



## BALAK - DESTROYER

### *Part One*

Numbers 22:2 to 25:9

Micah 5:6 to 6:8

Jude 1-25

2 Peter 2:1-22

Revelation 2:14-15

The last lesson *Chukah* Numbers 19, ended with the Israelites continuing their journey from Mount Hor to the plains of Moab. Balak, the king of Moab, was very concerned when the Israelites drew near to his kingdom. He solicited the help of a professional soothsayer named Balaam to put the Children of Israel under an annihilating curse (Numbers 21:20).

### The Sorcerer Balaam

#### *False Prophet*

The story of Balak and Balaam may seem out of context to the rest of the book, as God's/*Elohim* people are not in this account. However, it is about them. Thus, God/*Elohim* gives them a behind the scenes look into the schemes of the enemy and His protection upon them.

📖 **Numbers 22:1-3** “Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan *across from* Jericho. Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they *were* many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel.”

In the study *Korach*/Numbers 16, two studies previously, Scripture described the disreputable character of Korah and the events that ensued because of him. In Balak, God/*Elohim* continues to chronicle this unsavory type as a warning for His people. Balaam is mentioned throughout Scripture; therefore, holds a key for latter-day discernment (Micah 6:5; 2 Peter 2:15; Jude 1:11; Revelation 2:14).

📖 **Micah 6:5** “O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, that you may know the righteousness of the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

✠ **Jude 1:11-13** “Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of *Cain*, have run greedily in the error of *Balaam* for profit, and perished in the rebellion of *Korah*. These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves. *They are* clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”

✠ **Revelation 2:14** “But I have a few things against you [*church in Pergamos*], because you have there those who hold the doctrine of *Balaam*, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality (Revelation 2:12).

Balak, the king of Moab, attempts to bribe Balaam to act on his behalf. Balaam has the knowledge of the God/*Elohim* of Israel but is a very dubious sort.

✠ **Numbers 22:5-6** “Then he [*Balak*] sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which *is* near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: ‘Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they *are* too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless *is* blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.’”

The Moabite princes greet Balaam with the diviner’s fee in hand and explain their purpose in having him join the king. However, even though this was a paid job, Balaam was also concerned for his own welfare.

✠ **Numbers 22:8** “And he said to them, ‘Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the LORD/Yahweh speaks to me.’ So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.”

We begin to see Balaam’s prideful arrogance come through when he announces that the LORD/Yahweh speaks to me.

Balaam used sorcery to call upon God/*Elohim*. God/*Elohim* came to Balaam that night asking him to clarify who these men were? After Balaam explained, God/*Elohim* did not give permission for him to return with the Moabite princes. *His word was final*. Thus, the princes return minus Balaam. Balak then sends another entourage larger and more impressive to Balaam in hopes that would entice him to return with them. Balaam reminded them that no matter how much they offered he could not go against what God/*Elohim* said. They too spend the night waiting upon God/*Elohim* (Numbers 24:1).

✠ **Numbers 22:19-21** “Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD/Yahweh will say to me.” And God/*Elohim* came to Balaam at night and said to him, “If the men come to call you, rise *and* go with

them; but only the word which I speak to you - that you shall do.” So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.”

Here we see Balaam use sorcery a *second* time, which gives us a glimpse that this latest group did make an impression on him. With the prospect of greed, fame, and fortune within his reach, Balaam again requests an audience with God/*Elohim*. Perhaps He would change God's/*Elohim* mind, after all, that is what sorcery is for, to twist the truth. Even though God/*Elohim* gave Balaam His answer the first time, Balaam showed disrespect in trying God/*Elohim* again in this matter. Thus, as a child continues to badger a parent in hopes of changing their mind, Balaam goes through the motion in front of Balak's significant delegation. However, God/*Elohim* is not impressed, as His word was final. God/*Elohim* also knew that corruption rooted deeply in Balaam's heart. Therefore, reminded Balaam that he could only “do” what God/*Elohim* told him (Numbers 24:1).

🦁 **Numbers 22:20** “And God/*Elohim* came to Balaam at night and said to him, ‘If the men come to call you, [“] rise *and* go with them [”]; but only the word which I speak to you - *that you shall do.*”

### The Donkey Speaks

Did God/*Elohim* give Balaam permission to go? God/*Elohim* said, “*if the men come to call you “rise, go with them;” but only the word which I speak – that you shall do.*” Thus, when Balaam went with the men, God/*Elohim* was angry, as He did not say Balaam could go.

