

The Adventure of an Ecoboy



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The Adventure of an Ecoboy (English, B&W Version)

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Once upon a time there was a small village in Nigeria.

In that village there lived a little boy named Yusuf who was only eleven years old.

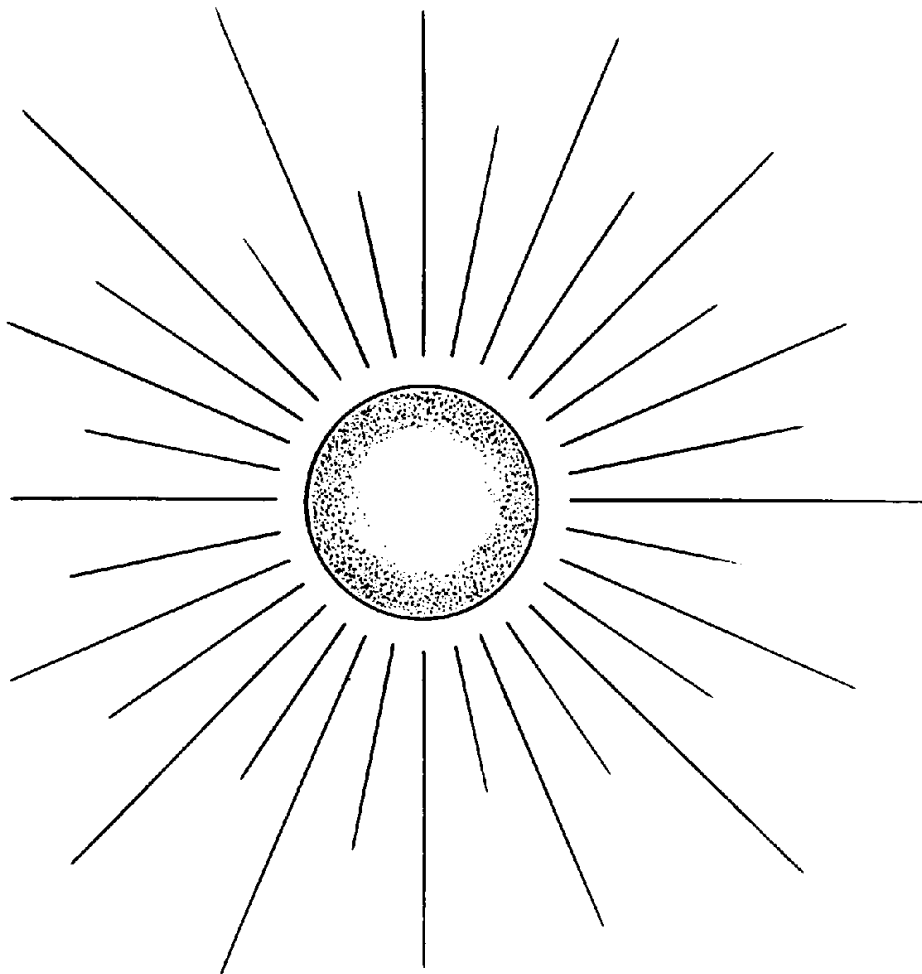
Yusuf always worked hard and was the best in his class.

Yusuf liked finding new ideas for solving problems.

