



# Tufts

# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 11.08.23



## A Reflection from your Hindu Chaplain

Dear Jumbos,

This past Friday, Tufts Hindu Chaplaincy and Tufts Hindu Students Association held Diwali Puja in the Interfaith Center. Diwali, or Deepawali, translates to “row of lights” and is commonly known as the Festival of Lights. The lunar calendar date for Diwali this year is Sunday November 12, but because it falls on the long weekend, it was held a week earlier so that students can go home to celebrate Diwali with their families.

One of the many reasons we celebrate Diwali is honoring the return of Lord Ram, an avatar of Vishnu (one of the three forces of creation, maintenance and destruction), to his home in Ayodhya after being exiled for 14 years. This past Friday, we sang bhajans (sacred songs) to Ram and Krishna (another avatar of Vishnu) to add to the resounding welcome.

This is one of the reflections upon which I expand on today – what does it mean to come home? To return from something that changed us? When I think about the story of Lord Ram, I wonder how it might have felt to see all the lights lit brightly in a celebration of homecoming. It makes me think of those in my life, on campus, and at home whose smiles light up my day and whose greetings of welcome are like celebrations of homecoming, no matter what else has changed.

This past Friday, I saw students connecting over these themes and I would love to hear from you what homecoming means to you. In closing, I leave you with this opening of the Mahalakshmi Ashtakam from the Padma Purana to inspire your sense of welcome and your sense of abundance.

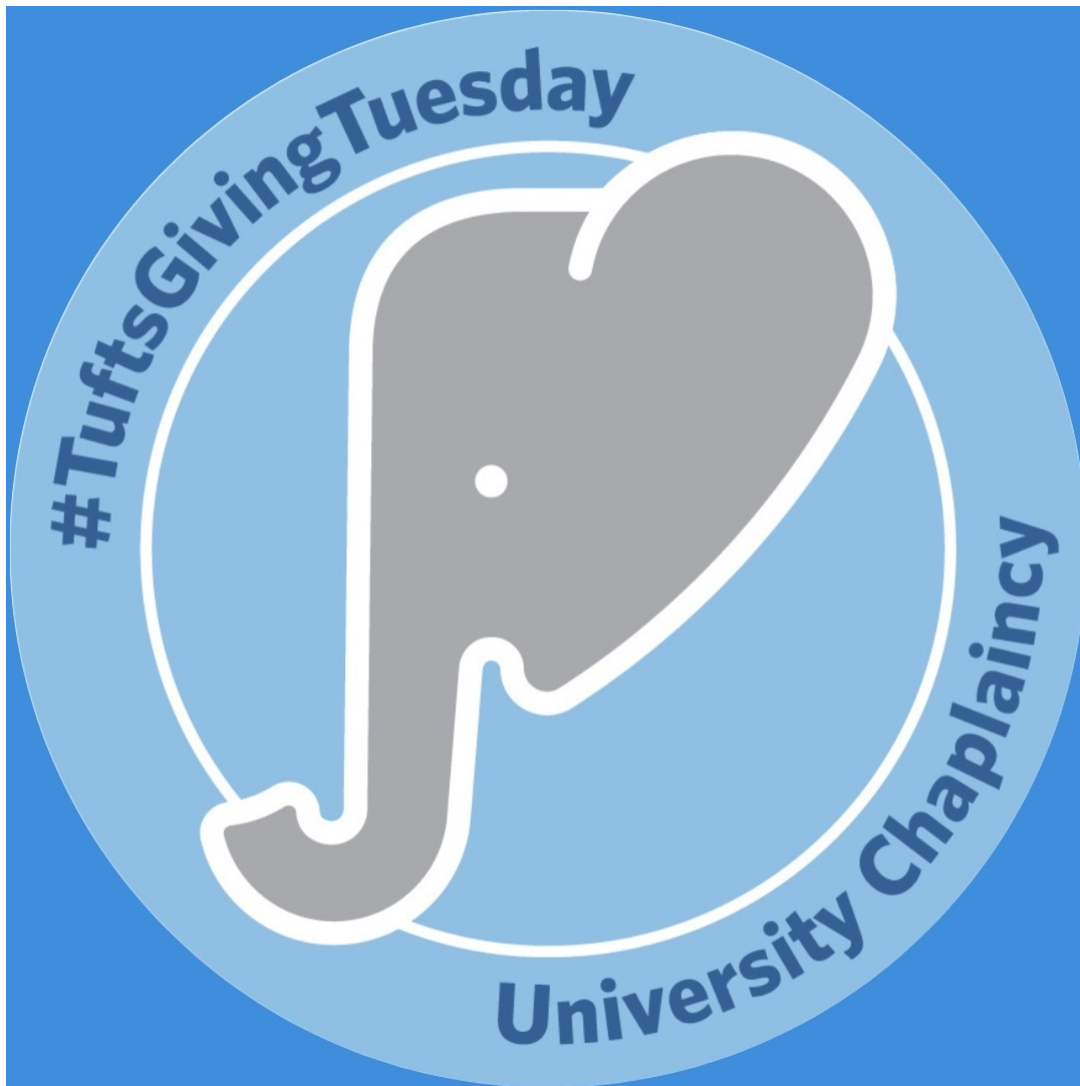
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ  
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ

*Namastestu Mahaa-Maaye Shree-Peete Sura-Poojite |  
Shankh-Chakra-Gadaa-Haste Mahaalakshmi Namostute ||1||*

Salutations to You O Mahamaya (the Primordial Cause of Creation); Who Abides in Sri Pitha (Her Transcendental Abode) and is Worshipped by the Suras, Who is adorned with Shankha (Conch), Chakra (Discus) and Gada (Mace) in Her Hands; Salutations to You, O Devi Mahalakshmi.

With warmth,  
Preeti Banerjee  
Hindu Chaplain

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### **Giving Tuesday Is Coming**

Tuesday, November 28

On Giving Tuesday this year, join Tufts University alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students in supporting the impactful programs and communities of the University Chaplaincy! We are grateful for your support of the University Chaplaincy's innovative and inclusive programming through our Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim and Protestant chaplaincies. Help us achieve our best day of giving yet by giving generously to the University Chaplaincy "Friends of Goddard Fund" in support of the Interfaith Ambassador Program this year. You can always [find more about giving to the University Chaplaincy here](#).



**Come pick up a care package at Goddard Chapel**

In this time of suffering and conflict in the world and among our community at Tufts, genuine acts of kindness and care matter. Last week, students assembled over 150 care packages to be shared with and by the community. Come by anytime between 9am and 5pm Monday through Friday..

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## **Upcoming Signature Programs**



Thursday, December 7

6:00 p.m.

Goddard Chapel



You're warmly  
invited to a  
multifaith celebration. Join  
us for a night of storytelling,  
singing, and dancing  
featuring the Medford  
Community Chorale, WuZee, and more!

**tuesCall For Art, Pax et Lux: A Multifaith Winter Celebration**

Submissions due Monday, November 27

Pax et Lux is the University Chaplaincy's multifaith winter celebration centered around themes of peace and light. The celebration includes singing, dancing, storytelling, and poetry and aims to highlight individuality and celebrate people's traditions, cultures, and practices. Please save the date for the event this year on Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Interested undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit creative responses for this year's Pax et Lux celebration. We invite submissions of written or visual art to be displayed in Goddard Chapel event and reception. We ask that submissions respond to one of the following questions: "Peace and light have many different manifestations in many different lives, how do these grounding principles of our community reveal themselves in yours?" "What brings you joy and warmth in the winter?" "What traditions do you associate with wintertime?" [Submissions are accepted here.](#)

