man dances and twirls his tree, turning his back on Grossbasel<sup>2</sup>.

Below the Mittlere Brücke, he is received by the Lion and the Griffin. Then all three come up onto the bridge and dance, first on their own and then all three together in a traditional dance. They stop at the chapel, at the border to Grossbasel, which they do not cross. The drummers are in historic costumes and beat out a special rhythm.

The four young men in fester costumes are called Uelis. They have bells on their clothes and hold rattles. They shake their tins and collect money for needy citizens. Everyone gives something. The girl in the yellow coat has just put five francs into the tin.

Schuggi has been allowed to come and watch, with Niggi and her parents. She finds it very interesting. A wintry sun is shining over the Blue House ( a fine baroque building designed by the architect Samuel Werenfels); the St. Martin's Church and the old University. It seems to be reminding us that Grossbasel is there as well.

<sup>1</sup>The small part of Basle which is on the right side of the Rhine.

<sup>2</sup>The larger part of Basle which is on the left side of the Rhine.

## The Carnival

Carnival. Morgestraich. It is said that these three days are the best ones in the year for a real citizen of Basle. Schuggi can go this time as well, dressed up as a «Waggis»<sup>1</sup> Mother is an «old aunt»<sup>2</sup>, Father is «Dummpeter»<sup>3</sup> and Niggi is a proud knight riding a «Junteressli»<sup>4</sup>. It is a proper family procession, with Mother and Father playing the piccolo. The two drummers walking behind are Godmother and Godfather, of course. Now they need something warm to eat. «Mehlsuppe»<sup>5</sup> and a piece of delicious onion tart. The Morgestraich really makes you hungry. The policemen and the charwomen are looking out of the windows at Schuggi's family. The naked lady painted on the wall by Pellegrini is enjoying herself, too. Even the three saints on the fountain are smiling down contentedly. But the high-spirited boy who is balancing on the edge of the fountain had better watch out. He is going to fall in, and catch a terrible cold!

<sup>1</sup> Alsatian farmer with a big nose and sabots, a traditional costume

<sup>2</sup> A traditional Carnival costume, too, an old lady with big hat

<sup>3</sup> Trumpeter in a Rokoko-costume

<sup>4</sup> Means «skirt-horse», a cardboard horse with a whole which can be hanged round the neck.

<sup>5</sup> Soup from roasted flour, traditionally eaten at the Carnival

## The Swiss Trade Fair

It looks as though half Basle is out of doors today. It is a beautiful Sunday in May, the time of the Trade Fair and the time for excursions. Everyone is going somewhere, including the Bachofen family. Mother and Schuggi are in their Basle costumes as usual. They are sitting in the ‹bath tub› – that is what the open tram is called – with a group of Americans who find everything ‹sweet and nice and lovely.› They are taking photos all the time. Mother has to hold Niggi tight; he nearly fell out of the tram because he tried to catch a cockchafer in his butterfly net.

‹Tie your shoe laces, otherwise you'll trip over them,› calls Schuggi to the girl who is about to cross the road with her father. The poor man is overworked, because he is not used to looking after all three children at once. His wife is selling vacuum cleaners at the Fair and he has to take care of the household. At least she will earn a bit of money for the holidays.

Heidi and Margot, at the right of the picture, are wondering whether they should get in the tram. ‹Let's go in the number 6 to Riehen, and then walk through the Wenkenhof to Chrischona›, says Heidi. ‹But the tram's full,› complains Margot. ‹Neuer mind, we can stand, hurry up,› answers Heidi, taking her friend's arm forcefully.

## The Picnic

The family rode in the ‹bath tub› to Riehen, and from there they walked through the Wenkenhof to Chrischona. There were so many people there that it looked like a mass migration, and it was rather difficult to find a place for a picnic.