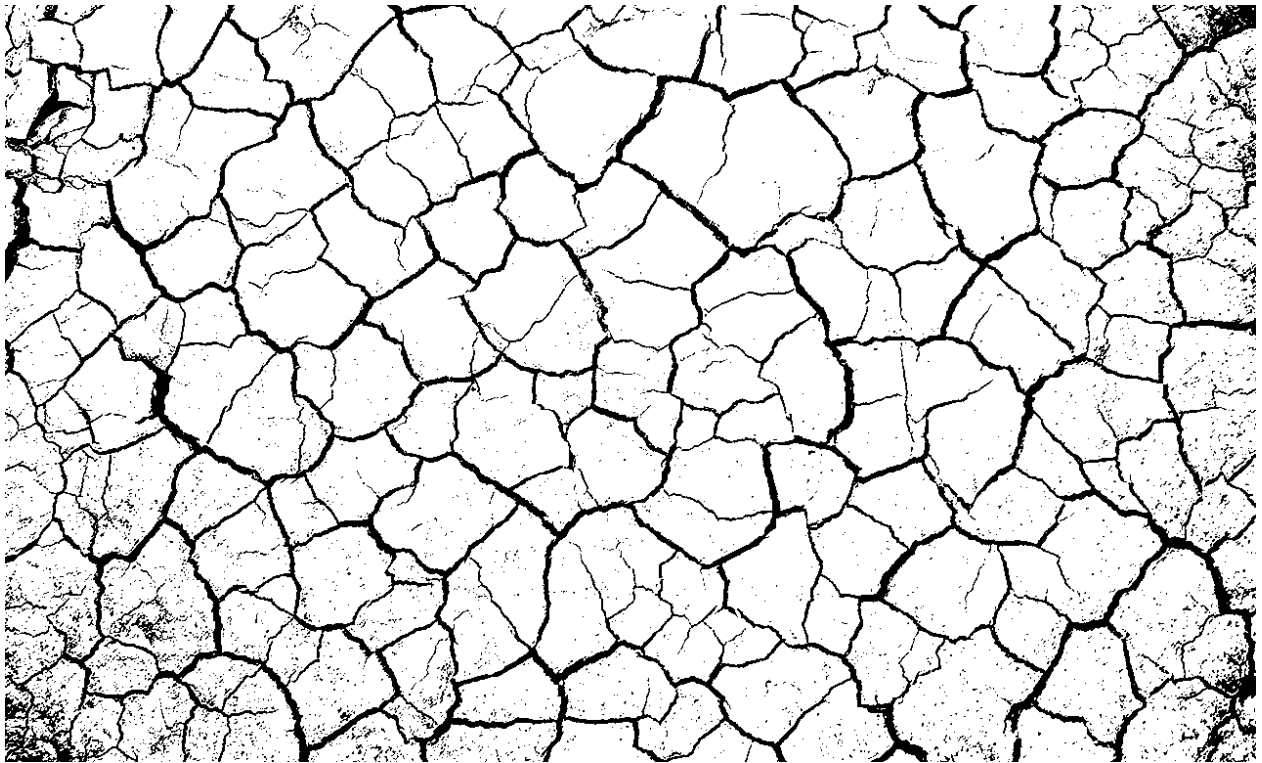


Over time, Yusuf began to notice some changes in his village.

First, the weather was getting hotter.



In dry season the ground was cracked with thirst.



The trees and plants were dying.



In rainy season there was more flooding than ever before.



Either way, crops were ruined.

The villagers started sleeping outside because of the heat.

People were tired and hungry and began falling sick, which



was unusual for them.

The whole village was confused.

