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"Eternal truth should not be slighted because it chances to be found in company with obsolete ideas regarding the material world. The more of science you know, the less sure you can be; the more of religion you HAVE, the more certain you are." p. 1119

"Science deals with FACTS; religion is concerned only with VALUES. Through enlightened philosophy the mind endeavors to unite the meanings of both facts and values, thereby arriving at a concept of complete REALITY. p. 1118

THE MASTER UNIVERSE

I can't remember my first thoughts about the universe. I do remember being on a local television broadcast about astronomy when I was about eleven or twelve. I studied the solar system extensively so I could answer all the questions that were to be asked of me. Whether this led to my interest in cosmology, whether I already had the stirrings of cosmological curiosity, or whether this fruit ripened later in my life I am not sure. But, I find this fruit very sweet now, and I know why.

For many years the planets were my favorite heavenly bodies. They were there; they were real; you could see them nightly and even chart their movements. The moons around Jupiter were visible through binoculars and the rings of Saturn could be seen through a small telescope. The unseen planets presented a mystery to be explored and pondered. Speculation about future discoveries of additional solar system and even extra-solar system planets was very exciting. The stars, however, were a real enigma. They were too far off, too numerous, and too ordinary to be of real interest. Life could not exist there, and life what what I was looking for and hoping to prove. I knew deep in my bones there was other life, other people, in the universe. I didn't know why I was so sure, but sure I was.

When I discovered The URANTIA Book I also discovered the life I was looking for. There was proof enough for me. The news of over 7 trillion inhabitable planets fully satisfied my preconception of life in outer space. p. 167. This sufficiently solved the mystery of the planets to allow my focus to change and grow. My thinking expanded in contemplation and conjecture.

The size and nature of the universe itself started to drive me. I wanted to know the mechanics of galaxies and the dynamics of the universe. I tried to form thoughts of infinity, unbounded space, stupendous mass, infinitesimal minutia, unbelievable density, absolute distance - micro and macro - and the nature of

time. I became involved with an inner struggle to know about the universe. So I studied astronomy and astrophysics and physics. I studied the Big Bang and the red shift and the expanding universe and the cosmic background radiation.

When I found The URANTIA Book I studied the universe, and the universe of universes. Now I am studying the master universe. I find the book and my head filled with dizzying thoughts and notions. Ideas and concepts that once were dark and fuzzy are now silhouetted by a backlight of intuition and revelation. At least I know now that someday I will understand it. This paper will explore the extent of that understanding in what we call the 'modern world'.

Current estimates of the size of the universe range from 10 to 25 billion light years. Every time someone says they have discovered another heavenly body a little farther out the size is extended to include that object. Much of this data is calculated or corroborated by what is called the red shift of light.

The term red shift refers to what light appears to do when its source is moving relative to its observer. Light is measured to travel at the same speed no matter what the motion of the source or observer. We say the speed of light is constant. When asked to explain this seemingly paradoxical phenomenon Einstein said he could not. He said he just accepted that it was so. What has been established however, is that light changes color slightly according to the relative motion of its source to the observer. When that source is moving away from us, relatively, the color shifts to the longer wave red end of the spectrum. When coming toward us the light shifts to blue shorter waves. This information coupled with the spectrographic and photometric analyses of stars, novae, supernovae, galaxies, galactic systems, pulsars, and now quasars, has been interpreted to show that the entire universe is expanding. I even have a map on my wall depicting a circular universe, in plane view, about 20 billion light years across, with our local system right in the middle!

Of course it would appear so at this time. From our viewpoint it is logical that the current limitations of our measuring instruments like optical, radio, and infra red telescopes would describe a circular universe. It is interesting that this universe is also viewed as planar in makeup. I believe this interpretation is somewhat simplistic, however, due to the current state of our technological advancement and our geocentric angle of observation. The URANTIA Book tells us not to let our dabblings in these faintly glimpsed findings of relativity disturb our concepts of the eternity and infinity of God. p. 2078.

The modern world is not in complete agreement as to the shape and dynamics of the universe. There are two people though, that are surveying the universe as a whole. They are mapping a new shape.

