

Sun Myung Moon Wants Your Church

By Kurt Van Gorden



"Sinless" True Parents - Rev. Moon and his wife as "Father and Mother" bless marriages of followers for producing "sinless" children.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: I have been doing research on the Unification Church (U. C.) since 1974. I have traveled from New York to Korea to gather information on this movement. Every quote in this publication is from the original U.C. publication in the Jude 3 Missions files. My challenge to Sun Myung Moon, Dr. Durst, Col. Pak, Dr. Kwak, Dr. Kim, or any Unification Seminary professor is that I will happily go on public television with them if they think that they can prove that any quote is out of context. If my challenge is refused, then the truth of this publication stands.

SUN MYUNG MOON, the founder of the Unification Church (U. C.) became popular in America during his 1971 "Day of Hope" tour. At that time his message was alluring to young people because he spoke of uniting America and Christianity to fight against communism. Hidden behind his message, however, was the real story of his beliefs which contained the message of overtaking and subjugating Christianity and that his doctrines were actually from the Korean folklore books of *Chung Gam Nok* with only a few Bible verses used to support his theories.

Mr. Moon's speeches, commonly referred to as "Master Speaks" by followers of the sect, are revered as revelation for a New Age. His followers have been dubbed as "Moonies" by the media, but he seems to take no offense at this because he calls his own followers Moonies on several occasions.¹ He has been the center of controversy among conservative and evangelical Christians because of his claim that the Second Coming of Christ was to be in Korea between 1917 and 1930 (Moon was born Jan. 6, 1920). While he rarely makes the direct statement that he is this messiah, his speeches are filled with statements which lead to no other conclusion. In the first collection of the Master Speaks series he was asked, "What makes Mr. Moon think he is the Messiah?" His answer was, "Study the Principle and you will know."² The Principle referred to here is said to be a new revelation from God.³ Mr. Moon published this "revelation" in a book called the *Divine Principle*.

The official training manuals of the U. C. are more direct in calling him the Messiah. In them we find such statements as, "Rev. Moon is Messiah, Lord of the Second

Advent....If only they can understand the fall of man they can understand that Father is Messiah....Rev. Moon found this. The man who found this must be sinless. Then he must be qualified to be the Messiah. Unless people can understand Father is the Messiah, they cannot move in." 4 Mr. Moon and his wife, Hak Ja (Han) Moon, are affectionately called True Parents by the Moonies. Moon is the Father and Mrs. Moon is the Mother. They are said to be in the role of spiritual rebirth Parents and they are here to complete the messianic work of Jesus which he left undone. The Moonies are instructed that they will be blessed by God when they close their prayers in the name of True Parents. 5 It is also claimed that Moon sometimes appears to his followers while they are in prayer. 6 At times it will be materially or at other times just in spirit form, or possibly as a "voice from a great distance." 7

Mr. Moon sees Christianity as a failing vehicle of God. He says, "God is now throwing Christianity away and is now establishing a new religion, and this new religion is Unification Church...If this is the truth, then the world is ours. With our right foot, we step on Christianity and we subjugate Christianity; with the left foot, we step on the ideology communism...." 8 He tells the Christian that we must know his secrets before we can go to heaven: "The Christian desires only to go to heaven without knowing all these secrets. They can't be admitted! They are lost." 9 When any Christian opposes or scrutinizes Moon's movement he is quick to call them a communist: "Communists are now uniting Judaism and Christianity, both Protestant and Catholic, to oppose the Unification Church." 10

If Christianity is so bad, then why did Moon choose to work with it instead of any other world religion? He answers this in the *Divine Principle* by saying that Christianity is supposed to accomplish the purpose for all the other religions. 11 By remembering his former quote we see a bit of a clouded issue. Mr. Moon has already said that God is throwing Christianity away to establish Moon's new religion, so the question must be addressed: Is Christianity being used by Mr. Moon only to later change it into the Unification Church? Moon speaks on this himself, "All Christians of the world are destined to be absorbed by our movement." 12 With a view toward the future, he says, "The Christian world will be absorbed by us during the next 7-year course." 13