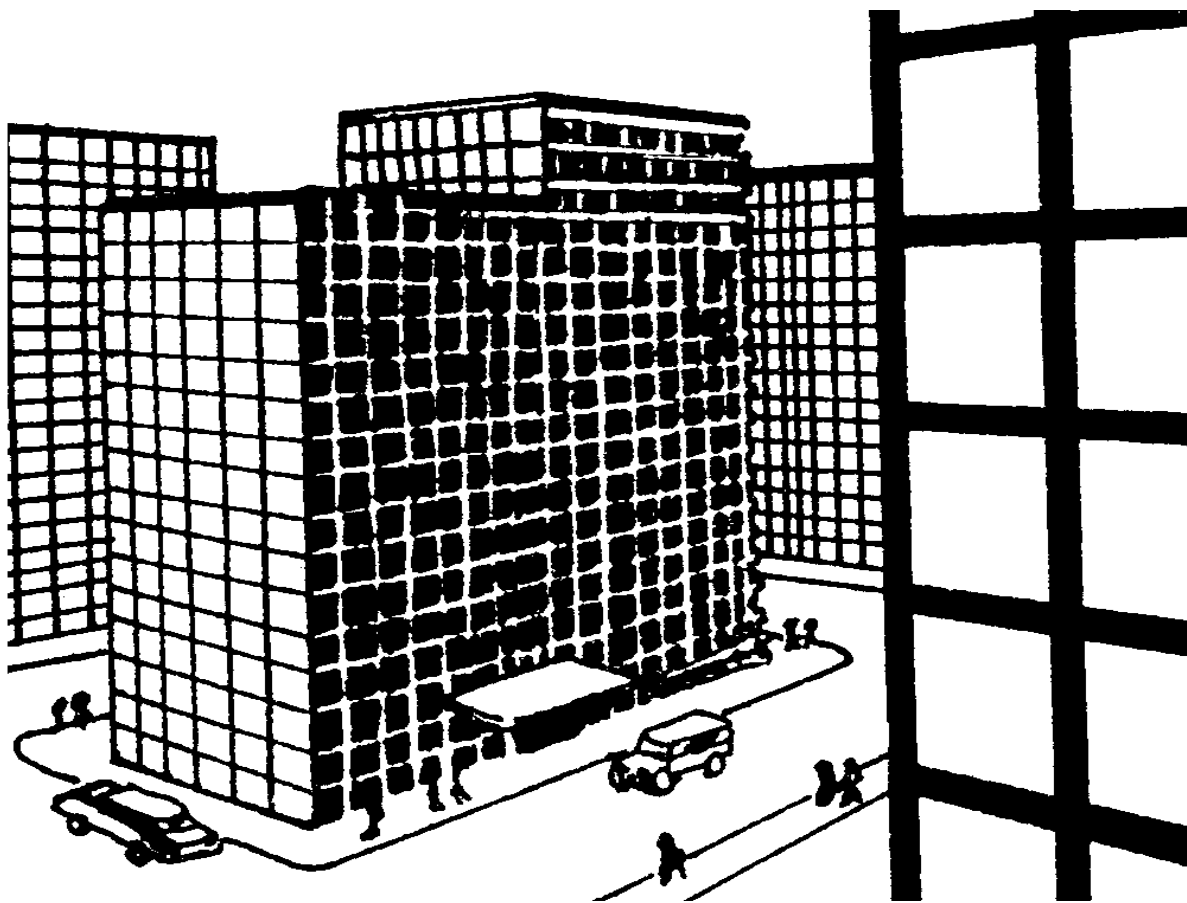
People started asking questions of why? And how?

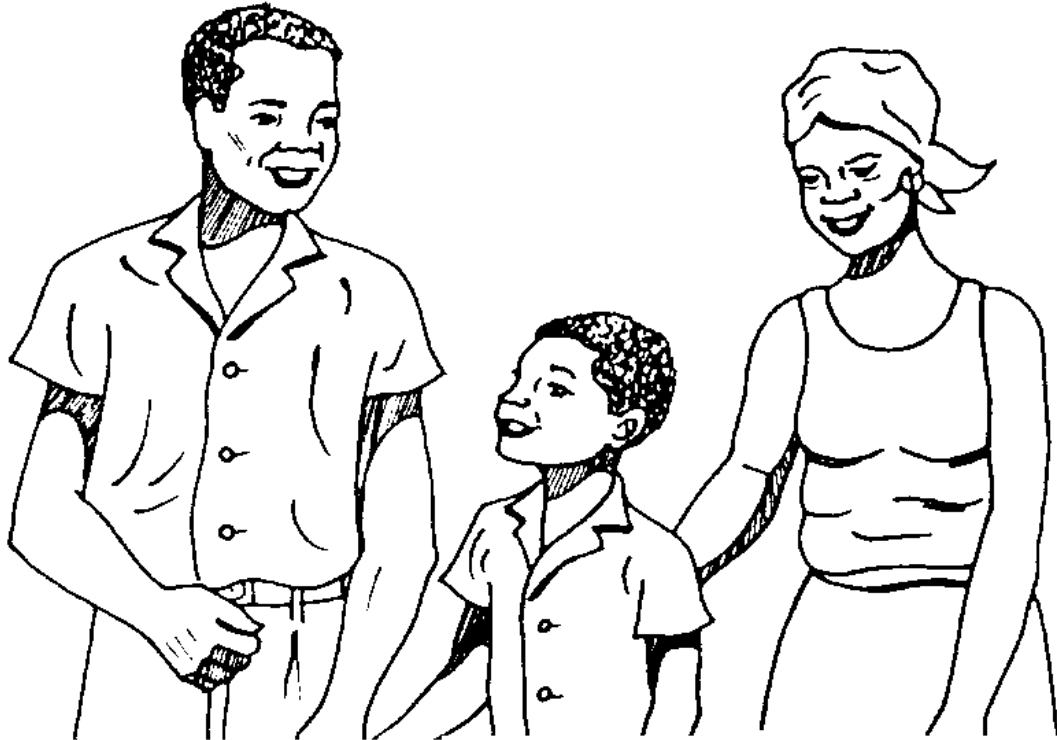
Yusuf thought as hard as he could, but nothing made



sense.

