1 2 3 4 5 THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 6 7 8 IN THE MATTER OF THE DISMISSAL OF RAFE ESQUITH (EN Redact), A 9 STATEMENT OF CHARGES 10 PERMANENT CERTIFICATED 11 **EMPLOYEE** 12 13 The undersigned herewith files the following Statement of Charges (hereinafter 14 "Charges") against RAFE ESOUITH (hereinafter "ESQUITH"), a permanent certificated 15 employee of the Los Angeles Unified School District (hereinafter "District") and asks for his 16 immediate suspension without pay and dismissal for the following causes as specified in sections 17 44932 and 44939 of the California Education Code: 18 **CAUSES** 19 1. Immoral conduct, including, but not limited to, egregious misconduct. (Ed. Code 20 § 44932(a)(1).) 21 2. Immoral conduct. (Ed. Code § 44939.) 22 3. Unprofessional conduct. (Ed. Code § 44932(a)(2).) 23 4. Dishonesty. (Ed. Code § 44932(a)(4).) 24 5. Evident unfitness for service. (Ed. Code § 44932(a)(6).) 25 6. Persistent violation of or refusal to obey the school laws of the state or reasonable 26 regulations prescribed for the government of the public schools by the State Board 27 of Education or by the governing board of the school district employing him. (Ed.

Code § 44932(a)(8).)

a.

old at the time:

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On one occasion, when BRe 's mother hired ESQUITH to babysit for BRe

at their home, she awakened several times to find him staring at her while she slept.

- b. On one occasion, during a trip to Crater Lake, Oregon with ESQUITH and other children, ESQUITH climbed inside BRe's sleeping bag, reached under her clothes, and massaged her stomach and breasts, skin to skin.
- 8. During the period commencing in or about 1976 and ending in or about 1977, ESQUITH had multiple sleepovers at his residence with former Westside Jewish Community Center and First Class Students, including BRedacted, who was then 10 or 11 years old, and ESQUITH was the only adult present.
 - a. At a sleepover B_{clac} wore a nightgown with buttons in the front. When she went to bed, the buttons were all buttoned, but when BRe woke up, they were all unbuttoned. Another student told BRe that, in the middle of the night, she had observed ESQUITH standing over BRe and messing with her buttons.
- 9. In or about 1976 or 1977, ESQUITH humiliated BRe in front of the entire First Class group. After learning that BRe had told a friend that she had smoked a cigarette, ESQUITH humiliated BRe by throwing a pack of cigarettes at her and calling her a "low life," or words to that effect, in front of the other kids. After that incident ESQUITH shunned BRe
- 10. During or about the 1994-1995 school year, ESQUITH, fifth grade teacher at Hobart Boulevard Elementary School, did the following to Mi^{Redacted}, who was one of ESQUITH's fifth grade students at that time:
 - a. Motioned to her to sit in ESQUITH's lap.
 - Placed ESQUITH's right hand on her right hip area and pulled her toward
 ESQUITH body until she was sitting on ESQUITH's lap.
 - c. Touched and groped her buttocks with his hand, causing her to jump up and move away from ESQUITH.
- 11. During the period commencing in or about the 1994-1995 school year and ending in or about the 1995-1996 school year, M. Redact observed that ESQUITH engaged in the