On page 129 we are told that the master universe is existent in six concentric elliptical space levels: horizontally extending outward from the central Isle of Paradise: 1. The Central Universe - Havona, 2. The Seven Superuniverses, 3. The First Outer Space Level, 4. The Second Outer Space Level, 5. The Third Outer Space Level, 6. The Fourth and Outermost Space Level. This makes seven physical domains of life although Paradise is said to exist without time and has no location in space. p. 120.

"The central Isle (of Paradise) is the most gigantic organized body of cosmic reality in all of the master universe." p. 118. The central and divine universe of Havona surrounds Paradise. It is far distant from Mebadon, our local universe, and is said to have enormous dimensions and almost unbelievable mass in its one billion spheres of unimagined beauty and superb grandeur. "The magnitude of this vast creation is really beyond the understanding grasp of the human mind." p. 152.

Moving outward from Paradise there exists first the quiescent midspace zones impinging on paradise. Then the seven sacred worlds of the Father make up the first circuit of material bodies surrounding Paradise. p. 144. The seven luminous spheres of the Eternal Son constitute the second circuit, p. 149, and the seven orbs of the Infinite Spirit exist between the worlds of The Eternal Son and the inner circuit of Havona. p. 149. After these three circuits of Paradise come the seven concentric circuits of Havona containing one billion worlds: from thirty-five million in the innermost Havona circuit to over two hundred and forty-five million in the outermost, with proportionate numbers in between. p. 152. It is interesting to read on page 153 that the Havona planetary systems are not superimposed. These worlds follow each other in a regular linear procession. We are also informed that the central universe orbits Paradise in one vast plane.

After these ten circuits there is a semiquiet space zone followed by the first belt of dark gravity bodies, a second unique space zone separating the paths of the dark gravity bodies, and then the outer ring of dark gravity bodies. p. 152. These dark gravity bodies are not like anything we have ever discovered. They neither reflect nor absorb light and so effectively encircle and enshroud Havona as to hide it from our view. p. 153. The inner procession of these dark gravity bodies is tubular in arrangement, consisting of three concentric circles. The outer circuit of these strange bodies is arranged perpendicularly and is ten thousand times higher than the inner circuit. The arrangement and makeup of these dark gravity bodies is unique in all the master universe. pp. 153-154. Because the combined mass of these enormous encircling dark gravity bodies is so great, the mass content of this central creation is far in excess of the total known mass of all seven superuniverses! p. 129.

Outside of the second stupendous ring of dark gravity bodies there is a third semiquiet space zone separating the central universe from the seven superuniverses. p. 152. The first post-havona creation was divided into seven gigantic segments. Though these seven superuniverses are not primary physical organizations like the local universes, they consist of a geographic clustering of about one seventh of this organized and partially inhabited post-havona creation. p. 129. These seven superuniverses are described to fall within the orderly and predetermined superuniverse space level. From superuniverse number one in the east counterclockwise around to our own superuniverse, Orvonton, in the southeast, this component of the Grand Universe contains about seven trillion inhabitable worlds and around five hundred billion architectural worlds. p. 166.

There is superimposition within the superuniverse space level and there is density variation from the inner circuits as they approach Havona, where the local universes are in closer proximity, to farther out from the nuclear Isle of Light where there are fewer and fewer circuits. p. 168. The edge of this grand universe is uneven and ragged as parts of it are unorganized and unfinished. p. 129.

Though distances are not given for many of the component parts of the master universe, some size indicators are mentioned. At the edge of the grand universe and separating it from the first outer space level there is another semiquiet space zone some four hundred thousand light-years in width. The first outer space ring itself extends for over twenty-five million light years. Fifty million light years from the edge of this first outer space ring lies the beginnings of the second outer space level of the master universe. pp. 129-130. And there is a third and a fourth outer space ring beyond the second. Furthermore, "...the energy and matter of these outer and uncharted regions already equal many times the total material mass and energy charge embraced in all seven superuniverses." p. 131.

There is speculation that an additional and unrevealed creation exists beyond the fourth and outermost space level. To allow for the full expression of the Infinite, the growth extent of the present master universe may be limited only by infinity. As it exists at present, however, it is regarded as being definitely delimited, and bounded on its outer margins by open space. p. 138.