One day when school let out for vacation, Yusuf travelled to the big city to spend the holiday with his aunt and uncle and their family.





One evening during dinner, Yusuf asked an important question.

He asked, “Why are the plants in my village dying, and why is it getting hotter?”

His uncle replied, “I’m so glad you asked. It is because of global warming.”



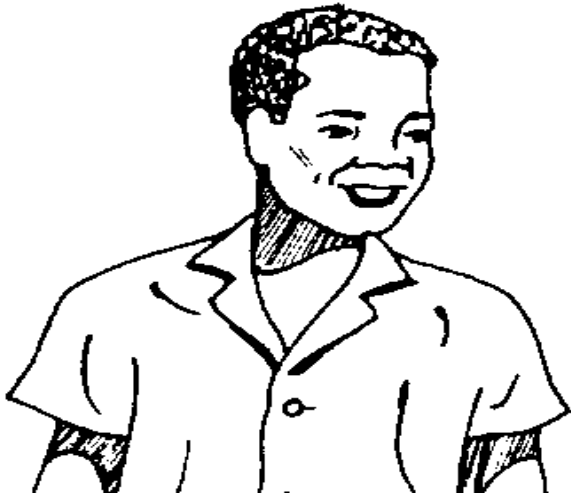
Yusuf was surprised and confused. He asked, “What is global warming?”

His uncle said, “Global warming is a problem caused by greenhouse gases.”

Yusuf asked, “What do you mean? Green gases in a house?”

His uncle laughed.

“No, no, let me explain.



A greenhouse is a house made of windows.”

“People who live in cold climates can grow plants inside a greenhouse because the glass traps the sun’s heat inside and keeps it warm.”

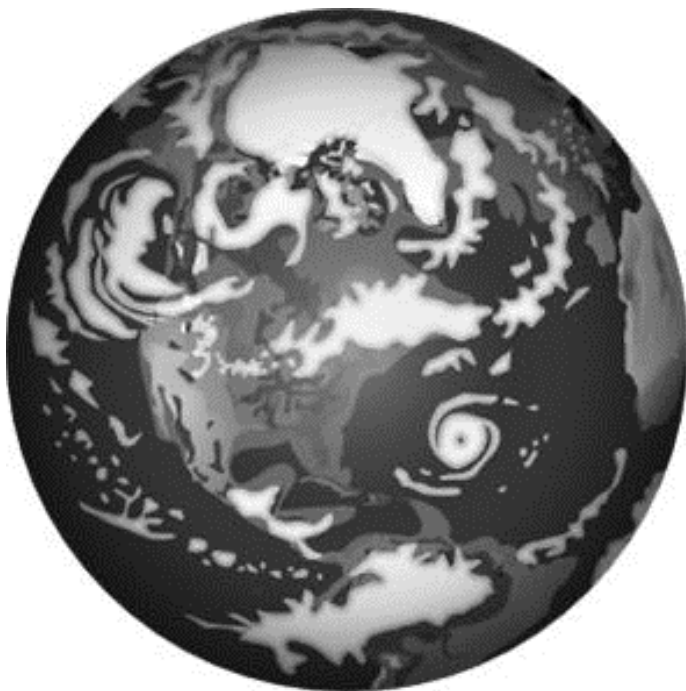


Yusuf said, “OK, but what does that have to do with my village?”

