

WINTER 2023



It takes *ONE* woman

The Li Tim-Oi Foundation



## A Year to Celebrate

**Welcome to the Winter issue of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation Newsletter. If we have been a bit quiet of late, it is because there has been a lot going on - and the Foundation has been growing!**

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed the **Revd Christina Rees CBE** to be our new Director. Christina is a long-time friend of the Foundation, having become a trustee in 1997. Over the years she has served as Deputy Chair, Acting Chair and Chair! As the Foundation's work has increased and spread in scope, we realised the Foundation needed someone to take the vision forward. Christina works closely with our brilliant Executive Secretary, **Stephanie Lewis-Grey**, who manages the day to day running of the Foundation and who liaises with all the women who apply for grants, as well as with the bishops, the other referees and all the training institutions. Stephanie also oversees the finances and deals with the international banks and currency issues. We are intending to appoint a part-time Treasurer who will be able to help with this area of our work – suggestions welcome!

In addition to having been joined by two new trustees who are featured in this issue, we have also appointed **Bridget Havard** as our Head of Development. Bridget comes with years of experience in the US as well as in the UK, working mainly in the public and voluntary sectors. We are thrilled to have her on board and look forward to how she will help us to grow. Last but not least, we are deeply grateful to **Professor Martyn Percy** for agreeing to take on the role of Acting Chair of the Foundation. With this exciting team in place, we feel ready to step into the New Year, trusting God with the future of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation.

### 80

Next year marks several significant anniversaries for the ordination of women in the Anglican Church. The Foundation is excited to announce that in January **we will be holding a service to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Florence Li Tim-Oi's ordination as a priest.**

The service will be held on **Thursday 25th January at St Martin-in-the-Fields, in Trafalgar Square**, where the Foundation was launched three decades ago! The service will begin at 11am and will be followed by a Reception with drinks and canapes.

You are warmly invited to the event but it would help with catering if you could register here: **<https://buytickets.at/thelitimoiFoundation/1063128>**



Our preacher is the **Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover**, and the **Revd Frances Shoemith**, granddaughter of Bishop R O Hall, the bishop who ordained Tim-Oi, will be co-presiding with the **Revd Sally Hitchiner**, Associate Vicar for Ministry at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

We hope you will be able to attend the service and the Reception, which will be hosted by **Canon Christopher Hall**, son of Bishop RO Hall and Honorary Life President of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation. Christopher created the Foundation in 1994 with **Rita Lee Chiu**, sister of Florence, as a fitting tribute to the first Anglican woman to be ordained. Christina Rees will be bringing us up to date on the work of the Foundation and sharing its vision for the future. You can read about her recent trip to Kenya in this issue.

## 30

We will also be giving thanks for 30 years of women's ordination as priests in the Church of England. In 1994 1,500 women deacons were ordained as priests across the 42 dioceses. Women now make up nearly a third of the 20,000 active clergy in the Church of England.

## 10

In 2014 General Synod voted to open the episcopate to women. In the nearly ten years since then, 29 women have been appointed as bishops in the Church of England, although only eight as diocesan bishops. We recognise that much more needs to be done before the Church of England is a true community of equals but next year we will be giving thanks as well as identifying what more needs to be done.

## Thank You

The Li Tim-Oi Foundation is so very thankful for the support of its members, including many women clergy in the Church of England, who can imagine what it would have been like for them if they had been unable to find the money to be trained. The Foundation exists to enable women across the Anglican Communion to fulfil their

God-given callings, lay and ordained, and we pray that in the year to come we will be able to offer grants to many more women around the world who need our support. Thank you for supporting the work of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation.