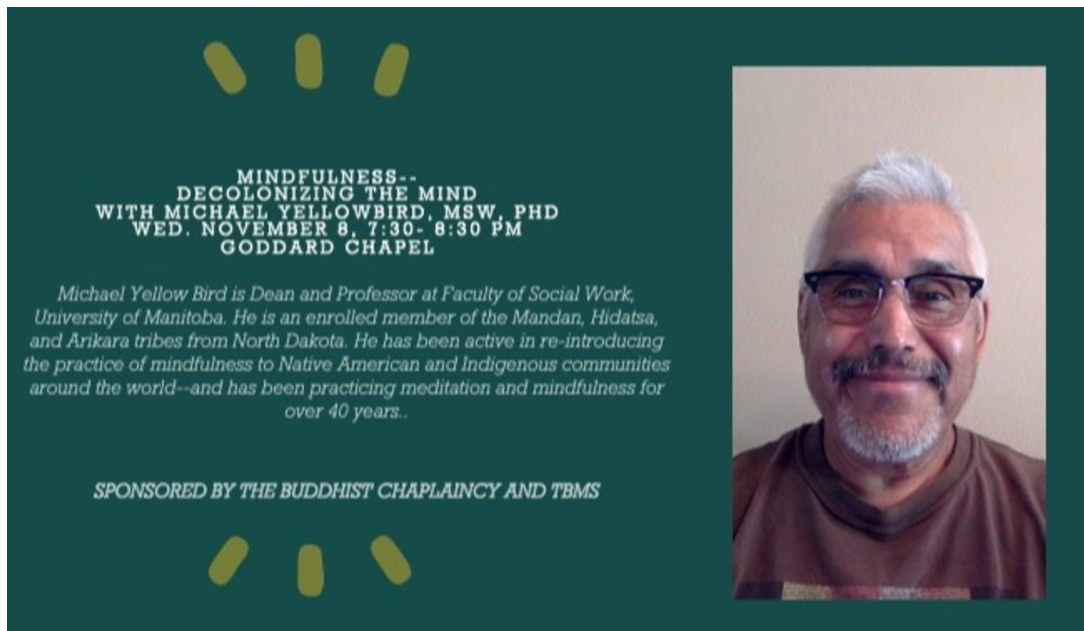
[Submit Art to Pax et Lux](#)

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## Religious and Philosophical Programs

Our gatherings are open to all members of the Tufts community! Please find more information and more regular weekly programming and events [here on our](#)

website. If you have any questions, or would like to connect about convening a new gathering, please reach out to the [University Chaplaincy](#).



The image is a promotional poster for a mindfulness event. It has a dark green background. At the top and bottom, there are three yellow, pill-shaped icons. The text is centered and reads: 'MINDFULNESS-- DECOLONIZING THE MIND WITH MICHAEL YELLOWBIRD, MSW, PHD WED. NOVEMBER 8, 7:30- 8:30 PM GODDARD CHAPEL'. Below this, a paragraph describes Michael Yellowbird as the Dean and Professor at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba, and an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara tribes. It mentions his work in re-introducing mindfulness to Native American and Indigenous communities. At the bottom, it says 'SPONSORED BY THE BUDDHIST CHAPLAINCY AND TBMS'. On the right side of the poster is a portrait of Michael Yellowbird, a man with grey hair, glasses, and a goatee, wearing a brown shirt.

**Mindfulness - Decolonizing The Mind With Michael Yellowbird**

Wednesday, November 8, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Join the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha, the Buddhist Chaplaincy and Professor Michael Yellowbird of the University of Manitoba for a discussion on mindfulness and decolonizing the mind. Michael Yellowbird, a practitioner of mindfulness and meditation, is active in re-introducing the practice of mindfulness to Native American and indigenous communities around the world. Please contact Buddhist Chaplain [Ji Hyang Padma](#) with any questions.