I must ask if these are hap-hazard statements or perhaps thoughtless remarks. To this, again, Mr. Moon has already spoken, "Everything I do has a significance; nothing comes about meaninglessly." 14 Mr. Moon convinces his followers that his sermons are directly inspired by God. He claims to get an approval by God before he delivers them, "I am not dumb, nor am I following some blind faith. Any sermon I give has already been tested and proved in my own personal life....I am not just concocting this sermon this morning. I went before God and Jesus Christ with this truth and it was upheld before all of heaven. You will see this clearly after you die." 15 With stronger emphasis he says, "but you must trust my teaching, my words 100 percent because they are not my own. They are God's words." 16 Mr. Moon objects to any disbelief by his followers: "You may wonder if I am lying, but do not worry. You will find out for sure when you die." 17

Does God keep secrets and then complicate the truth so much that we have to wait until we die to find out what is true? No. The Scriptures tell us that the truths which God gave to us are for our understanding (Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20). Plainly stated, we can test Mr. Moon's teachings with the truth of the Scriptures (Acts 17:11; Jn. 5:39; 1 Cor. 14:32; 2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Tim. 3:16). In my study of the U. C. I have been amazed at how freely they have spent their money to hold large conferences all around the world, usually at no (or low) expense to the participants. In 1979 I was invited to participate in a "dialogue" with

Unification Theological Seminary students at their Barrytown campus in New York. At this conference there were several other ministers, some who were mildly listening to anything expounded upon by the Moonies, while others were quick to challenge issues of false doctrine with the Bible. I was particularly interested in why the Moonies spent the money to get us there, what was their purpose? A couple of the students told me of plans to send U. C. members into the established Christian Churches and begin to teach their doctrines. They showed me the plan given by Moon a year earlier. Moon said, "Did you know that the Barrytown students are visiting 120 different churches in the area? You will do the same thing; first you will visit people in their homes and then go to their churches and explain to the congregations what we are." 18



Dialogues in 1979 at the Unification Theological Seminary

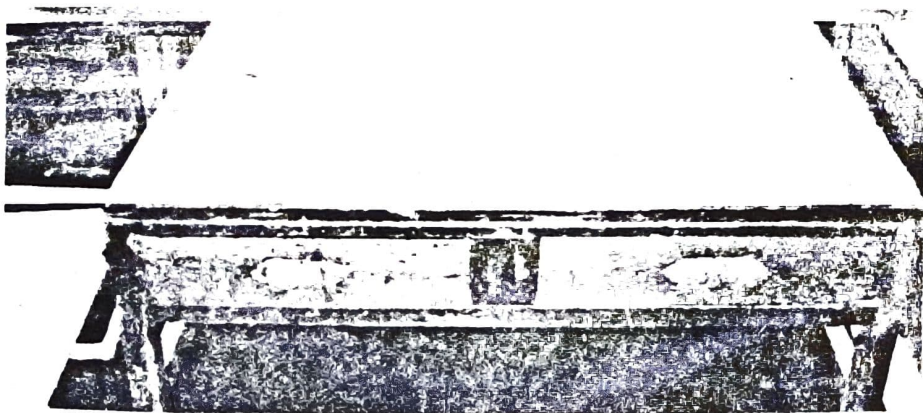
In 1980 I had the opportunity of appearing on a Los Angeles television program with the President of the U. C. in America, Dr. Mose Durst. I was able to debate him on a number of issues. At that time Dr. Durst announced that the U. C. was working hard to gain a more acceptable public image. Their program of sending pastors to U. C. conferences was a major move in softening the suspicions about their church.

The latest attempt at this was accomplished in 1988 when the U. C. sent 7,000 pastors to Korea to see the foundation of their movement. I was able to attend one of these conferences with a group of 210 ministers. The lectures on the Unification theology were not any deeper than what I had heard at any other meeting held in the United States. One lecturer said that they had spent over \$10,000,000.00 on the conferences at that point. I wondered why they would fly us to Korea to tell us the same thing that we heard in the United States. Were the pastors being subtly bought out? Listen to what Mr. Moon says his objective is for theologians, "In order for us to be able to manipulate all denominations of the world we must first of all be able to influence theological scholars....When we think of how to reach the theological scholars, to influence them, to have them influence the world, we will join in world wide Christian societies like the World Christian Council in the very near future." 19