## New Trustees: Mandy Marshall and Mark Nam

**Mandy Marshall** – New Trustee writes:

*"The reason I became a trustee of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation was because of my passion to see women released into their full potential in life. Education is a key to unlock potential and open doors for the future. No-one can take education away from you. There are so many gifted and talented women who need a boost to be able to reach their potential and I am pleased to be a small part of achieving the vision of seeing more women leaders, pastors and bishops."* **Mandy Marshall – Director for Gender Justice at the Anglican Communion.**



Mandy Marshall



Mark Nam

**Mark Nam** is a British Chinese Anglican priest in the Church of England. Nam is the founder of **The Teahouse**, a network that raises the visibility and participation of Chinese-heritage clergy in all structures of The Church. Nam is a trustee for SPCK and the Li Tim-Oi Foundation. He is a core-member of the Campaign Against Racism Group (CARG), who advise the UK Government on policies related to hate-crime. Mark delivers lectures at several Anglican Theological colleges, and contributes to BBC Radio, The Church Times and writes for Canterbury Press. In

2023 he was awarded the Lambeth Award by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

*"Florence Li Tim-Oi and her story played a significant role in my decision to become ordained in The Church of England. At the time, I was studying as an independent student at Trinity College in Bristol, when I came across Li Tim-Oi for the first time. Her story moved me profoundly—not only because she was the first woman to be ordained—but because she was Chinese, like me. Up until that point, I had never met a Chinese vicar in the U.K. She opened my eyes to what is possible, and I responded. I have since discovered that I am the first 'British Born' Chinese priest in the Church of England. Li Tim-Oi blazed a trail for me to follow, and I look forward to partnering with the LTOF to encourage many more to be inspired by her witness and to walk in her footsteps."*

**Mark Nam**

## The Teahouse

The Teahouse is an independent Anglican network for clergy and ordinands of Chinese-heritage. The aim of the Teahouse is to promote the presence and participation of Chinese-heritage clergy in all structures of The Church of England, who represent just 0.2% of stipendiary clergy and 0.5% of ordinands. The Teahouse was founded by Rev. Mark Nam and originally grew out of a WhatsApp support group during the COVID pandemic. The Teahouse held an official launch in London on October 16th 2021, beginning with a Eucharist at Southwark Cathedral, a reception in Chinatown, and Evensong at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. The launch received a positive reception from the national media, and in an official press statement the **Archbishop of York** said:

*"I am absolutely delighted to see the formal launch of the Teahouse group. What a wonderful development in our journey*

*towards becoming a church that truly reflects and values the great diversity of life in modern Britain. Seeing groups like this come forward fills me with hope."*

Since then, The Teahouse has gone on to influence the Church of England's work on Racial Justice. It also advises the UK Government on a number of issues including policies related to hate-crime, post-colonial education, and how to support for the 300,000 Hong Kongers who are eligible to settle in the U.K. through a special visa-scheme.

Symbolism plays an important role in the ministry and message of The Teahouse. Tea Houses have been part of Chinese society for thousands of years. Tea is also quintessentially British and therefore represents a beautiful blend of both cultures—reconciliation offered through one cup—the cup of Christ. The logo is inspired by a Pu-erh Coin/Cake which is a traditional way to wrap and store tea leaves. The circular shape has no beginning or end and is meant to represent God's love, as well as the drawing together of people from every tribe, tongue and nation. The character in the centre means "Tea". It is made of 3 radicals: (from top-to-bottom) leaves; person; and tree. The cross-shaped strokes emphasis the centrality of Jesus, who in the form of a person (rad. 2), willingly hung on a tree (rad. 3), so that we might blossom and have life (rad.1).

**The Teahouse is proud to partner with the Li Tim-Oi Foundation in this 80th Anniversary Year—with many of its members following in the steps of Florence, who herself, had Chinese-heritage too.**

Website: [www.theteahouse.org](http://www.theteahouse.org)

Facebook: [@TheTeaHouseUK](https://www.facebook.com/TheTeaHouseUK)

Twitter/X: [@TheTeaHouse\\_UK](https://twitter.com/TheTeaHouse_UK)

Instagram: [@TheTeaHouse\\_UK](https://www.instagram.com/TheTeaHouse_UK)



TEAHOUSE



## Visiting Daughters of Li Tim-Oi in Kenya - Christina Rees

In October I visited Kenya at the invitation of **Bishop Joseph Kibucwa**, Bishop of Kirinyaga Diocese, who has been a referee for women from the diocese who have applied for grants from the Li Tim-Oi Foundation. Kirinyaga Diocese is several hours north of Nairobi.