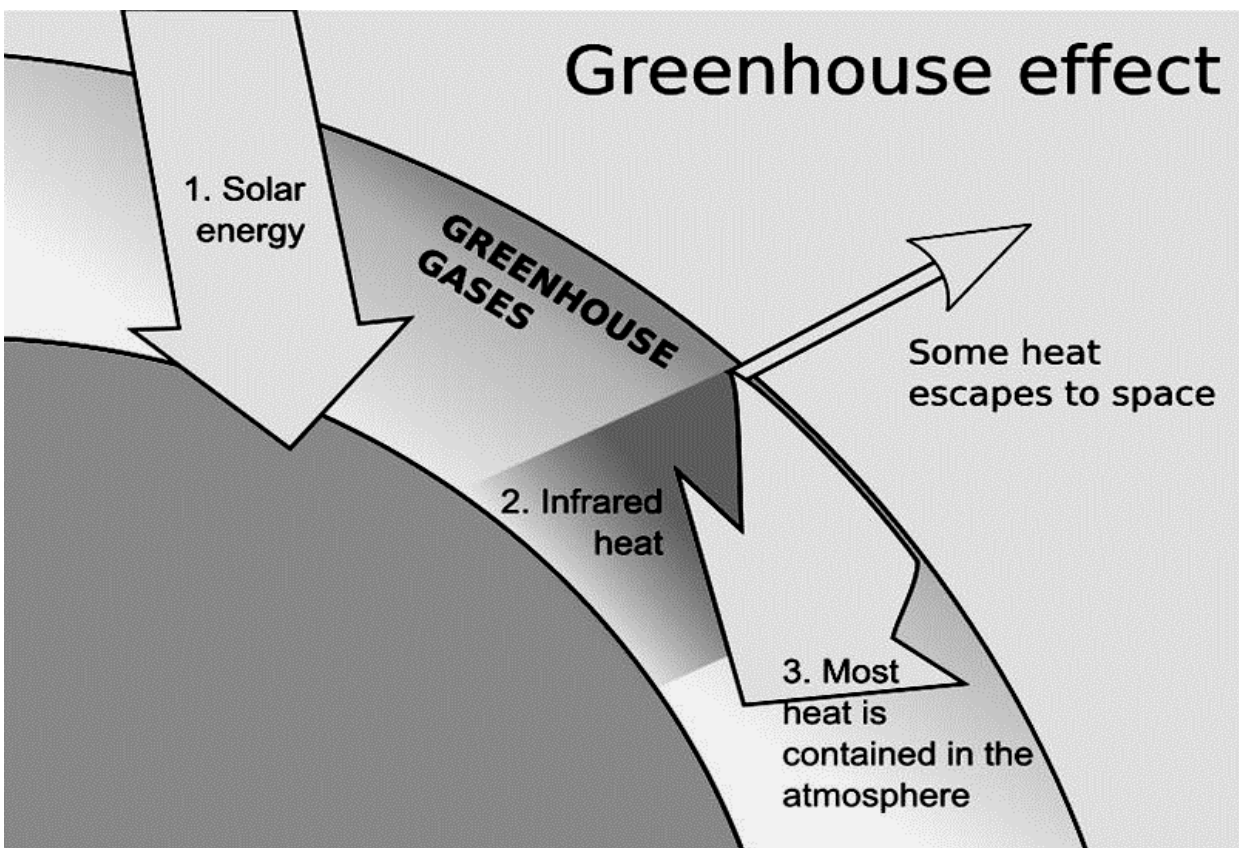
Then his auntie explained, “There are gases in the atmosphere above the earth, like water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane,



and ozone.”



“These gases act like the glass in a green-house. They trap much of the sun’s heat inside the atmosphere, and that warms the earth.”



His uncle added, “Of course we need the atmosphere to trap *some* of the heat so that we don’t freeze to death. But nowadays it is trapping too much heat, and the earth is getting warmer.”

Yusuf asked, “Why?”

His uncle replied, “The main problem is the gas carbon dioxide.”

“We humans have put more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere now than there used to be.

“Most of it comes from burning fossil fuels, like the oil burned to run cars and factories.”