- a. Became upset with E Redact . for jumping around in her hotel room.
- b. Left E^{Redact}. alone in the room with no food for the entire next day while ESQUITH and ESQUITH's wife took the other students sightseeing.
- c. When, following the trip, ERedact . told ESQUITH privately that she no longer wanted to be a member of the group, ESQUITH took her into his classroom full of students, berated her, and called her a loser, or words to that effect.
- 14. ESQUITH improperly and without authorization used District resources and Hobart Boulevard Elementary School's address for his alleged "non-profit" the "Hobart Shakespeareans." The "Hobart Shakespeareans" website could be accessed directly from the Hobart Boulevard Elementary School website.
- 15. In or about 2005, ESQUITH did the following to Hobart Elementary School Teacher Lisa Newman:
 - a. Offered to show her why ESQUITH's wife had married him; and
 - b. Gestured at the zipper of his pants.
- 16. During the period commencing in or about the 2004-2005 school year and ending in or about the 2014-2015 school year, at Hobart Boulevard Elementary School, ESQUITH caused 5th, 6th and 7th grade student(s) of the District, who were then or formerly in ESQUITH's 5th grade class, to participate in trips with ESQUITH and other students to Disneyland, Washington DC, Monterey, and Oregon.
- 17. During the period commencing in or about the 2004-2005 school year and ending in or about the 2014-2015 school year, ESQUITH conducted Saturday classes at Hobart Boulevard Elementary School for the "Hobart Shakespeareans." ESQUITH charged \$100 per month for student(s) to attend the class, which student(s) paid directly to ESQUITH each month, and did not receive a receipt. ESQUITH advised the student(s) that the money for the Saturday classes was to help pay for airfare, lodging, and watching plays on their trip to Oregon.
- 18. During the period commencing in or about the 2004-2005 school year and ending in or about the 2014-2015 school year, ESQUITH failed to provide appropriate supervision

- f. Spoke with M^{Redact} on the phone and engaged in multiple non-school-related conversations with him in the evenings, outside of school.
- 23. During the 2010-2011 school year, ESQUITH engaged in the following inappropriate behaviors, in relation to ERedacte., a 5th grade student in ESQUITH's class, by doing the following:
 - a. Paid for music lessons for ERedacte.
 - b. Transported ERedac in his personal vehicle without proper authorization to and from music lessons at Charles Music in Glendale, at least one time per week.
 - c. On multiple occasions, took E^{Redac} to his house, both alone and with other students.
 - d. Invited E^{Redacte}.. and other student(s) to his home to watch a movie and receive cooking lessons from his wife.
- 24. During the 2010-2011 school year ESQUITH demonstrated inappropriate behaviors, such as:
 - a. Got upset or mad at students.
 - b. Used the F-word when he was upset or mad.
 - c. Took students he was mad at to another room.
- 25. During the period commencing on or about March 1, 2015, and ending on or about March 30, 2015, ESQUITH did the following in the computer lab, in the presence of Barbara Hayden, Hobart Boulevard Elementary School Teacher, causing Ms. Hayden to be uncomfortable:
 - a. In the presence of a class full of students, in response to student K Reda Re 's question about what he should do after he finished his work, stated, "Surf the net for porn. That's what we do in our spare time," or words to that effect, and pointed to Ms. Hayden as he spoke, then laughed and said, "I'm just kidding. It's a joke," or words to that effect.
 - b. Stated in the presence of and regarding student JRedact., who was

appearing in an upcoming play, "If the audience doesn't like his performance, he can perform while nude, or at least wear a fig leaf. And, from what I've heard, it would be a small fig leaf," or words to that effect.

- 26. On or about April 15, 2015, a scan of ESQUITH's District's issued computer, serial # 825HP1GGDHJF, revealed multiple inappropriate images and videos including but not limited to, the following:
 - a. A picture of a man and two young boys wearing only fig leaves covering their genital areas and red and white Santa hats on their heads, and a woman wearing only a fig leaf covering her genitals, coconut shells covering her breasts, and a red and white Santa hat on her head.
 - b. A picture of a young dark-haired woman lying on her side with her eyes closed, wearing only a red bra and red panties
 - c. A picture of a dark-haired woman, sitting on a brown chair or sofa, naked with her breasts and nipples exposed
 - d. A picture, with a Playboy logo in the bottom right corner, of a blond woman in a black bikini, pulling down the bikini bottom with her thumbs
 - e. A picture of a topless blond woman in what appears to be a hot tub, wearing a blue bikini bottom, exposing her breasts and nipples
 - f. Multiple images of what appears to be a red-haired woman, in a sitting position with her buttocks exposed, on top of the pelvic area of what appears to be a man lying face-up underneath her
 - g. One 50-second video clip of a woman performing a full strip-tease resulting in her being completely nude in front of a closed door, which is ultimately opened by an elderly couple
 - h. One 56 image animated GIF video of a woman (whose face is not shown), wearing denim shorts and a t-shirt. In the video, the woman's t-shirt is removed by someone approaching her from behind, resulting in her breasts and nipples being fully exposed.