Visiting Bishop of Meru Diocese, Rt Rev'd David Nkaabu, Rev'd Christina Rees, Bishop Joseph Kibucwa

My base for the two weeks I was staying in Kirinyaga Diocese was at the home of the **Venerable Mary Murage**, her seven-year-old son Isaac, and Ciro, their live-in friend and housekeeper. Mary's husband Alex had died just over a year earlier. Mary, in common with many people in the area, has a small farm, where they grow fruits and vegetables and keep chickens, ducks, rabbits, goats and a cow for milking.



On the last evening of my time in Kenya, we were arriving home, much later than intended, having finished another day full of services and pastoral visits. After bumping gently down the un-made-up track of dark red earth that wove its way

through a lush tea plantation, we were finally home. We were expecting the **Rev'd Purity Munyiri** and her family to join us for supper.

Purity is the incumbent at a large rural church in Kirinyaga Diocese and I had met her nearly eight months earlier in London, when she had been attending a conference. At that time, I had asked her what the issues were facing her congregation. She had paused for a moment and then told me about what had been happening to some of the teenage girls in her parish.

Because of recent droughts, crops had failed and families did not have enough food to feed their children. Some parents were selling their daughters to be married, usually to older men. Some of these girls were as young as 13 or 14 years old. Often, these young brides became the victims of domestic abuse. Many became pregnant and had babies. Within a few years, the man would have left, leaving the girls alone with their children and no means of support. What Purity told me is that she had been conducting the funerals of some of these girls, who had killed themselves in desperation. Shockingly, some had first killed their children. Purity started preaching about the hope we have in Christ and told the girls that a way forward could always be found.

When I saw her again that evening in Kenya, I asked about the situation in her parish. Purity smiled and told me that things were much better. Her message of hope had got through and the girls were coming to her for help and guidance, instead of committing suicide.

Purity is just one example of the transformative effect that an educated Christian woman can have, especially when she is placed in a position of leadership. As well as giving these girls hope, Purity also gave them feelings of self-worth and was able to reassure them of God's love for them.



Rev'd Purity Munyiri



Mrs Shelomith Njiru, The Boys of Utugi Children's Centre and Rev'd Phyllis Kibira

Many had got back into education and were even saying that they wanted to be able to help other girls in similar situations.

One of the other women who had been supported by the Foundation is **Mrs Shelomith Njiru**, Manager of Utugi Children's Centre, set up initially by an Anglican woman as a school and refuge for boys who had been rescued from a life on the streets. Shelomith told me that most of the boys had been addicted to glue sniffing and came into the home in terrible mental, emotional and physical shape. After a few months at the centre, they are transformed. Healthy food, schooling, learning how to take care of themselves and being given discipline and shown love completely changes them. That, and taking a step of faith and becoming disciples of Jesus Christ. I met some of these boys whose eyes were clear and bright and

who radiated self-confidence and pride in the work they were doing. The older boys were being taught how to make furniture so that they would have a way of supporting themselves when they left the centre. In her calm and quiet way, Shelomith was giving a whole new and positive future to these children who, before, had had no hope.

During my time in Kenya, I also met **Kate Njeri, Francine Munezero and Agripine Ndayishimiye**, three delightful women who were all studying at Africa International University. As each of them told me of their vision for their future ministry, I was struck with their compassion for the people in their communities and their desire to make a difference. They also asked me to bring back a message of their gratitude for the Li Tim-Oi Foundation

Kate Njeri, Francine Munezero and Agripine Ndayishimiye







Rev'd Captain Alice Njogu, Rev'd Lucy Muruthi, Christina, Rev'd Beatrice Kangangi, Rev'd Catherine Kiandia

## ASWOM

I was thrilled to be able to join a meeting of the **Association of Women Ministers** during my visit. ASWOM is a group of the women clergy in Kirinyaga Diocese who meet several times a year. I had been invited to preach at the service and then to hold an Open Session. It became a lively discussion with many important issues being raised, including gender based violence, marital breakdown, prejudice against women and the belittling of women in leadership, and various harmful traditional practices. When the Bishop arrived to speak with the women, he was asked to come back in an hour! Needless to say, when he returned, he was met with a room full of highly energised women who were able to share their thoughts openly and honestly with him. It was an added pleasure to know that four of these dynamic women are Daughters of Li Tim-Oi.