# Bible Study

**WEDNESDAYS, 6PM  
CAMPUS CENTER 218  
OCT.11 - NOV.15**

**Please join us as we read and discuss  
the Gospel of Mark together.  
A daily reading plan is available.  
Email Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell to  
learn more ([daniel.bell@tufts.edu](mailto:daniel.bell@tufts.edu))  
All students are welcome, regardless of  
background or identity.**

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University Chaplaincy  
Protestant Chaplaincy

## **Pizza and Bible Study**

Wednesday, November 15, 6:00 p.m., Campus Center, Room 218

Join the Protestant Chaplaincy as we study the Gospel of Mark together. All are welcome, regardless of your identity, spiritual/religious background, or knowledge of the Bible. Please contact Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) with any questions.






MAJORS MONTH X UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

## **More than a Major: Life is (Much) More Than Work and School**

**What does your best life *really* mean, you think?  
Join the University Chaplaincy to really get to know  
what you want from your days, including relationships,  
rest, play, nature, and more.**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 12-1PM, LUNCH PROVIDED**

**ALUMNAE LOUNGE**



**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY  
University  
Chaplaincy

### **More than a Major: Life is (Much) More Than Work and School**

Wednesday, November 15, 12:00 p.m., Alumnae Lounge

What does your best life really mean? Join the University Chaplaincy for More than a Major: Life is (Much) More Than Work and School to really get to know what you want from your days, including relationships, rest, play, nature, and more. As part of Majors Month this year, we are inviting you to join in-person for lunch and crafty conversation about what makes your life full, and how your major can be a part of that fullness. Follow [this link to learn more details about the event and register](#). Reach out to program manager [Nora Bond](#) with any questions.

[Find More About Majors Month](#)

# true colors

A space for LGBTQ+ students of all religious and/or philosophical backgrounds to craft and connect with one another about life, spirituality, and more.

**Join us Tuesdays, 7pm, on  
10/10, 10/24, 11/14,  
11/28, and 12/12**

LGBT Center, 226 College Ave

Email Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain,  
at [daniel.bell@tufts.edu](mailto:daniel.bell@tufts.edu),  
to learn more.

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## Mark Your Calendars for True Colors: An Interfaith Queer Crafts and Conversations Group