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1		the person is."
2 xvi. ESQUITH wrote, "Sorry, my dear, you have made it c		
3		are "above" such absurd topics as lust!"
4	xvii.	She replied, "I'm not lusting"
5	xviii.	ESQUITH wrote, "I know that, which is why you would have no
6		interest in men who list (sic) after you"
7	xix.	She replied, "I'm not interested IN the person, I'm interested in
8		who the person IS"
9	xx.	ESQUITH wrote, "And there are many guys"
10	xxi.	She replied, "No, I just want to know who it is, so I can KNOW."
11	xxii.	ESQUITH wrote, "Either you are interested in such matters or
12		not you should not feed (sic) dad (sic) about being a wild
13		teenager!"
14	xxiii.	She replied, "But I'm Not."
15	h. On M	May 16, 2013, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
16	i.	"Just do your homework. I felt TERRIBLE for you today. If you
17		need to sleep at Hobart I can get you a bedno kidding."
18	i. On	April 28, 2013, ESQUITH had the following electronic
19	com	nunication with her:
20	i.	ESQUITH wrote, "When I see you Tuesday, I have your money to
21		pay for next year of Immaculate Heart. I will also have a check to
22		CRedac to get her braces started."
23	ii.	ESQUITH wrote, "I know you already do this, but when you get
24		the check, make sure you thank HRed and give her a big juicy kiss
25		on the lips."
26	iii.	ESQUITH wrote, "You are one of the most beautiful women I
27		have ever seen, and HRed saw it right away. You are a Goddess."
28	iv.	She replied, "That's so weird"

v.	ESQUITH wrote, "Not weird at all. You know many things, and			
	are a fabulous student. But you do not understand men and their			
	wants and desires. You are their dream come true."			
vi.	She replied, "Oh myI totally doubt that"			
vii.	ESQUITH wrote, "Doubt all you like. I know a LOT about such			
	things!!!! Years of practice, practice, practice!!!!!"			
viii.	She replied, "Oh my"			
ix.	ESQUITH wrote, "You need to do things a LOT to get good, don't			
	you agree?"			
x.	She replied, "I don't know, I haven't had any experience"			
xi.	ESQUITH wrote, "I know. But soon you will begin, and I so			
	admire your work ethic. Once you begin practicing, you will want			
	to practice every day and every night!!!!"			
xii.	She replied, "Oh mythat's so disturbing"			
xiii.	ESQUITH wrote, "Not disturbingFUN!!!! you'll see!"			
xiv.	She replied, "I don't want to see"			
xv.	ESQUITH wrote, "Things change, ERe. Trust me. Take your			
	time, but you are going to love it!!!!"			
xvi.	She replied, "It doesn't sound like something loving"			
xvii.	ESQUITH wrote, "It is when you find the right person!!! LOTS of			
	people LOVE you!!!! All you need is love!"			
xviii.	She replied, "It's too weird"			
xix.	you wrote, "It can't be THAT weird. How do you think you got			
	here!!!!"			
xx.	She replied, "For the time being they are weird"			
xxi.	ESQUITH wrote, "No, they are fine. You are young. That does			
	not make them weird!"			
xxii.	She replied, "Just the whole concept and idea of love and stuff just			
	vi. vii. viii. ix. x. xi. xii. xiii. xiv. xv. xv. xvii. xvii. xviii. xxix.			