## St Andrews College of Theology and Development

Twenty years ago, I visited St Andrew's in Kabare and stayed with Rev'd Canon Pamela Wilding, a CMS Missionary who had actually created the development side of the college. Some of you may remember that when Pamela returned to the UK she served as Chair of the Foundation for a period of time. Everywhere I went, people spoke about Pamela and paid generous tributes to her for all that she had done in Kenya. St Andrews is still thriving under

the leadership of its Principal, the Rev'd Robinson Kariuki Mwangi, who invited me to preach and to meet with the women students. 25 of the 30 women students were at college for our session, which was invaluable in filling me in on some of their hopes and dreams and needs. Only one of the women had her own laptop. All the others had to fit in their research around other students in a cybercafé. When I asked how many of the male students had their own laptops, the answer came back in loud unison: "All!"

As a result of speaking with these students, the trustees are now considering supplying a laptop to each woman we support. It was very clear that paying for their fees alone still leaves them dealing with challenging inequalities.

**It was a privilege being back in Kenya, and once again to be overwhelmed by the richness and abundance of the natural beauty, the warmth and genuine welcome of the people and their joy and enthusiasm in worshipping and following Christ and serving one another. I learned a lot. It was difficult, however, to see some of the ongoing challenges and to know that these are still adversely affecting women's and girls' opportunities, experiences and expectations in life.**

**I came away with a deeper understanding of just what a difference the Li Tim-Oi Foundation is making in the lives of the women and the people among whom they live and serve.**

*Christina Rees*



## Rev'd Carolyne Adhola – Empowering Widows and Orphans

The **Rev. Carolyne Adhola** dreamed of transforming the lives of widows and orphans in the Anglican Church of Kenya. She preached throughout the Diocese of Bondo, engaging church members - predominantly male clergy - teaching them about recognising Jesus in the marginalised groups in their churches and communities. She held a discernment retreat for the widows and invited clergy and the bishop to hear their stories. Now the widows have begun doing small scale table banking and goat farming. They have also started a rescue centre for orphans, embodying God's love by offering shelter and education for these vulnerable young people.

Carolyne also reached out to young single mothers whose children were barred from Holy Baptism. Carolyne baptised the children and welcomed the young mothers to church. Since then, the diocese has changed its policy and now welcome single mothers to church and baptise their children.

The Li Tim-Oi Foundation enabled Carolyne to study for ordination at St Paul's University. Now she is changing lives by helping others to see Christ in the most marginalised in society.

## Facts & Figures

### How Many?

Since the Foundation was started, it has now supported just over 700 women – 701 to be precise! This is a remarkable achievement and we could not have done it without you. Thank you for having made it possible for us to offer grants that have enabled so many women to become such powerful agents of change in their churches and communities.

### Where Are We Known?

Our vision is to be able to reach every province in the Anglican Communion. So far, the Foundation is well known in Africa in a wide range of countries, including Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, DRC and South Africa. We have also supported women in India from Kerala, Coimbatore and Vellore. Other countries from which women have applied for grants include Pakistan, Argentina, Brazil, Solomon Islands and Fiji. So many other places have not even heard of the Foundation – women who long to follow their callings do not know we exist. The ongoing challenge is to become known around the Anglican Communion.

### What Do the Women Do?

We love receiving applications and reading about what each woman has a passion for doing – if only she could be trained! Most of the women have had challenging lives, some experiencing the death of one or both parents and abuse from other people. It is difficult to have to turn anyone down just because we do not have the funds.

The women we have been able to support have gone on to become stunning examples in their chosen fields, including as priests, evangelists, theological educators, teachers, children's workers, counsellors, doctors, nurses, paediatricians, social workers, school chaplains, lawyers, business and IT administrators, accountants, diocesan secretaries and administrators, bursars and project managers.

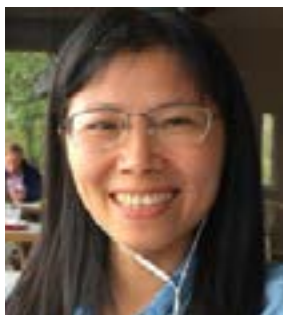




These women bring the light and love of Christ to everything they do and, as educated women, they gain the trust and respect of their communities. Their ministries are truly life-changing for the people among whom they live and work. Many years ago the women decided to call themselves the Daughters of Li Tim-Oi. We give thanks and pray for all the Daughters of Li Tim-Oi.