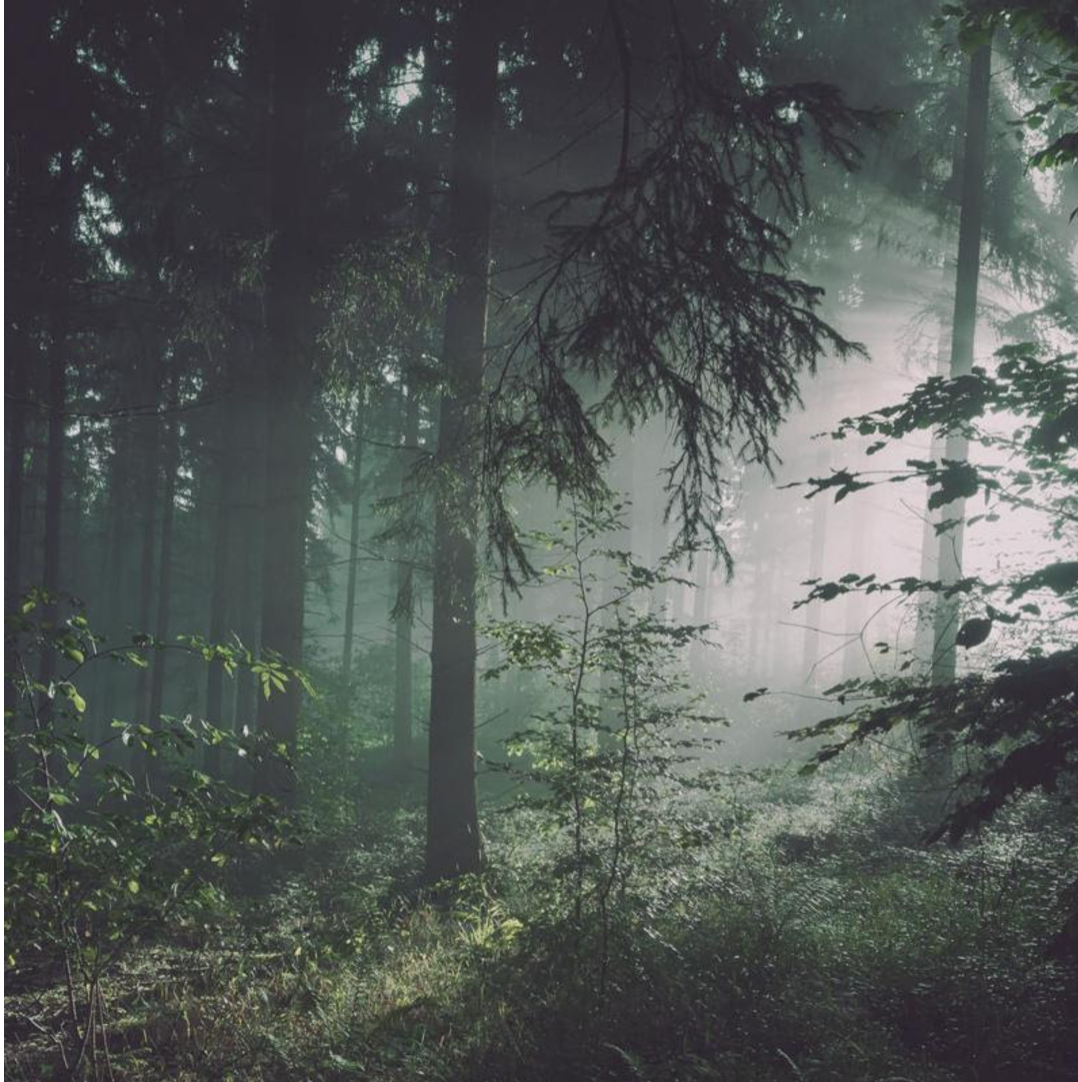
Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 p.m., LGBT Center

True Colors is an interfaith group for queer-identified students to talk about spirituality, religion, and whatever is on your minds and hearts. We meet for snacks, a crafting activity, and laid-back conversations hosted by Dan Bell, Tufts' Protestant Chaplain. Join us for our fall meetings on the dates above. Email Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](mailto:Dan Bell) to sign up for our e-list or ask any questions.

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**Partner Programs**





**Tufts Sunday Concert Series: Tufts Choruses - Forest Through The Trees**

Sunday, November 12, 3:00 p.m., Distler Performance Hall

The Tufts Chamber Singers and Concert Choir present their Fall concert, "Forest Through the Trees," with Jamie Kirsch, conductor, and Thomas Stumpf, pianist. Featuring works by Josquin, Gimon, Butler, Brahms, Szymko, Walker, Schwartz, and Pottle.

[Find More on the Music Events Calendar](#)

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**Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities**

## AGAINST THE ECOFASCIST CREEP: A CONVERSATION ON HUMANISM AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

"Humans are bad for the environment" is a tired cliché. Such misanthropic eco-nihilism too often begets the notion that mass violence could be a viable solution to global environmental crises. Marvel's blockbuster *Avengers* films and their arch-villain, Thanos, demonstrate that this specter of ecofascism looms in pop-cultural imaginations as a malevolent threat for some and a tantalizing fantasy for others. In part as a response to the *Avengers* films, the Anti-Creep Climate Initiative published the webzine and teaching tool, "Against the Ecofascist Creep" (2022), a research-driven primer for de-bunking six everyday ecofascist myths that appear in pop culture, political discourse, and everyday life.

During this event, the webzine authors will share their multidisciplinary research on the relationship between climate justice, anti-ecofascist theory and action, and the need to re-encounter and re-imagine the project of humanism.