In addition to funding conferences, the Moonies have done everything from asking nationally known pastors to be board members of their sub-organizations, to sending free sets of video tapes to every church in America. At the end of the Korean conference each participant was asked to sign a letter from the group to Mr. Moon. They did not give us copies of the letter, so I took a picture of it. I was surprised to see the number of pastors who unhesitantly signed their name under such statements as, "[God blessed] Rev. Moon with the vision of bringing together American clergy...as co-workers in His Kingdom....we praise God for your [Moon's] zeal in helping us to discover again the plan to establishment of His Kingdom on earth...to work together with the Unification movement...." Many of us refused to sign the letter on the basis that the Bible warns us against such things (2 Cor. 6:14).

Mr. Moon's view of the Bible itself falls short of a true follower of God. He says that there will be no long-term need for the Bible, "Until our mission with the Christian Church is over, we must quote the Bible and use it to explain the Divine Principle. After we receive the inheritance of the Christian Church, we will be free to teach without the Bible."²⁰ He casts even more doubt upon the Bible by saying that it is incomplete, and it takes him and his wife as True Parents to complete its message, "The providential history of restoration under God is made up of the Old Testament Age, the New Testament Age, and the Completed Testament Age....and in the Completed Testament Age this is done through the Parents."²¹ When it comes to proper understanding of the Bible he tells us not to believe it literally, "Christians today do not know the position they have. They just blindly believe in Jesus Christ and accept the words of the Bible."²² The Bible is interpreted in the *Divine Principle* by a Taoist philosophy, where literal understanding is replaced by symbolism.²³

There is an old seminary statement which is fitting here, "The Bible best interprets the Bible." The Bible itself gives us examples of how we should interpret it. It should first be read in a literal sense, such as in the examples we find in the teachings of Jesus (Lk. 16:29-31; Mt. 5:17-19; Mt. 24:35). Anything which is meant to be taken as a parable of figure or speech will usually have a direct indication of such (Mt. 13:3, 10, 24). Jesus shows us that interpreting the Bible should not violate the historical background (Lk. 11:29-32), 47-51) nor the context (Mt. 4:6-7). Always compare any verse to the whole message of Scripture to make sure that you have not isolated the verse (Lk. 24:27, 44-46). Even when one looks for a deeper meaning in the original languages of the Bible it is to get a clearer understanding of the literal meaning. Mr. Moon violates each of these as well as other methods of Biblical hermeneutics.



The table used by Moon to write the *Divine Principle* in Pusan, Korea

When we look at Mr. Moon's view of God it is quite different from Biblical Christianity. Mr. Moon has adopted the dualistic terminology of Taoism to describe God. According to him, God's essence is dual, positive and negative, masculine and feminine, yang and yin.²⁴ Everything God is and everything God does is viewed as the "give and take relationship" of yang and yin in Taoism. Thus, within God's own nature there is a harmonious give and take with the negative and positive aspects. All creation is also in a give and take relationship with God and with all other created things. When creation is out of harmony then there is no give and take with God. There is also no harmonious give and take with the other objects of creation. This is what the *Divine Principle* teaches is the main problem of our corrupt world. Their mission is to restore the perfect harmonious give and take of dualism with God

and creation. Is there a problem with this? Yes. Their problem is in their concept of a god which still has potential, consequently their god is not fully perfect until all creation is back in harmony. While some U. C. literature reflects that they believe God has "perfect intellect, emotion and will,"²⁵ at the same time Mr. Moon says that God is imperfect. For an example, Moon teaches that God needs creation for his own self-fulfillment.²⁶ According to Moon, God has no love without man: "Are we here for the cosmos or God? How can you save God if He is already omniscient and omnipotent, unchanging and unique? It is because of love, which God does not have, that even you can save God. God cannot love by Himself because He needs an object; He needs you."²⁷ Moon continued to teach his followers, "Because you know God so well you can say, 'God, You are almighty and omnipresent, but no matter how great You are, You need me because without Your object You cannot be subject [give and take]. I am Your partner and without me you are not perfectWhen God is struck by your true love He is rendered helplessThe situation of God existing alone without man is unthinkable. Subject and object cannot exist without each other. If man did not exist then God would vanish."²⁸