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1		seems so distant and almost impossible."
2	xxiii.	ESQUITH wrote, "Are you saying you are unlovable???!!! I love
3		you more than life itself!"
4	j. On	April 19th and 20th of 2013, ESQUITH sent her the following
5	sta	tements:
6	i.	On the 20th, ESQUITH sent her, "Don't neglect your boyfriends!"
7	ii.	To which she replied, "Why would I have a boyfriend?"
8	iii.	To which ESQUITH responded on the 20th, "Because you are so
9		hot and brilliant and exciting and special Have a wonderful day,
10		beautiful girl."
11	k. On	March 29, 2013, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
12	i.	"You are the greatest girl on the planet, and the hottest chick too!"
13	ii.	"Is it okay if I come to your house at 1:30? I will call you from my
14		house. Please send your phone number."
15	· iii.	When she sent ESQUITH her home number, ESQUITH responded
16		with, "Thank you, o hot one!"
17	iv.	When she responded to that statement with, "Uh WHAT?",
18		ESQUITH sent, "You are hotter than the sun and brighter than the
19		brightest star"
20	l. On	February 18, 2013, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
21	i.	"You're pretty."
22	ii.	"It's part of your amazing self. And a very amazing self it is!"
23	iii.	"You got even prettier."
24	iv.	"And even more pretty. Beautiful. Elegant. Dazzling. Sexy.
25		Gorgeous. You are all of that and much much more."
26	v.	"Don't argue, hottie."
27	m. On	November 18, 2012, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
28	i.	"If you can, let me know if the afternoon or evening would be

1	13-year old E ^{Redacto}	e., a fo	ormer student from his 5th grade class at Hobart Boulevard Elementary
2	School to the follow	ing em	ail addressRedacted ::
3	a.	On I	February 3, 2013, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
4		i.	"I thought of you all day today, but didn't want to write because I
5			knew you were being put through the ringer. Bravo, EReda the
6			medals are nice, but a picture of you would be even better."
7		ii.	"In addition to you being a babe and a brilliant one at that, you are
8			courageous."
9		iii.	"You made it clear to me in the Summer of 2011 that you really
10			don't want my opinions or company"
11	b.	On 1	November 21, 2012, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
12		i.	"EReda, you did not "screw up" our relationship. You did not
13			make mistakes! None. In the Summer of 2011, you and your
14			friends told me the truthI hope during the holiday season you get
15			to do some outrageous awful things that would shock the world.
16			Don't save any room for Jesus and have fun. You deserve it!!"
17	c.	On I	February 28, 2012, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
18		i.	"Your brilliant, a total hottie, and have a great personality"
19		ii.	To which she responded, "I think it's really weird that you find me
20			the opposite of what I look at myself as. I never thought I was
21			pretty while looking in the mirror, always think I have extra fat
22			here and there, but if you say so"
23		iii.	To which ESQUITH responded, "Hot chicks never think they are.
24			Trust me on that one!"
25		iv.	"Please NEVER apologize for not coming to class. I really do not
26			like it when you come. It is too complicated for reasons you do
27			not understand (and don't need to!)"
28		v.	He closed the email with, "Your favorite ATM, Rafe"

- 30. During the period commencing on or about April 26, 2010, and ending on or about February 18, 2013, ESQUITH, using a District issued computer, SN 825HP1GGDHJF, and a personal email address, Redacted sent the following statements through emails to 14-year old HRedacte , a former student from his 5th grade class at Hobart Boulevard Elementary School to the following email address Redacted
 - a. On February 18, 2013, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
 - i. "I was taking trash out to the dumpster. I saw JRedact walking down Harvard with HRedac. JRedact, who... I got a full scholarship to Willows. Paid her hospital bill when she was hurt. Paid for 2 years of drum lessons. Took to Ashland, Washington DC, and Idaho. Spent two years of Saturdays teaching her. Took to the Magic Castle. Took to Disneyland twice for 3 days. I called out, 'Hi JRedact!' And she ran away."
 - ii. "I cannot imagine how many guys you have to push away!"
 - iii. "Church the whole weekend? Oo la la!!! Heh Heh....I wonder what stuff went down!!!!! (but they didn't give you special suckers!!!!)"
 - b. On December 22, 2012, ESQUITH sent her the following statements in response to an email she sent thanking him for an IPAD he gave her as a gift:
 - i. "Hey Beautiful, I am so glad you like it. I think it will really help you in so many ways. And you DO deserve this. As long as you can stand it, you are stuck with me. I love you so much and am always VERY proud of you. I hope to see you soon in 2013. I am still in (sic) NZ but will be on (sic) OZ in a couple of days. Miss you always."
 - c. On November 27, 2012, ESQUITH sent her the following statements in

you might be in some discomfort after a visit and not feel like a movie. I totally understand, so let me know either way. Do not worry about the teeth. I will take care of you. Always. Forever. Those words mean something to me. And so do you."