Father is relaxing. First he took off his jacket, then his shoes and socks – he always does that when he wants to feel comfortable – and now he is reading a detective story. He is so absorbed that he does not hear or see anything, not even the cheeky hen that is pecking at the apple tart that Mother baked as a surprise. Mother is tired and thirsty after her walk. She collected a bundle of sticks on the way, so that Schuggi can now heat up soup and sausages on a fire.

Schuggi got an awful blister on her right foot during the walk, so she has taken her shoes off. This is not very practical, because the fire is pretty warm for her toes, and sparks sometimes jump out and burn her feet. Niggi has been chasing that yellow butterfly for a long time, perhaps he will soon catch it.

A christening party is standing in front of the church admiring the beautiful cherry trees. Apple and pear blossoms are starting to open, too. A mad American is vainly looking for «a nice little chamois». A loving couple is sitting in the grass dreaming of a wonderful future. The father who is dragging his twin daughters up the road once dreamed of a wonderful future, too. His wife is pushing the pram, while little Florian pulls at her sash and cries all the time « Want to sit down! I'm hungry! I'm thirsty! ' The storks are building their nest, and the balloon HB-BASEL glides peacefully overhead. It really is idyllic.

## The Spalen Fountain

Niggi sometimes has silly ideas. When he found a hole in the middle of the street, he took off his schoolbag and lay in his clean sailor suit right across the tram rails to play marbles. Schuggi joined him, of course. Actually, school started at 8 o'clock, and now it is a quarter past. That's called playing truant. Niggi is so absorbed that he does not even notice that a tram is coming and has to put on its brakes.» You stupid child! « screams a woman in the tram.

The newspaper seller does not know what the world is coming to. «Goodness me, if I'd ever done anything like that, I'd have been beaten black and blue. No one brings children up properly nowadays.»

The baker was so surprised that he jumped off his bike, and now all the buns are falling out of his basket. The chambermaids in the hotel are shaking their mops and dusters out of the window. They are so astonished by what is happening that they do not notice where the dirt is landing – on the head of the aristocratic lady underneath!

The bagpipe player on the fountain has certainly seen a lot of things in his long life, but he has never before seen a tram which had to stop for someone playing marbles.

The hotel guests have not noticed anything. The man on the second floor is shaving, the lady in the yellow nightdress is yawning, and in the restaurant people are drinking coffee and wine.

## Sledging on Spalenberg

It has been a long time since anyone could go sledging down Spalenberg. Schuggi and Niggi are experiencing it for the first time. It's a sensation to see so much snow right in the middle of town. A few steps from their house they can sit on their sledges, and now they are speeding down the hill. There are a lot of sledges coming down behind them. Everyone is happy except Schuggi, who is being silly. She is frightened and screams, «Niggi, I want to get off, I don't want to go any further.» «Sisters are sometimes terribly stupid,» thinks Niggi. «I certainly won't take her down again.»

The day after tomorrow is Christmas Eve, so the Salvation Army is collecting money. They are singing carols, and Mrs. Bachofen loves to hear them. She is sorry for the three singers, because they have to stand around for so long in the cold. They have earned the ten francs she is bringing for them. Children come from all directions to put coins in the pot, so that the poor people can have a Christmas party as well.

Mrs. Huber is the only person around here who is sweeping the pavement, and she is not doing it for the first time today either. It has been snowing for a long time. She does not want anyone to fall over just outside her shop. That happened a few years ago and it upset her. There was a terrible fuss, and the police came to see what was happening.

The lady carrying the tree is Miss Hänggi. She lives all alone in an attic and does not have much money; but she buys a Christmas tree every year, just for herself.

## Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

A lot of things seem to be happening today by St. Johannstor. It is Saturday afternoon, and some people are waiting to go to the public baths. The Boy Scouts are meeting here as well. They are learning to come down a rope properly for their summer camp in Kandersteg, and the tower is ideal for this purpose.

«Salomo», the scout at the front on the right, is telling the boy on the rope what to do. Two boys are standing underneath with a hammok in case anyone falls.

Niggi climbs around in the tree with the other scouts and enjoys himself immensely.