Mr. Moon also directly attacks the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity, which is One God in Three distinct Persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. According to Moon there are several "trinities" and the Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit began sometime after the crucifixion of Christ. He says that the original trinity was Adam, Eve and God. After the fall of man the trinity changed to Adam, Eve and Satan. Moon also has a NEW TRINITY which is God, the Third Adam and the Third Eve. The Third Adam and Eve are also the True Parents, viz., Mr. and Mrs. Moon.²⁹ In the future the U. C. will center upon this new "trinity" (spiritual and physical) which is God, Moon and his wife. Until that time they will have to settle for the lesser Trinity (spiritual only) of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

What does the Bible tell us about God? The Trinity is what we define Biblically as the concept of One God in Three Persons. Call the Eternal God the Trinity or call Him the Biblical God, He is still Three Persons in One Being. The first thing that we should look at is that God is Eternal and Unchanging (Deut. 33:27; Ps. 90:2; Mal. 3:6; Acts 17:25; James 1:17). Since He is unchanging He does not need man or creation to bring Him joy, if He did then that would make a change, but He is unchangeable. If God could vanish, as Mr. Moon says, then again, He would be changeable. God is perfect and perfection cannot be less than the ultimate. Mr. Moon's god is not the ultimate nor perfect because his god needs man to exist and keep him from vanishing. According to the Bible God is Love (1 Jn. 4:7-8). Since the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are Eternal then there is Eternal love existing between the Three Persons of the Trinity. Therefore God did not have to create man because He needed love, He created man in His image (Gen. 1:26) so that man could choose to love God voluntarily.

We find in the Bible that God is perfect. He is omnipotent (all powerful), Omniscient (all knowing), and omnipresent (everywhere present). We find these unique attributes of God present in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All three Persons are Eternal (Deut. 33:27; Jn. 1:1-14; Heb. 13:8; Heb. 9:14). All three Persons are omnipotent (Jer. 32:17; Mt. 28:18; 1 Cor. 1:24; Lk. 1:35-37). All three Persons are omniscient (Ps. 139:1-6; Jn. 16:30; 1 Cor. 1:24; Isa. 40:13). All three Persons are omnipresent (Jer. 23:24; Mt. 18:20; Ps. 139:7-10). Even when the Eternal Son became man in Jesus Christ it never altered nor changed His nature as God (Phil. 2:6-8; Col. 2:9). All of His deity was hidden in his flesh (Col. 2:3). Still, while He was God incarnate (Jn. 20:28), the human nature of Jesus was not altered either (Heb. 2:14). Since He was also man He truly died and rose bodily from the grave (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Mr. Moon has exchanged the truth of God for a lie (Rom.

1:25) by saying that Jesus is not God himself.³⁰ Moon has exchanged the Trinity for the dual god of the Taoist philosophy.

Mr. Moon also denies the virgin birth of Christ by saying that Jesus was "born of a father and mother, just as anyone else is....To be conceived by the Holy Spirit means that Jesus was not born of the lust of his parents."³¹ Contrary to what Moon says, in the Bible it is clear that Joseph and Mary did not have relations to produce Jesus (Mt. 1:18-25). The miraculous conception was by the Holy Spirit and not by a man (Lk. 1:31-35).

Mr. Moon also claims that the purpose of Jesus coming to the earth was to find a wife and get married, to establish spiritual and physical salvation. He goes on to say that the people failed to support Jesus in His mission, so He did not find a wife. Instead, He took an alternative plan and died on the cross to save man spiritually only. This theory then expands to say that man has been waiting for the return of a messiah for 2,000 years to complete the work that Jesus left undone. The *Divine Principle* speaks heavily of a returning of the "lord of the Second Advent," and a "messiah,"³² but strangely this new messiah is never identified as the personal physical return of the same Lord Jesus Christ who came the first time. The fact is that the Moonies do not expect Jesus of Nazareth, they expect Moon as messiah.