- g. On March 6, 2012, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
 - i. "It means so much to hear from you... Miss you a LOT!"
 - ii. "You are the greatest!!! Try not to kiss too many guys..."
- h. On March 3, 2012, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
 - i. "You are unreal. I guess people see in you what I always knew.

 YOU are one in a million. A dazzling, brilliant, and gorgeous
 young woman of real substance....Meanwhile, I miss you already.

 There are no words to describe how important you are. You are
 Faith. You are real. You are HRedac....I don't think I even need a
 plane to get to China. You have me flying."
- i. On February 12, 2012, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
 - i. So you want diamond earrings? I will start saving (really!)
 Nothing is too good for the girl who teaches the torches to burn bright. And by the way, do you have a favorite gem?
 - ii. To which she responded, "No no! my ears aren't even pierced.Hahaha.:)"
 - iii. To which you replied, "I wasn't thinking of your ears! I figured you for the belly button piercing type!"
- j. On February 10th and 11th of 2012, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
 - i. ESQUITH sent, "I know several guys who wish they were Number One in your heart. You are such a hotttie (I know you don't believe that, and it makes you even hotter!) You SIZZLE!!!"

	II,	
1	iii. "Come	with me and the trip will be GREAT. Without you it
2	2 sucks.	•
3	o. On November	6, 2011, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
4	i. "My d	earWithout me, you would still be the beautiful sensation
5	5 that yo	u areMaybe we could meet Saturday at 11 for a bit. I
6	6 could	even give you a ride home."
7	p. On November	5, 2011, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
8	g i. "Dear	Pretty H ^{Reda} "
9	9 ii. "Seein	g you is always the highlight of my week."
10	0 iii. "Than	you for being so brilliant and talented and beautiful and
11	1 specia	. No one is more important than YOU."
12	q. On October 2	2, 2011, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
13	i. "It's ju	st a start. Let's talk a LOT about options for you next year.
14	4 You w	ill do WELL wherever you go because you're great, but I
15	5 want y	ou to be happy, and have lots of guys and beer and drugs
16	and all	the things that make high school great!"
17	7 r. On October 2	2, 2011, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
18	i. "You	are such a funny girl! You are not only drop-dead gorgeous
19	9 but yo	u have a sense of humor"
20	ii. "How	is your new after school? Is it better than the old one? Any
21	cute g	ıys?"
22	s. On October A	pril 30, 2011, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
23	i. "HRec	ac I miss you already. Can you please send me your
24	exact a	address and I will send you a cool movie!"
25	t. On October A	pril 27, 2011, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
26	i. "I wish	n! I know about all the other guys :("
27	ii. "Oh w	ell, can't blame a guy for trying!"
28	u. On October A	pril 26, 2011, ESOUITH sent her the following statements:

- i. "David...Is there a time I could call you on Wednesday,
 Thursday, or Friday to give you the details on DRed?..."
- b. On July 16, 2011, ESQUITH sent him the following statements:
 - i. "...One of my former students, entering New Roads High School,did (to my way of thinking) something quite awful."
 - ii. "This student has been treated WELL by New Roads, and has received tens of thousands of dollars in financial assistance. This kid did not simply do something at the spur of the moment. She stole things out of a hotel, and knew the wrong she was doing. She has shown absolutely no remorse."
 - iii. "In my opinion...this goes beyond a reprimand. She has been alive long enough to have figured out that you don't steal things."
 - iv. "If you are still reading, and want to know who it is, I will send you the student's name."
 - v. "...This was serious, and it is my hope that New Roads does not tolerate this sort of behavior. This student has severely damaged her family and friends through her actions, and does not care.