On the journey, Balaam experienced trouble with his ass. Balaam could not understand why his animal did not obey him, thus beat his animal several times to get him to move forward. Balaam was disobedient to God's/*Elohim* instructions and not beaten, but his animal was obedient to God and beaten by Balaam. What Balaam could not see, that the animal could see, was the Angel of the Lord barring his way. What action would create such spiritual blindness to obedience? *Sin*. Sin puts up a veil preventing people from seeing the truth despite the fact that it is right before their eyes. Thus, Balaam, in his sin, was blinded to the truth. Even when the donkey spoke audibly, Balaam was so blinded that he did not think it unusual and began to dialogue with the animal (Numbers 22:22-27).

🦁 **2Peter 2:15-19** “They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of *Balaam* the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”

Though *truth* is before many, those in sin will not be able to *see the truth*. As witnessed in the *Korach* study with Korah, though the earth opened and swallowed people alive, the people still could not see *the truth* but continue to air on the side of unrighteousness, as sin had captured their hearts (Luke 16:19-31).

When God/*Elohim* opened Balaam's spiritual eyes, he was confronted with his own corrupt and perverse ways.

🌿 **Numbers 22:32-34** “And the Angel of the LORD/*Yahweh* said to him, ‘Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live.’ And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD/*Yahweh*, ‘I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back.’”

What is about to unfold is the prophecy of redeemed of Israel. Unbeknown to Balak and Balaam are a series of anointing, blessings, and profound prophecies concerning Israel. The Moabite King is very pleased when he saw Balaam join him. Balaam reminds Balak he can only speak what God/*Elohim* gives him. Balak continues and leads Balaam up to the high places to offer sacrifices of appeasement to their sun god Baal.

What is Baal worship on the high places? One of the main gods of the Moabites is Baal. His worship is on the higher peaks thus; each location is named after him (i.e. Baal *Peor*). The propitiation of Baal was by obscene sexual rites and human sacrifices, which reveals the perverse and seductive spirit behind Balak and Balaam's motives.

🌿 **Numbers 22:41** “So it was the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people.”

On the high place of Baal, Balaam has Balak build him seven altars and offer seven bulls and seven rams.

🌿 **Numbers 23:1-7** “Then Balaam said to Balak, ‘Build seven altars for me here, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.’ And Balak did just as Balaam had spoken, and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on *each* altar. Then Balaam said to Balak, ‘Stand by your burnt offering, and I will go; perhaps the LORD/*Yahweh* will come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I will tell you.’ So he went to a desolate height. And God/*Elohim* met Balaam, and he said to Him, ‘I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered on *each* altar a bull and a ram.’ Then the LORD/*Yahweh* put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, ‘Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak.’ So he returned to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, he and all the princes of Moab. And he took up his oracle.”

Standing before Balak, Balaam speaks this oracle.

*“Balak the king of Moab has brought me [Balaam] from Aram,  
from the mountains of the east.  
‘Come, curse Jacob for me, and come, denounce Israel!’  
How shall I [Balaam] curse whom God/Elohim has not cursed?  
And how shall I [Balaam] denounce whom the LORD/Yahweh has not denounced?  
For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him; there!  
A people dwelling alone, not reckoning itself among the nations.  
Who can count the dust of Jacob, or number one-fourth of Israel?  
Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my end be like his!”  
Numbers 23:7-10*

When Balaam spoke this blessing to Israel, it mocked Balak to his face. The king was furious but continued in his arrogant style. Perhaps a different altar with a different vantage point would be a better place to curse Israel. Thus, Balaam follows Balak to *Pisgah* and there, at the high place to Baal, Balak builds another seven altars and offers a bull and a ram on each in hopes this would in some way appease the gods and influence a curse. Then Balaam again has Balak stand by his offering to wait for the word of the LORD/Yahweh (Numbers 23:11-15)

**Numbers 23:17-24** “So he [*Balaam*] came [*back*] to him [*Balak*], and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab were with him. And Balak said to him, ‘What has the LORD/Yahweh spoken?’ Then he [*Balaam*] took up his oracle and said:

*“Rise up, Balak, and hear! Listen to me [Balaam], son of Zippor!  
God/Elohim is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent.  
Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?  
Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.  
He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has He seen wickedness in Israel.  
The LORD/Yahweh his God/Elohim is with him, and the shout of a King is among them.  
God/Elohim brings them out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox.  
For there is no sorcery against Jacob, nor any divination against Israel.  
It now must be said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘Oh, what God/Elohim has done!’  
Look, a people rises like a lioness, and lifts itself up like a lion;  
it shall not lie down until it devours the prey, and drinks the blood of the slain.”*

Balak has a hard time comprehending all this. He hired Balaam to do a job but continues to hear blessings pour out on Israel while Israel’s enemy is cursed. He tries again. Perhaps it is the high place. This time, Balak moves Balaam to the top of Peor with yet another vantage point to pronounce the curse. Balaam has Balak repeat the seven altars with a bull and a ram offered on each, then wait until he returns with the word from God/Elohim (Numbers 23:27-30).