The girls are showing Schuggi how Girl Guides greet each other. You hold left hands and with your right hand you make the Scout's Salute. Schuggi says «I don't want to wear a uniform. I shall always come in my Basle costume.» The Leader explains to her that she will have to wear a uniform, as there are no exceptions to this rule.

One of the guides is waiting to play ball, and another one is looking into the basket.

«Those dirty socks are right next to the bread,» she thinks. It is no help to that man to start undressing in the street, for he has to take his turn in the baths like everyone else. It might be a long time till he gets there, but at least he can watch the pretty girl who is taking a shower. You don't see something like that every day.

## The Swimming Lesson

This picture shows the Cathedral with the Pfalz, and underneath the bathing place on the Rhine. Mother and Father are giving the children a swimming lesson. The man in the yellow and white striped bathing suit is the parson. He always leaves the left shoulder-strap hanging, to show how modern he is.

The two children looking longingly through the planks cannot swim yet, so they are not allowed in the open river.

Schuggi and Niggi wear lifebelts and both of them hang on a length of strong rope, so that really nothing can happen to them. They are wearing hats so that they don't get sunstroke.

They can swim quite well already, and soon they won't need the ropes any more. They will wear the red rings to be safe, but after a while they will give those up as well. Then they will belong to the good swimmers, who can float down the Rhine from the Birskopf to the Wettstein Bridge. That is great fun.

But if one of the girls doesn't manage to land at the ladies' place, just after the bridge, she has to climb out among the men. That is unpleasant, because they all stare so stupidly.

## The Autumn Fair

The fair on Barfüsserplatz is something special. Right in the middle of the traffictrams, cars, bicycles – we can be nostalgic for two whole weeks. The fair always starts in the last week of October. It is set up in front of the old Barfüsser Church, which was once a Franciscan cloister and is now the Historical Museum. The same booths are always there, the puppet theatre, the merry-go-round, the Mount Everest railway, and, of course, the Ferris wheel.

When the bells of St. Martin's Church start to ring, exactly at 12 o'clock, everything starts to turn. It's an old custom that the first ride is free, so you can imagine the rush. Schuggi and her friend Balz are sitting in the Ferris wheel, and you can see them just above the top of the church window on the right. «Mother, Father, it's lovely up here,» they call. The parents stand below and wave their handkerchiefs. As they shout «Goodbye, both of you,» they think of the time when they were sitting up there together.

The blind organ player turns the handle all the time, and looks after his four children as well. The baby, who is lying in a basket, has lost his dummy – that's why he is crying. However, there is so much noise that no one can hear him. The three bigger children turn down the corners of their mouths. They beg, «Father, can't we go just once on the merry-go-round?» «That would cost a lot of money,» he answers. «I haven't got enough.» Perhaps the girl in the red dress heard him say that, because she is bringing him a shiny five franc piece. «Now you can all have one ride each,» says Father.

The puppet theatre is going to perform at 3 o'clock.

The two people sitting on the wall who look so crestfallen, have lost their balloons – that, too, is part of the fair.

## On Andreasplatz

This picture shows the Andreasplatz with the Monkey Fountain. This is a small, secluded corner of our town, where once hens and rabbits were sold.

Schuggi and Balz are sitting in front of the café. As you can see, they are very much in love and are drinking their sirup with their arms around each other.

«You will marry me soon, won't you Schuggi,» says Balz. «You are the nicest girl in Basle, and the prettiest too.» The student in the yellow jumper has very bad manners; he is putting his feet up on someone else's table.

The woman putting away her cart in the shed comes from the Alsace. She sells vegetables, but business has not been good today, she has not even sold all her asparagus. The vegetables might still be fresh tomorrow, but the flowers wilt quickly.

Babette is cleaning her windows, which were rather dirty, and Mrs. Mysli sweeps her steps. Mrs. Haberthür, who has a ladder in her stocking, carries two heavy baskets home. It looks as though she is making chicken for lunch. Bartolo's dog is lifting his leg exactly where he is not supposed to. If a policeman sees it, he won't like it at all.