As I flip through the pages in this section of my URANTIA Book, I see everywhere sketches of my feeble attempts to visualize and understand the pattern of the master universe. Concentric circles, ellipses, parabolas, maltese crosses, V-shaped planes, numbered orbs, heavenly bodies and systems of all sorts abound. It is as if by drawing what is described I could better understand it. I believe it works somewhat.

On its largest scale I see the master universe as very orderly and patterned. Following the lines of Paradise I see all the circuits of the central universe as they follow the swing of the great ellipse, p. 125, clockwise around this essentially flat ellipsoid that is one-sixth longer north-to-south than its east-west diameter, p. 119. I see the seven superuniverses as they progress counterclockwise outside the two alternating rings of dark gravity bodies that hide Ilavona. Further I see the four outer space rings ever increasing in diameter and again alternating in direction of revolution around the Central Isle of the Father. And I see empty space beyond, and wonder what is there.

I am sure there are many who have had visions like mine; some from The URANTIA Book and some from conventional study and thought. Two scientists have made a breakthrough in the study of the organization of the Known universe, however. From a mountain top near Tucson, Arizona, the astronomy capital of the U.S.A., optical telescopes can bring into view galaxies that are one million times dimmer than the stars we can see. Astronomer John Huchra has been surveying distant galaxies for over six months. By measuring the light intensity of certain markers and analyzing the red shift, Huchra has determined the velocity and apparent location of each galaxy surveyed. Along with Margaret Geller of the Harvard Smithsonian Institute for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, they have plotted the location of over 1000 different galaxies. What they have produced is astounding - the first 3-D map of the universe!

Among scientists in this field, the general consensus is that the universe started from a point and a bang. Expanding outward ever since, the universe as a whole was seen as a random displacement of matter, distributed more or less evenly throughout the deep space medium. Though matter is seen and understood to aggregate into temporarily organized bodies like suns, galaxies, clusters and superclusters of galaxies, no real order was discerned in the grand scheme of things. Indeed, the Big Bang theory holds that randomness must be a rule, extrapolated from the believed violent beginnings of our all. This is not consistent with what The URANTIA Book tells us, and it is not consistent with the amazing findings of Huchra and Geller.

Geller stated that the greatest challenge of modern science was to map the structure of the universe. For over thirty years I have waited to hear words like these. Willing to disregard the combined conjecture of their field, these two have set out to discover what is new, not confirm what is old, in cosmology. What they have found will interest readers of The URANTIA Book more than a little.

Huchra uses a spiral galaxy's rotational velocity to determine its intrinsic brightness and thereby its distance. This technique uses radio telescope readings of hydrogen to derive the galaxy's rotational speed. The rotational speed is determined by the mass of the galaxy. If it is assumed that galaxies of equal mass produce equal light, then a galaxy's intrinsic brightness is related

to its rotational velocity. Galaxies that rotate fast generally have a high intrinsic luminosity. By comparing the galaxy's absolute magnitude and its apparent magnitude distance can be figured.

By measuring the distance and position in space relative to the earth, Huchra was able to produce a stunning picture. Using a computer to plot positions on a three dimensional map, a model was produced that surprised and excited the scientists. The expected randomness was not apparent. In fact, structure was what they found. Although it is confusing to us to try and portray a three dimensional relationship in two dimensions, the structure is clearly evident. They were astonished. Big voids were found in space, the galaxies strung in sheets around them. Tremendous, dark, mysteriously open areas were seen to fill the universe. Some of these empty areas measured 100-150 million light-years across.

A great discovery like this team produced often poses more questions than it answers. Only a small slice of the universe has been covered and there are some problems with the technique. The Hubble Space Telescope may be used to confirm and fine tune the measurements. In the meantime, however, a real window has been opened in the universe. In their own pursuit of wisdom scientists like Huchra and Geller are discovering structure and organization where it was not expected. They are finding the possibility of a universe full of dark noninteracting matter. The underlying structure of the plotted galaxies has them wondering how the voids got to be so big. They speculate that if the structure gets larger and larger as they continue their survey, they might have to rethink their ideas about the origin and nature of the universe. They may have to look at the Big Bang again in light of their findings.