In answer to the above I simply ask the Moonies to make a list of the Old Testament prophecies which said that the mission of Jesus was to get married. At the same time I will give them a list of prophecies which detail His mission as dying for our sins, raising bodily from the dead, and returning a second time. When I say this to Moonies they usually hand me a blank piece of paper (this has truly happened) and I hand them a list like this:

The death of Jesus predicted and fulfilled - Ps. 16:8 (Acts 2:25-28); Ps. 22:1 (Mt. 27:46); 22:2 (Mt. 27:45); 22:7 (Mt. 27:39); 22:8 (Mt. 27:43); 22:14 (Jn. 19:34); 22:15 (Jn. 19:28); 22:16 (Jn. 20:20); 22:17 (Mt. 27:39); 22:18 (Lk. 23:34); Ps. 31:5 (Lk. 23:46); Ps. 34:20 (Jn. 19:37); Isa. 53:3 (Mt. 27:30-31); 53:4 (Jn. 19:34); 53:5 (Jn. 19:33); 53:6 (1 Pet. 2:24); 53:7 (Jn. 19:9); 53:8 (Mt. 27:11-26); 53:9 (Mt. 27:57-60); 53:10 (Acts 2:24); Daniel 9:26 (Mt. 27:50); Zech. 12:10 (Jn. 19:34); 13:7 (Mt. 26:31).

The bodily resurrection of Jesus predicted and fulfilled - Ps. 16:8-10 (Acts 2:25-28, 31, 13:35); Ps. 22:22 (Jn. 20:17); Ps. 41:9-10 (Jn. 13:18-19); 68:18 (Eph. 4:8); Jonah 1:17 (Mt. 12:40).

The personal return of Jesus was predicted - Jn. 14:3; Mt. 24:24; Acts 1:11; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thes. 4:13-17; Titus 2:13; Rev. 1:7-8, 22:20.

All of these prophecies point to the same thing. There is only ONE Messiah, Jesus, and He is coming again! Mr. Moon wrongly teaches that Jesus raised only as a spirit, without a body.³³ It is so clear throughout the New Testament that the mission of Jesus was to die for our sins and to raise in his own body (Jn. 2:17-23; 10:17-18; Lk. 24:39; Acts 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:14). Jesus is the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). This tells us that His death was the plan for our redemption long before the world began. The book of Hebrews is strong in saying that His death was necessary (not an alternative plan) or we could never be saved (Heb. 9:16, 10:5-12, 19-20).

Mr. Moon has missed the mark on the Holy Spirit as well. He says that the Holy Spirit is the "female" partner of Jesus: "There are many who receive revelations indicating that the Holy Spirit is a female Spirit; this is because she came as the True Mother, that is, the second Eve."³⁴ Mr. Moon does not say who it was that received these revelations, but it all stops short of the truth. The reason is that Jesus reveals the opposite teaching when He often referred to the Holy Spirit in the masculine as "He" and "Him" (Jn. 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-14). I encourage the reader to

follow the revelation of Jesus over that of unnamed false teachers. Besides this, Mr. Moon's teaching on the Holy Spirit makes mockery of the Trinity. His concept of the Holy Spirit is that the Holy Spirit is only temporarily the Second Eve, soon to be replaced by Mrs. Moon, the Third Eve.³⁵ Mr. Moon's lack of Biblical knowledge surfaces again, for Jesus told us that the Holy Spirit will abide with us forever (Jn. 14:16). Forever is eternal, not to be replaced with a new person.



1988 conference at the "Rock of Tears" near Pusan, Korea, where Moon supposedly received revelations and visions of Jesus

The plan of salvation for Moonies is based upon another unfounded (and unproved) theory; that Adam and Eve's original sin was sexual misconduct. Moon's reasoning for this is that Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves to cover the place where the sin took place.³⁶ The only real information provided in Genesis 3:7 is that Adam and Eve knew that they were naked and that they sewed fig leaves for coverings. This only speaks of what they knew, not of where the sin took place. Nothing is said about how many leaves were used or how much of their body was covered. It is only the vain imagination of Mr. Moon that supports his theory. In his theory he says that Eve had sex with the serpent (Satan) which corrupted her blood. Adam tainted his blood by having sex with Eve afterwards. All humans have been born with this tainted blood since then. Moon says if we could have our blood cleansed then we would be sinless (like he is).