Hans is a naughty boy. He is splashing water all over Emily. He likes to tease the girls in this way. Someone should push him into the water, or give him a thorough scolding.

The monkey on the fountain seems to enjoy eating his grapes and watching the world go by.

## Dancing Class

If you go to High School in Basle you will probably go to dancing class, to Mrs. von Kühnsberg. The class takes place in the old ice factory, where water drips out of the pipes and it is really cold in winter. You often find your first sweetheart there, unless, like Schuggi and Balz, you have one already. You look forward to the class every week, and enjoy it every time. Today the couples are practising the tango, and it is obvious which of them are taking the course for the second time. The grey and red pair are practically good enough to enter a competition. «Irene, Pierre, c'est donc tres bien,» says Mrs. von Kühnsberg. Jeanette, the girl with the birds on her skirt, is good too, and the teacher praises her. Balz nearly pushes Schuggi over in his enthusiasm.

The dancing teacher does not like Schuggi's hat. She thinks, «Why doesn't it drop off? Has she fixed it on with a pin? And I shall have to speak to her about that costume, I don't like it at all. A tango in a Basle costume, quel horreur!»

«You there in the orange pullover and the untied shoelaces!» calls the teacher. «Are you asleep? You will have to make yourself tidier. Look at Beat in those striped trousers, Marcus in his blue blazer and Hans in his red bow-tie. They are elegant. That's how you should look when you come here. And you have to hold yourself properly, otherwise you might as well stay at home.»

The dancer on the left is asking his partner if any one is taking her home that night. Seeing some one home is almost as important as dancing, because the boys and girls get a chance to do some petting.

George is so embarrassed when he asks the girls to dance that they all giggle and say no. Even the tall girl who has forgotten to do up her dress and is always so serious, refuses him.

## Spring Cleaning

This picture shows the Grossbasel side of the Rhine. The old steamboat «Basler Dybli» passes with a happy party on board, and the ferry boat crosses to the other side.

A class from the High School swims down the river.

Schuggi and Balz have a lot to do today. They are going to clean their new apartment, because they want to move in this week. They are soon going to be married, and they want to invite all their friends to a party. Balz is sweating – the drops are running down his face – and he has to pedal very hard to pull the equipment, the ladder, and Schuggi as well. She sits in the basket like a queen, singing to herself.

Balz has no breath left to sing!

Nurse Lina from the Children's Hospital is hurrying to an emergency. Mr. Bieri is having a rest, after having swum down the Rhine three times. He goes swimming whatever the weather and whatever the temperature, at least as long as it isn't minus ten degrees.

## Moving In

Here is something you don't see very often – people moving house with only a hand cart and pulling their furniture on a rope up the outside of the house. The neighbour from the house called «zum roten Schneck» calls out of the window, «They must be funny people who are coming.» She can hardly believe her eyes. The lady in No. 69 complains too.»They will damage the facade.»

«This is going too far,» cries Mr. Jacob. «What a dreadful mess! You have put your whole household in the street, and no one can get by. I'm going to call the police.» Whatever does Schuggi think she is doing? Sensible people do not transport their furniture all through Basle on a hand cart.

Schuggi and Balz have not tied the things on the rope properly, either. It looks as though everything will come tumbling down any minute. One of the geraniums is on its way already. And will there be enough room for all those things in that tiny house? Balz might have been more sensible, but he is pulling so hard at the rope that he does not see what is happening.

It does not look like a very good start, but everyone leaves them to do it the way they want. It is a pity for that nice furniture, which they inherited from their grandparents, who luckily cannot see what is happening.

Schuggi and Balz should really have had a removal firm to help them. Then things would have been arranged better.

## The Wedding

It is a beautiful Autumn day, and Schuggi and Balz are getting married.