## Two Daughters

**Meet Christina.** She intends to practise her ministry and do theological training in Shandong province where Confucius lived, in Northeastern China. Her vision is to bring the word of Christ into a place where Christianity is a minority religion and where there is official action against house churches. The Li Tim-Oi Foundation has provided grants towards her costs to attend Tyndale House library for biblical research in Cambridge, go to conferences and purchase books to complete her PhD in Old Testament Studies.



Christina Du Nana



Diana Mohite

*"I really appreciate that the Li Tim-Oi Foundation has generously funded me to attend some academic conferences, especially, meetings of Society for Old Testament Studies, in previous years. These conferences enabled me to meet and discuss with professors and scholars in Old Testament Studies and also to see the trends of, and approaches used in, OT scholarship."*

**Revd Christina Du Nana**

**And Diana.** She felt a call to ordination ever since she was a girl but was told that a future for a woman in the Church of North India was impossible. Diana tried various routes, including speaking to a bishop, but

got nowhere. Then a bishop's wife heard of Diana's longing and helped to open doors. Now Diana is ordained and serving in a church in her community, changing lives by preaching the Good News of Christ.

*"I have a call to serve Lord Jesus Christ from my childhood. So last many years I was trying to join the ministry. I was not accepted by my church to ministry because I am a girl."*

**Diana Mohite**

## Exciting New Partnerships

We are proud to announce two potential new partnerships which will help us to raise awareness of our work at the Li Tim-Oi Foundation and make an even bigger impact.

### Anglican Communion Foundation

We are currently exploring ways in which we can work together with the Anglican Communion Foundation whose mission is to support communities throughout the Anglican Communion in their mission to live and share Christ's love. This means we will be able to reach new places and more women. We are truly excited about being part of a greater plan, and of raising up women to do God's work as a component of strategic initiatives that are being developed between provinces and the ACF. To date, through the ACF, we have made contact with:

- **The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.** ACF is currently funding education grants for women to train in theology.
- **The Sialkot Diocese, Church of Pakistan** who are running a project to train girls and young women in issues of women's health.
- **The Multan Diocese, Church of Pakistan** who are currently running literacy training programme in the diocese that also raises awareness of domestic violence, early marriages, gender justice and health and hygiene.
- **The Church of Bangladesh,** which is working through their strategic development plan, a component of which is women's development.

### The Compass Rose Society

Through a kind introduction from **Caroline Welby**, we were invited to present our work at the Annual General Meeting of the Compass Rose Society at Church House in October 2023. The Compass Rose Society is made up of paying members who support the programmes and ministries of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), the organization that sets the goals and direction for the Communion.

We were delighted that the Li Tim-Oi Foundation was lauded several times by different speakers such as the **Archbishop of Hong Kong, The Most Rt Revd Andrew Chan, and the Dean of Canterbury, the Very Revd David Monteith**. It was encouraging to receive the encouragement and recognition of the important work we are doing in the Anglican Community. We are now planning to reach out to individual members of the Compass Rose Society and the Diocese of Pennsylvania so they can learn more about the Foundation and support our work.

## The Future

We have so much to be thankful for. So many people have sustained the Foundation over nearly three decades with generous giving and faithful dedication in many ways, spreading the story of Florence Li Tim-Oi and the work now done in her name.

When Florence's sister Rita Lee Chui and Christopher Hall created the Foundation, they envisaged reaching out to women across the world. That is still our vision and we believe our mission is how that can become a reality, supporting individuals, partnering with institutions and being involved with new initiatives.