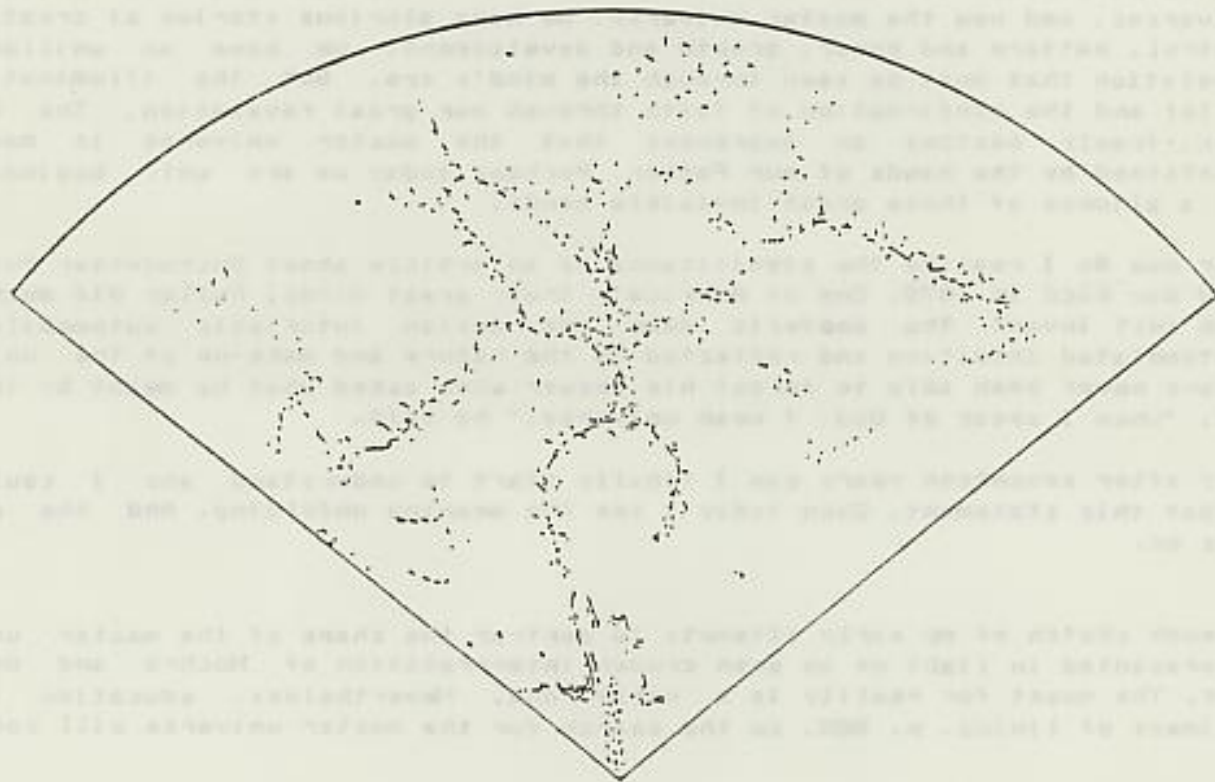
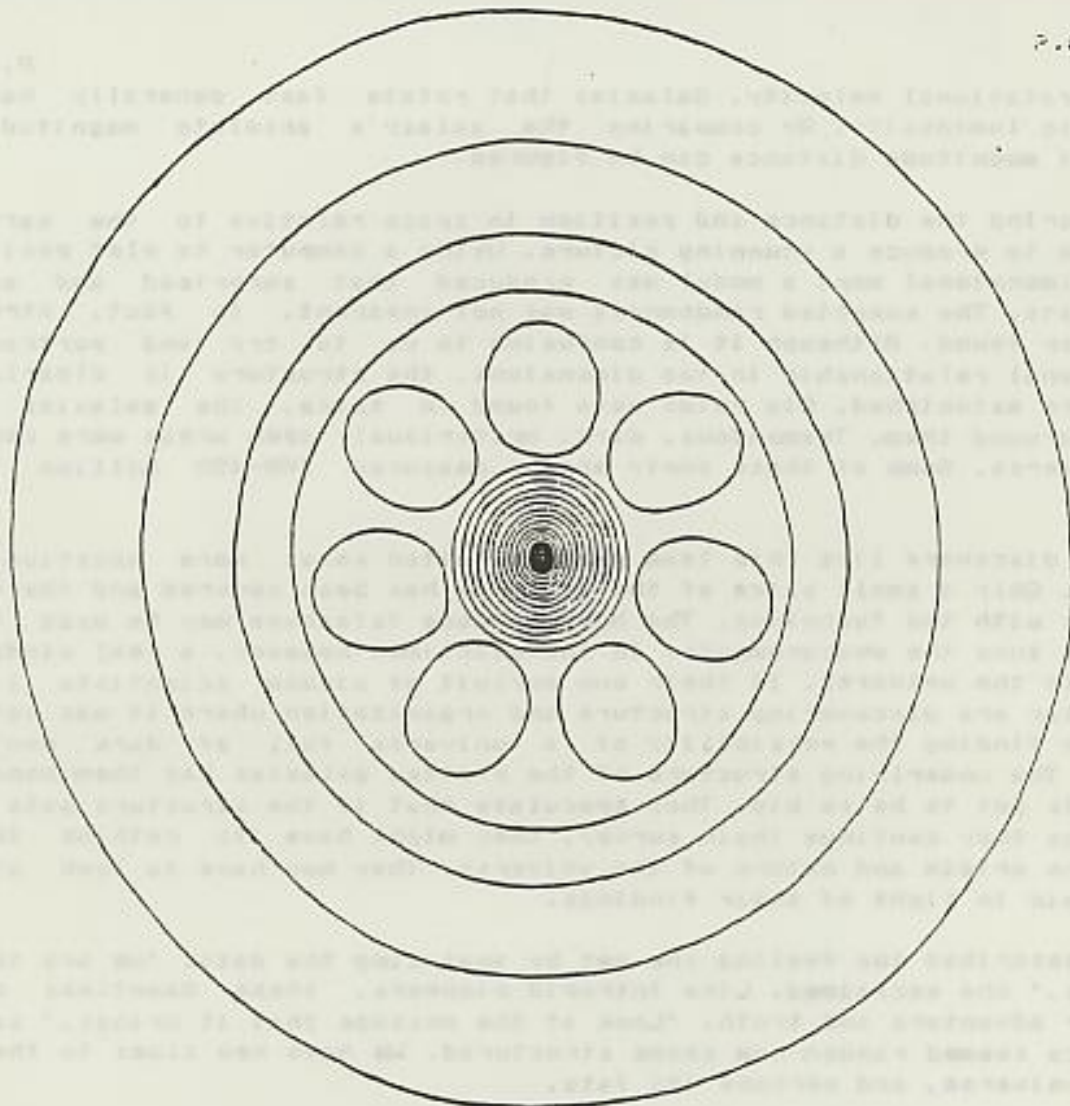
Geller described the feeling she got by analyzing the data. "We are the first to see this," she exclaimed. Like intrepid pioneers, these dauntless discoverers seek for adventure and truth. "Look at the message that it brings," said Geller. What once seemed random now seems structured. We have new clues to the evolution of the universe, and perhaps its fate.