 Perhaps if she lost her scholarship she might see the light. I am sure there are many honest students who would appreciate the chance to go to New Roads."
- c. On August 16, 2011, after David informed him through email that New Roads had decided that dropping DRed from their school would not be in her or her family's best interest, ESQUITH sent her the following statements:
 - i. "Yesterday Barbara and I were driving....Dulce and Deed were there. We offered them a ride home but were refused.... I believe Deed is only upset because she has been caught..."
- 33. On or about January 2, 2011, ESQUITH, using a District issued computer SN

Hobart Boulevard Elementary School to the following email address Redacted

- a. On September 14, 2011, Sactor sent him the following statements:
 - i. "Dear Rafe, I have told you specifically that I was not involved in the stealing this summer and I thought you told me that you believed me. My mom knows of this matter and she wants you to contact her if I have done anything wrong. My mom said that she will get the punishment because I am under the age of 18. If you want to have a meeting with my mom, please email..."
 - ii. "Please don't email me anymore. This affects my school life because of stress. My mom doesn't want you to email these kinds of email to me anymore."
- b. In response to SRed's email, on September 14, 2011, he sent her the following statements:
 - i. On "SRed... I had no choice. I have emailed you many times and you did not even respond. Since you did not have the courtesy to write back, I was forced to listen to others. Thank you for taking time to write."
 - ii. "I think you are great! That's why I took you so many places and spent enormous amounts of time and money on you. I know you are going to have a fantastic future. I hope you are being honest with me, and I hope you will stay in touch."
- 36. On or about April 15, 2015, when questioned regarding ESQUITH's District-issued iPad (Serial # DVPHNCZ8DFHN), ESQUITH stated that he was never issued an iPAD. However, when shown his signature, ESQUITH admitted he had been issued the iPAD. ESQUITH then stated that his classroom had been burglarized and the iPAD had been stolen, along with other personal electronic items. When asked if he had reported the theft to LAPD, Los Angeles School Police, the Principal, or the District, ESQUITH stated that he had not reported the theft.

- 37. On or about May 27, 2015, when ESQUITH was interviewed in connection with allegations made against him, ESQUITH was not honest in his responses to the District.
- 38. While a District employee, ESQUITH improperly used his public position for personal and/or monetary gain related to the Hobart Shakespeareans.
- 39. During the period commencing on or about August 11, 2014, and ending on or about April 9, 2015, ESQUITH failed to follow District policy when he was absent without authorization (unpaid) 17 times on the following dates:

8/11/14	9/22/14	10/9/14	12/4/14	4/9/15
8/14/14	9/23/14	10/10/14	2/26/15	
8/28/14	9/24/14	11/4/14	2/27/15	
9/02/14	9/26/14	12/3/14	3/4/15	

40. During the period commencing on or about August 13, 2013, and ending on or about April 24, 2014, ESQUITH failed to follow District policy when he was absent without authorization (unpaid) 20 times on the following dates:

8/13/13	11/1/13	12/5/13	2/13/14	3/20/14
8/19/13	11/8/13	2/10/14	2/14/14	3/21/14
8/20/13	11/12/13	2/11/14	2/27/14	3/28/14
9/19/13	12/4/13	2/12/14	2/28/14	4/24/14

41. During the period commencing on or about August 15, 2012 and ending on or about May 24, 2013 ESQUITH failed to follow District policy when he was absent without authorization (unpaid) 14 times on the following dates:

8/15/12	11/5/12	3/6/13	4/19/13	
8/16/12	11/6/12	3/8/13	5/24/13	
10/16/12	2/26/13	4/8/13		
10/17/12	2/27/13	4/9/13		

date of service of this notice, and that he be dismissed at the expiration of those thirty (30) days

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1	unless he demands a hearing as provided under Education Code section 44937 and 44939, and
2	that the Board attach to this notice, under Education Code sections 44936 and 44939, a copy of
3	these Charges together with a copy of sections 44930 through 44988 of the Education Code, and
4	copies of Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6 and 11507.7.
5	The undersigned also asks that, if ESQUITH does demand such hearing as thus provided,
6	the Board schedule a hearing under the applicable statutory provisions.
7	The undersigned verifies on information and belief that the foregoing Charges are true
8	and correct. Respectfully submitted,
9	Respectionly submitted,
10	A
11	Dated: 9/30, 2015 Justo H. Avila
12	Chief Human Resources Officer
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