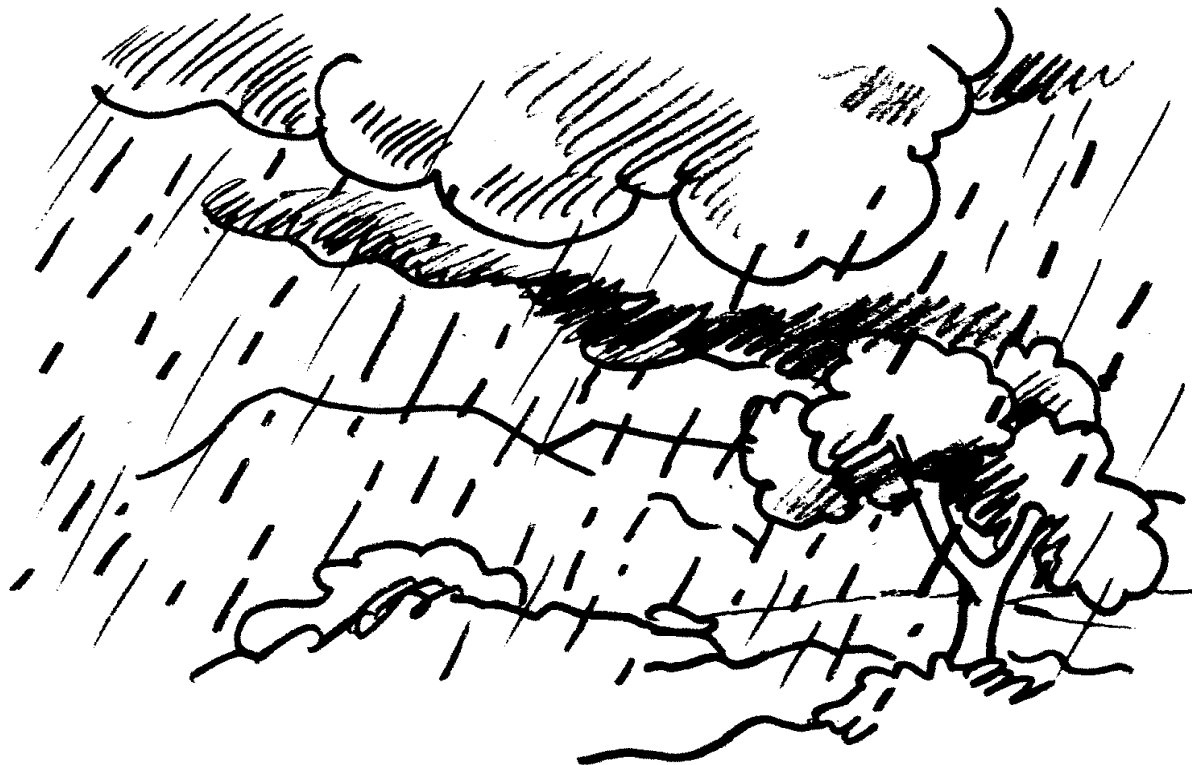
His auntie added, “And there are fewer trees now, too. Trees take in carbon dioxide and give oxygen in return. They clean the air for us. But these days we are cutting them all down!”



By now Yusuf was really worried. He asked, “What is going to happen?”



His uncle said, “Well, global warming causes a lot of problems besides just hotter weather.”



“For example, now we will see more severe storms, heavy rainfall, and then droughts. This hurts the plants, animals, and people.”

Yusuf pushed his food away. He asked sadly, “How can we solve it?”



His uncle replied softly, “Yusuf, the road to solving global warming is very long. But one thing you can do in your village is to plant a lot of trees and avoid cutting them down.”

After staying with his uncle for several weeks, it was time for Yusuf to go back to his village. He was determined to make a difference.



On returning to his village, Yusuf gathered all his friends and told them about global warming and the importance of trees.



In the weeks that followed, Yusuf and his friends planted trees all over town.





Yusuf also planted a lot of trees, bushes, and flowers in his own backyard.

Yusuf always watered the plants so that they would grow faster.

He didn't stop there; he also put animal dumps on the soil to make the soil more fertile.

After a few months the plants were growing well, as expected.

Yusuf knew that it would take many years for the trees to grow big and numerous enough to make a difference.

But in the meantime, people's compounds were already starting to feel cooler and fresher.



Thanks to Yusuf's example, the whole village now knew about global warming and about the importance of trees in combatting it.

All of the villagers were proud of Yusuf. The village chief even offered to pay Yusuf's school fees.

Even though Yusuf was just a young boy, he became a hero in his village.

He shared his knowledge and put it into action to help other people.

How about you?

What can you do to make your community a better place?

Check Your Understanding!

1. Why was the weather in Yusuf's village getting hotter?
2. What did Yusuf's aunt and uncle teach him?
3. What did Yusuf do when he returned to the village?
4. Why are trees important?

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