Yes we have clues to the evolution of the universe, and the universe of universes, and now the master universe. We have glorious stories of creation and control, pattern and power, growth and development. We have an unillustrated revelation that must be seen through the mind's eye. But the illumination of belief and the confirmation of faith through our great revelation, The URANTIA Book, freely bestows an awareness that the master universe is made and maintained by the hands of our Father. Perhaps today we are only beginning to get a glimpse of those great invisible hands.

Only now do I realize the significance of an article about Buckminster Fuller I read way back in 1972. One of America's truly great minds, Fuller did much more than just invent the geodesic dome and design futuristic automobiles. He contemplated intuition and reflected on the nature and make-up of the universe. I have never been able to forget his answer when asked what he meant by the term God. "When I speak of God, I mean universe," he said.

Only after seventeen years can I finally start to understand why I could not forget this statement. Even today I see the meaning unfolding. And the pursuit goes on.

A rough sketch of my early attempts to portray the shape of the master universe is presented in light of an even cruder interpretation of Huchra and Geller's work. The quest for reality is a noble one. Nevertheless, education is the business of living, p. 806, so the search for the master universe will continue.



"BEHEMOTH BIRD'S FOSSILS FOUND BY SCIENTISTS." This is the headline of a news report I was given by Helen Hutchinson. The report was made in 1980 I believe, one year before I started studying The URANTIA Book.