By this time Balaam also sees that it pleased the LORD/Yahweh to bless Israel. In the first two oracles Balaam used sorcery to seek God/Elohim, but this time he set his face toward the wilderness. When Balaam raised his eyes, *he saw the full Israeli encampment,*

*all according to their tribes.* The Spirit/Ruach of God/Elohim came upon him, and he took up his third oracle saying (Numbers 24:1-3),

*“The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor,  
The utterance of the man, whose eyes are opened,  
The utterance of him, who hears the words of God/Elohim,  
Who sees the vision of the Almighty, who falls down, with eyes wide open:*

*How lovely are your tents, O Jacob! Your dwellings, O Israel!  
Like valleys that stretch out, like gardens by the riverside,  
Like aloes planted by the LORD/Yahweh, like cedars beside the waters.  
He shall pour water from his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters.  
His king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.  
God/Elohim brings him out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox;  
He shall consume the nations, his enemies;  
He shall break their bones and pierce them with his arrows.  
He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him?  
Blessed is he who blesses you, and cursed is he who curses you.”*  
*Numbers 24:3-9*

Balak was not pleased that Balaam blessed their enemy these three times. He was planning to bestow honor upon Balaam but stated that *God/Elohim* had kept it from him. Balaam reminded Balak he could only speak God's/*Elohim* words. With that, he took up his fourth oracle ending with a prophecy of what would happen to Balak's people in the latter days, which also included him (Numbers 24: 12-24).

*“The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor,  
And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened;  
The utterance of him who hears the words of God/Elohim,  
And has the knowledge of the Most High,  
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,  
Who falls down, with eyes wide open:*

*I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near;  
A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel,  
And batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult.  
And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession,  
While Israel does valiantly.  
Out of Jacob One shall have dominion, and destroy the remains of the city.”*

Did Balak and Balaam's attempts fail or succeed? We see very powerful prophecies are poured out upon Israel in this sequence of events. Then we see Balak and Balaam returned to where they came. However, we are not finished with this perverse spirit, as we will observe in the next chapter.

## The Next Generation – Pagan Idolatry Numbers 25:1-9

The Children of Israel were close to forty years in the wilderness. The first generation returning from Egypt had passed away. We are now witnessing the next generation (along with Caleb and Joshua and their families) camped on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho at the door of the Promised Land. Here the Israelites enter one of their biggest tests yet, one which leaves them wide open to the enemy and the enticement of the camp.

How did this happen? Testing is necessary. During trials, do God's/*Elohim* people make decisions based on their emotions or do they pray and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* and the Torah principle before making a decision? No one likes a trial, but trials can foster and encourage believers to see where their trust is and what is needed for their strength. As they left the wilderness and moved closer to their destination, they came closer to the inhabitants of the nations. This is when the trials increase. Esau's family, Jacob's twin brother, refused Israel passage. That forced them to journey around Esau's territory so as not to disturb the Edomite's heritage. When Israel camped beside Moab, the Israelites soon fell prey to enticement.

🌿 **Numbers 25:1-3** “the people [*Israel*] began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD/*Yahweh* was aroused against Israel.”

These Israelite men had no business meeting with foreign women *outside* the camp. By coming in contact with harlotry, the Israelite men succumbed to the sexual propitiation of Baal and joined themselves in defilement to the sun god of the Moabites. Studies reveal that sensual influences such as pornography or harlotry can be a stronger force to overcome than heroin, and is as addictive. The Israel men willingly held themselves captivated by their spirit of sorcery and seduction (Numbers 25:1-3).

🌿 **Hosea 9:10** “I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. *But* they went to Baal Peor, and separated themselves *to that* shame; they became an abomination like the thing they loved.”

🌿 **Isaiah 66:17** “Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves, to go to the gardens after an idol in the midst, eating swine's flesh and the abomination and the mouse, shall be consumed together, says the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

These same temptations will ensnare the Bride of Yeshua today if he or she does not heed His instructions. Believers are to safeguard and strengthen their faith in Yeshua. We are a redeemed people thereby given all the tools to fulfill our destiny in Him. The believer's soul hosts emotions, decisions, and freewill. For the fruit of their walk to produce abundantly they need to be in balance with the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*, God's / *Elohim* moral order, called holiness through sanctification. Otherwise, they will be

exposed to lack and decrease, and come under attack of influencing spirits. God's / *Elohim* instructions are to obey His written word. They are written on every believer's heart. Through following His ways, there is great favor and blessing.