Moon teaches that if Jesus would have found a bride, then marriage could have been established by Jesus to produce sinless offspring. Eventually this would have multiplied until no sinful people were left. Moon tells us that since Jesus did not find the right woman to marry, He decided to save us spiritually only by dying on the cross. The physical salvation would have to wait. A new messiah would have to come to deal with man's bad blood by establishing the marriage that Jesus did not do. This is where Moon and his wife come into the picture. They are supposed to save mankind both spiritually and physically through marriage.

The bad news for Mr. Moon and his followers is that his theories will not impress God on the day of judgement. Mankind, when relying solely upon the grace of God can be saved both spiritually and physically through the work of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, there is no need for Moon's theories or a new messiah. Jesus paid it all! The physical salvation of the Christian is realized through the bodily resurrection of Jesus (Rom. 8:23). Because He raised we shall also raise from the dead (1 Cor. 15:21-22). The resurrection unto eternal life for the Christian is the ultimate in physical redemption (Jn. 5:28-29). Through this we shall be perfected (Phil. 3:21; 2 Cor. 3:18).

The good news for the Moonie is that they can find true salvation in Jesus Christ alone (Acts 4:12). Jesus did not save us only half-way, but completely. There are not two messiahs in the Bible. There is One Messiah with two advents. Jesus promised His own personal return, but if you wait until you die or until He comes again, it will be too late (Jn. 10:8; Mk. 14:62; Rev. 1:7-8, 22:20). The way to receive true salvation is solely by faith in Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:12-13; 6:29; Acts 10:43; 1 Jn. 3:23; 5:10-13). It is not by our own works (Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5) but by the grace of God that we can be saved.

(Written by Kurt Van Gorden for Jude 3 Missions, copyright 1988)

NOTES: *Master Speaks* (hence, *MS*), all issues are published by the Unification Church. (1) *MS* April 1965, 2, pgs 15, 19; Jan. 8, 1978, pg 4; May 1, 1978, pg 5 (2) *MS* Apr. 1965, pg 1 (3) *Outline of the Principle, Level 4*, Dr. Kwak, 1980, Unification Church, pg 1 (4) *120 Day Training Manual*, Dr. Sudo, 1975, Unification Church, pgs 160, 222, 400 (5) *MS* Apr. 1965, 3, pg 2; Dr. Sudo, op. cit., pg 203 (7) *MS* Apr. 1965, 3, pg 4; Mar. 16, 1977, pg 8 (8) *MS Paris Address*, Apr. 2, 1972, pgs 3, 5 (9) *MS* Apr. 1965, 2, pg 13 (10) *MS* Jan. 23, 1977, pg 14 (11) *Divine Principle*, (hence, *DP*), Unification Church, 1973, pgs 108, 123, 528 (12) *MS* Dec. 22, 1971, pg 10 (13) *MS* Jan. 20, 1973, pg 6 (14) *MS* Jan. 17, 1973, pg 4 (15) *MS* May 22, 1977, pgs 7, 12 (16) *MS* Jan. 2, 1977, pg 4 (17) *MS* May 22, 1977, pg 14 (18) *MS* Apr. 1978, pg 10 (19) *MS* Jan 30, 1973, pg 2 (20) *MS* Apr. 1965, 7, pg 1 (21) *MS* May 27, 1973, pg 1 (22) *MS* Jan. 1, 1977, pg 4 (23) *DP* pgs 114-499, 502-535 (24) *DP* pgs 24, 26-27 (25) *Declaration of the Unification Theological Affirmation at Barrytown, New York*, Oct. 14, 1976, signed by 38 UTS students (26) Dr. Kwak, op. cit., pg 22 (27) *MS* May 1, 1978, pg 6 (28) *MS* May 27, 1977, pg 6 (29) *DP* pgs 217, 218; Dr. Kwak, op. cit., pgs 98-99 (30) *DP* pg 212 (31) *MS* Apr. 1965, 7, pg 4 (32) *DP* pgs 498-532 (33) *MS* Feb. 13, 1972, pg 12 (34) *DP* pg 215 (35) Dr. Kwak, op. cit., pg 99 (36) *DP* pgs 77-80

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