One of man's greatest desires seems to be to fly. It is reported that flying sometimes enters the dream fantasies of humans and is a sign of intelligence. I remember having a lucid dream recently. As soon as I realized I was asleep and dreaming (I did this by repeatedly slapping my own face in my dream; when I did not wake up as there was no pain, I immediately realized I was asleep and dreaming.) I started flapping my arms and amazingly started to rise through the air. I soared above and around buildings and fields. My view was that of a bird. I was breathless. Though it lasted less than a minute I am sure, it was one of the most exhilarating experiences I have ever had. In fact I have dreamed of flying many times, and only once in a plane. All the others were as a bird, flapping and rising, soaring and hovering, sometimes tipping the cornstalks with my feet as I furiously skimmed the open fields of my dream world. It has always fascinated me, and still does.

Man has watched the birds and longed to fly like them, with them, or on them for thousands of years. We who read The URANTIA Book understand this desire better than most because we have been introduced to the real passenger birds of our planet, the fandors.

The rise of the fandor started about 45 million years ago. A large ostrichlike bird that stood about 10 feet tall and laid an egg 9 by 13 inches was the early ancestor of the fandors, p. 694. In the days of Caligastia and the Caligastia 100, about 500,000 years ago, Bon, the director of the board of animal domestication and utilization, led his group to the successful training and use of the giant passenger birds, p. 746.

Adam and Eve used these marvelous creatures some thirty-five thousand years ago. "From the large passenger birds - the fandors - Adam and Eve looked down upon the vast stretches of Garden while being carried through the air over this, the most beautiful spot on earth." p. 831. On page 832 it again mentions their use by the Material Son and Daughter of Urantia, "...even while the passenger birds were swiftly winging to bring them to the temple..." The early races of man also made much use of these large flying animals, p. 590. These birds were enormous and could carry one or two average-sized men nonstop for over five-hundred miles. Even though many of our ancestors were smaller than modern man this was no easy load. Adam and Eve, remember, were both over eight feet tall, p. 828.

On page 590 the book explains that on some planets these birds are of great service because they possess a high level of intelligence and can often speak many words of the languages of the realm. It goes on to describe them as highly intelligent, obedient, and unbelievably affectionate. I am sure people who ride horses will be able to identify with this description. I would like to point out as well, had you never seen or heard of a horse, you probably would not believe such a creature could exist, so perfectly fitted to man's early needs were they, p. 697.

The bones of the bird were found in Argentina, about 100 miles west of Buenos Aires, by Drs. Eduardo P. Tonni and Rosendo Pascual of Argentina's La Plata Museum. Parts of three different wing bones, two leg bones and parts of the skull were uncovered. Dr. Kenneth E. Campbell, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, stated, "This makes it the world's largest known flying bird." The remains are of a bird that

measured 11 feet from beak to tail, weighed between 160 and 170 pounds, and stood over 6-foot-tall. "It's definitely a most spectacular creature," said Campbell.

Most spectacular indeed. If they only knew how spectacular it must have been to ride the back of one of these magnificent creatures. Compared to today's birds they were truly enormous. The biggest flying bird alive is the Andean Condor with a 10-foot wingspan and a weight of about 35 pounds. Even fossil records show the biggest previously known flying birds were extinct varieties with wingspans approaching 16 feet. The bones found in Argentina were identified to be similar to a teratorn, a bird resembling a condor but much larger. Although no one knows exactly what teratorns looked like, these "wonder birds" named by the Greeks, are thought to have flown like condors, and the representation is based on these facts.

How sad that these great birds were allowed to disappear from our planet. I think of similar animals that may prove beneficial to mankind being completely lost to our future. The elephant, nemesis of some, workhorse of others, may be lost to our descendants if our attitude about them does not change. Only in the region of India do the people realize this animal is suited perfectly for heavy work in the jungle. Ironically, the elephants are being used to clear the jungle itself, thereby literally working themselves out of a job, and maybe a life.

But the fanders, even though extinct on Urantia for over thirty-thousand years, p. 746, are not gone forever. They are waiting for us on Jerusem, capital of Satania, our local system. It states on p. 521 while describing the physical features of Jerusem, "The transport birds fly at about 100 miles an hour." So maybe our dreams are not for naught. I still hope someday to soar through the air on one of these wonderful birds.

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