1:30 - 3:00 PM

PHILLIPS BROOKS HOUSE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
1 HARVARD YARD, CAMBRIDGE, MA

*The Anti-Creep Climate Initiative:* **Cassie Galentine** is a doctoral candidate in English at the University of Oregon. **Bruno Seraphin** is an assistant professor of anthropology and Native American and Indigenous studies at the University of Connecticut. **April Anson** is an assistant professor of English and Native American and Indigenous studies at the University of Connecticut. **Alex Menrisky** is an assistant professor of English and American studies at the University of Connecticut. **Shane Hall** is an associate professor of Environmental Studies at Salisbury University.

### Against the Ecofascist Creep: A Conversation on Humanism and Climate Justice

Sunday, November 19, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., 1 Harvard Yard Cambridge

"Humans are bad for the environment" is a tired cliché. Such misanthropic eco-nihilism too often begets the notion that mass violence could be a viable solution to global environmental crises. Marvel's blockbuster *Avengers* films and their arch-villain, Thanos, demonstrate that this specter of ecofascism looms in pop-cultural imaginations as a malevolent threat for some and a tantalizing fantasy for others. In part as a response to the *Avengers* films, the Anti-Creep Climate Initiative published the webzine and teaching tool, "Against the Ecofascist Creep" (2022), a research-driven primer for de-bunking six everyday ecofascist myths that appear in pop culture, political discourse, and everyday life. During this event, the webzine authors will share their multidisciplinary research on the relationship between climate justice, anti-ecofascist theory and action, and the need to re-encounter and re-imagine the project of humanism. You can email Humanist Chaplain [Anthony Cruz Pantojas](mailto:anthony.cruz.pantojas@tufts.edu) with any questions.



### **Episcopal Service Corps: Fall 2024 Applications Open Soon**

Episcopal Service Corps will begin accepting applications for the 2024 Fall program beginning December 1. Episcopal Service Corps empowers adults ages 21-32 to transform unjust structures through community building, local collaboration, prayer, and action. Programs serve thousands of people across fifteen communities across the country. You can [find out more about Episcopal Service Corps here](#) and apply below.

[Apply to ESC](#)

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### **Photo of the Month**

The Buddhist Chaplaincy and the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha visited Chùa Việt Nam, a Vietnamese Buddhist temple in Boston, on Sunday, November 5, 2023 with Brandeis and Northeastern students.





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## Upcoming Religious Celebrations and Observances

These events are drawn from the multifaith calendar maintained by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Harvard Divinity School. To see more upcoming religious holidays and festivals, please follow the link to the [Harvard Divinity School calendar](#).

### **Diwali (Dipavali)**

Sun., Nov. 12, 2023

Tradition: Hinduism

Perhaps the most popular of all Hindu festivals, also known as the Festival of Lights, it is dedicated to the goddess Kali in Bengal and to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, in the rest of India. As with several other festivals, Diwali is associated with one of the stories about the destruction of evil by Vishnu in one of his many manifestations.

### **Diwali/Mahavir Nirvana**

Sun., Nov. 12, 2023

Tradition: Jainism

This "Festival of Lamps" celebrates the attainment of Moksa by Lord Mahavira. A burning lamp symbolizes the "light of knowledge," which dispels the darkness of delusion and ignorance.

### **Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji**

Fri., Nov. 24, 2023

Tradition: Sikhism

This day commemorates the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (1621-1675), the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus. He is remembered not only for his defense of the Sikh faith, but also of Hinduism and of religious liberty.

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**Support the University Chaplaincy**

Supporting dynamic programs at Tufts University in religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life is easy and vital to our work. To donate, please click on the button below. Thank you for your generosity.

Give Today

## ABOUT US

The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for all members of the Tufts community. We provide pastoral care, support religious and philosophical communities, educate about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promote multifaith engagement.

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