First there was a party in their tiny apartment. There was a dreadful crush and everyone stood on each other's feet. It looked as though there was not going to be enough room for everyone.

The marriage ceremony is soon going to take place in St. Alban's Church, and everyone is on their way there.

The happy couple, with the best man and the bridesmaid, are crossing the Rhine in the ferry. Schuggi's parents, accompanied by a drummer and a piper, are in a fishing boat. Niggi is in another boat. He looks very smart in a borrowed tail-coat, and seems to be in love. His girl friend, in a yellow dress, hopes that she will be married soon as well. Niggi's embraces have already spoilt her hair-do.

The first guests have arrived, and are waiting to climb into the horse-drawn carriages, which will take them to the church. Behind the carriages, the old people are looking out of the windows of St. Alban's Home. Some of them are probably remembering their wedding days, many, many years ago.

## The Wedding Meal

The wedding meal is the third event today. The first was the aperitif, and the second the marriage ceremony in St. Alban's Church, which was so solemn and beautiful that Schuggi and her mother both had to cry. Now everyone has come to the godparent's house on Nadelberg for the wedding meal.

The best China, real Meissen with an onion pattern, is on the table. There are three tables laid for the guests. The friends who played drum and piccolo on the boat are now performing the Dolce from the Trio Sonata in B flat major by Telemann.

Trinette brings the Basler Mehlsuppe to the table, and a delicious smell is coming through the lid of the tureen. It is one of Trinette's specialities. Schuggi and Balz are very happy. Father clinks glasses with Godmother and thanks her for the invitation. Godfather wants to make a speech. «No one can listen now, Hans,» says Mother. «Wait until just before the dessert. We are all hungry and want to eat.» Niggi nudges his girl friend and asks her, «Why has Trinette left the head on the chicken? It stares at me all the time, and almost takes my appetite away.» «Perhaps that's why she did it;» answers Vreni, «So there will be enough for everybody.»

If you are interested, here is the menu:

Basler Mehlsuppe.

Pike à la Baloise (with a lot of onions).

chicken, and suckling pig, with potatoes and vegetables.

For dessert, ice pudding and Basler Leckerli

Red wine, or white wine from Baden, Germany and sparkling water

Coffee and brandy

## Goodbye

Today has been an exciting and wonderful day, but rather long. There have been so many people around all the time, and so many new impressions. Now it is time to say goodbye. At last the married pair can be on their own.

They are floating away in the balloon HB-Schuggi. «It's wonderful», says Schuggi, «Just the two of us.» «I'm happy too,» says Balz.

Mr. and Mrs. Bachofen stand in their roof garden on the Heuberg and sadly wave goodbye to their children.

«Take care,» says Mother, «And land safely!» The neighbours wave too, and Father wishes the couple a good journey. He thinks how quiet it is going to be at home now.

«Goodbye, Mother! Goodbye, Father! Goodbye, Basle!» calls Schuggi, and a few tears roll down her cheeks. She waves with her bridal veil.

Everyone shouts, until the beautiful ballon is only a tiny dot in the blue sky.

## Epilogue

Actually, you could now start looking at this book from the beginning again.

In most respects, Schuggi's life is very like her mother's. She always wears a Basle costume, like her Mother, and like her, she soon has a baby.

There is a christening in her family, too. She goes with Balz and the children to the Carnival, and to the fair on Petersplatz and Barfässerplatz. Her children learn to swim, in a different way, of course.

They do silly things sometimes, too, like Schuggi did – bathing in the fountain and playing marbles on the tram rails. They go to dancing class, to Mrs. von Kühnsberg's daughter. When there is a lot of snow, they go sledging on Spalenberg. They have a picnic at Chrischona, and beg to see Circus Maus and Vogel Gryff.

Schuggi has almost the same pleasures, troubles and excitements as her mother had. In time the children move out. There is a wedding and a wedding meal. However, Schuggi's daughter goes on her honeymoon in a carriage and pair.

**Masthead**

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