### Our Vision

**We envision a world where every woman in the Anglican Communion, regardless of her location or circumstance, has the resources, support and opportunities to thrive and create positive change in her community in the service of Christ.**

### Our Mission

**To equip women through educational grants in every Province in the Anglican Communion to follow God's calling and be trained for ordination and other ministries.**

## Prayer Request Corner

We are proud to announce the recent or upcoming graduations and ordinations of the following women. Please keep them in your prayers as they take the next steps of their journey to fulfil God's calling:

**Patience Amutuhair** graduating from Uganda Christian University – Bishop Barham College and will be ordained in December 2023

**Beatrice John** who graduated from Uganda Christian University in October with a degree in Business Administration and who will go onto work with the Episcopal University of Juba

**Phionah Kyarisiima** graduating with a degree in Accountancy from Bishop Stuart University in December 2023

**Hellen Mwaura** graduating in Community Health Nursing from Kenya Medical College in December 2023

Those who also graduated in November 2023 from Uganda Christian University – Bishop Barham College include:

**Sheila Gumoshabe, Loice Kiconco, Vitorina Kato and Deborah Ahumuza** in Divinity. **Merab Kyomuhangi and Gladys Kukundakwe** in Social Work.

Please pray also for the **Rev'd Christina du Nana** who is working on the final stages of her doctoral thesis in Old Testament Studies at the University of Cambridge.



# Ways YOU can help

## Christmas Appeal

**Will you help ensure that every woman in the Anglican Communion has the resources, support, and opportunities to thrive and create positive change in her community in the service of Christ?**

**In the year of the Revd Li Tim-Oi's 80th anniversary of ordination, we want to do more – reach women in new majority world countries and increase how many women we can equip with the tools to flourish and make a difference in their own communities.** But demand exceeds the number of women we can now help. Without kind donations from people like you, it won't be possible to sustain and grow our organisation. Will you consider making a gift to the Li Tim-Oi Foundation? A monthly donation will help us to plan with confidence for the future. A one-off donation will support our grant programme and ensure that we are sustainable. Each donation, no matter the size is valued and gratefully appreciated by us and all the women we serve. Thank you!

*"This amazing work of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation shows how relatively small investments can transform, not only the lives and ministries of individual women in the majority world, but the very face of the Church - and I hope and believe that this work will not only continue but grow and multiply. Our worldwide Christian family is richer for the strong and faithful ministry of the daughters of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation."*

**Rt. Revd. Rose Hudson-Wilkin,  
Bishop of Dover**

## Add Your Name!

We are so grateful and excited that one of our new trustees, the Rev'd Mark Nam, has started a petition to have Florence Li Tim-Oi commemorated with a Feast Day in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church of England. Her Feast Day is already marked in the Liturgical Calendar of The Episcopal Church and we believe it is high time she should receive the same recognition in the Church of England. Thank you Mark and Kayi!

**Please add your name to the [change.org petition](https://www.change.org/p/appeal-for-the-church-of-england-to-commemorate-florence-li-tim-oi-with-a-feast-day) [www.change.org/p/appeal-for-the-church-of-england-to-commemorate-florence-li-tim-oi-with-a-feast-day](https://www.change.org/p/appeal-for-the-church-of-england-to-commemorate-florence-li-tim-oi-with-a-feast-day) and tell all your friends to sign too!**

We are excited by what the future will hold and we ask for your ongoing prayers and support.

*Thank you,*  
**Christina Rees**, Director

**Please donate online**  
**[www.ltof.org.uk](http://www.ltof.org.uk)**  
or complete the enclosed form

*The Li Tim-Oi Foundation, Flint House,  
Selmeston, BN26 6UD, UK [admin@LTOF.org.uk](mailto:admin@LTOF.org.uk)*



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# Celebration Service & Reception

The Li Tim-Oi Foundation requests your company  
in honour of the 80th anniversary of the ordination of  
Rev'd Dr Florence Li Tim-Oi in Hong Kong on 25 January 1944

**On Thursday 25th January 2024  
at 11am, St. Martin-in-the-Fields,  
Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 4JJ**

Drinks and canapés will be served after the service

**REGISTER HERE: [https://buytickets.at/  
thelitimoifoundation/1063128](https://buytickets.at/thelitimoifoundation/1063128) by Friday 15th January 2024**

If you are unable to attend but would like to support the Foundation  
you can donate on our website  
**[www.ltof.org.uk](http://www.ltof.org.uk)**

**The Li Tim-Oi Foundation**

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