✿ **Deuteronomy 30:14-16** “But the word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* will bless you in the land which you go to possess.”

✿ **Matthew 6:9-13** “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

God/*Elohim* allows tests to help His people see where they are in their walk. Tests also reveal if they have inadvertently missed the mark (Leviticus 26:14:35). A challenge builds courage and forms Yeshua's faith, trust, and character within the heart. When His people face challenges physically, emotionally or morally it is usually to strengthen their walk and lifestyle to more purely reflect their Maker. It is the believer's job to preside over their words, thoughts, and actions in pursuing the order and plan of *Yahweh's* Kingdom.

✿ **Leviticus 19:2** “You shall be holy, for I the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim am* holy.”

✿ **1Peter 1:13-16** “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”

In this study, we see the Israelite men had not strengthened themselves nor guarded over their hearts, and it cost them their lives. Testing the people before entering the land was crucial at this stage of their journey, as it is for every generation after them - ours included.

✿ **Proverbs 2:10-22** “When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths; to deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words, who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God/*Elohim*. For her house leads down to



death, and her paths to the dead; none who go to her return, nor do they regain the paths of life - So you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep to the paths of righteousness. For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.”

As we read in the Book of Job, Satan was allowed to test Job. *God/Elohim* also allowed the Moabite jealousy to prevail first through an invasion of the camp by cursing and then through the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and pride of life; Satan’s tree amigos. This second attempt was successful. With Israel’s unguarded hearts, the door was left wide opened for a spirit of seduction. With abominable beguilement, the invasion of Israel’s camp began. In the face of holiness, what is in the heart of man will be exposed.

✠ **Mark 7:21-23** “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

✠ **James 1:19-22** “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of *God/Elohim*. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

### Food Offered to Idols

Food played a large part in bewitching the Israelite men into whoredom. We read they *ate the sacrifices made to the dead*. Later, we see a dramatic change in their behavior thus their open worship to Baal Peor (Psalm 106:28).

✠ **Psalm 106:28** “They [*Israel*] joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, and ate sacrifices made to the dead.”

✠ **Act 15:19-21** “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, *from* sexual immorality, *from* things strangled, and *from* blood. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath” (Acts 15:29, 21:25).

As part of occult pagan rites, consuming sacrifices made to the dead were human sacrifices, which includes blood. When the Israelite men consumed that which *God/Elohim* created and the atoning blood, the door to witchcraft was opened leading them to immoral behavior, as all life (DNA) is in the blood (Acts 15:20). The Moabite women cunningly seduced the Israelite men first through the emotion, then spiritually, and later physically (Leviticus 17:11).

✿ **Matthew 5:27-28** “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not commit adultery.*’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Satan wants the blood of God’s/*Elohim* people. Lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life are his favored ways. At Israel’s treachery with the golden calf at Mount Sinai, sin came from *within the camp*. A generation later, sin came from *outside the Israelite camp*. In both cases, the Israelite’s infidelity began in their hearts. That alone effectively sealed their death knell (1 Kings 11:7).

In studying Numbers, we have learned that the Moabites found they could not verbally curse the people of Israel, so their attention was turned to tempt the men to join them outside the Israelite camp. The Moabites were jealous and wanted what Israel had. As mentioned earlier, their plan was to render the Israelites’ status null and void (unclean) in hopes of preventing the Israelites from claiming the inheritance of their promised land. In this test, God/*Elohim* conclusively revealed that the sin was not with the pagans but in the hearts of the Israelite’s. The issues and idols of the heart needed to be exposed and cleansed before entering the land. The Israelite leaders who influenced others to follow them were all hanged out under the sun as a stark reminder of their worship of Baal *the sun god*.

However, it was far from over. An Israelite man presented a Midianite woman before his brethren in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of Israel who at the time were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. This man brazenly walked her passed his brethren right on into his tent. When Phinehas, Eleazar’s son saw this abomination, he did not hesitate and thrust a javelin between the two thereby stopping the plague. By the end of the day, 24,000 *Israelites* had died.

✿ **Proverbs 1:31** “Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies.”

✿ **Proverbs 2:10-22** “When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, *and* delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways *are* crooked, and *who are* devious in their paths; to deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress *who* flatters with her words, who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God/*Elohim*. For her house leads down to death, and her paths to the dead; none who go to her return, nor do they regain the paths of life - so you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep *to* the paths of righteousness. For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.”

*To be continued...*

*Shabbat Shalom*  
*Julie Parker*

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