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A woman with dark hair, wearing a red and white striped top and large gold earrings, is kneeling on a sandy beach. She is looking intently at a small, yellow model airplane on the sand. In the background, another person is standing near a larger yellow airplane that is suspended by ropes from a structure above. The scene is set on a beach with a dark, wooded area in the background.

# **The AUCA STORY**

**dramatic epic of the  
five missionary martyrs !**

# The AUCA STORY

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dramatic epic of the  
five missionary martyrs!

A documented story of five American missionaries,  
giving their lives for the Auca Indians of Ecuador...

The moving account of martyrdom for the cause of Christ in our generation.

You will hear the story of these five missionary men:

- PETE FLEMING
- JIM ELLIOT
- ED McCULLY
- NATE SAINT
- ROGER YOUNDERIAN

THEIR WIVES: Olive (Fleming) Liefeld, Elizabeth Elliot, Marilou McCully, Marj Saint, Barbara Youderian, and the events of seven years from September, 1955, to July, 1962.

OTHER VOICES YOU WILL HEAR...

**AUCA WOMEN**, speaking and chanting  
**FRANK DROWN**, leader of the Ground Party, a  
Missionary of the Gospel Missionary Union  
**DR. V. R. EDMAN** — President of Wheaton  
College  
**VALERIE ELLIOT**, daughter of Jim and Betty  
Elliot

**DR. M. E. FULLER**, physician at Epp Memorial  
Hospital Shell Mera  
**CLARENCE W. JONES** — Co-founder of Radio  
Station HCJB  
**RUTH KEENAN**, wife of MAF pilot, Johnny  
Keenan  
**HOBEY LOWRANCE**, MAF Pilot who replaced  
Nate Saint

**STEVE AND KATHY SAINT**, son and daughter of Nate and Marj  
Saint

**RACHEL SAINT** — Sister of Nate Saint, missionary with Wycliffe Bible  
Translators

**ROBERT C. SAVAGE** — HCJB Narrator

**JOSEPH A. SPRINGER** — HCJB Narrator

**DR. WILRED TIDMARSH**, veteran missionary, one of the first to enter  
Auca Territory and first to compile an Auca word list

**MRS. DONALD TURNER** — HCJB staff

**ABE VAN DER PUY** — HCJB Field Director

OTHERS REFERRED TO IN THE STORY...

**DAYUMA** — the escaped Auca informant

**CHILDREN OF MISSIONARIES**: Valerie Elliot, Steve, Mike and Matt  
McCully; Steve, Kathy and Philip Saint; Beth and Jerry Youderian

**FIVE OF THE KILLERS MENTIONED** — Gikita, Nimunga, Kimu,  
Dyuwi, Minkayi

**MORRIE FULLER** — Christian and Missionary Alliance

**LT. GEN. WM. K. HARRISON**, Commander-in-Chief of Caribbean  
Command

**DR. ART JOHNSTON** — HCJB medical doctor connected with Epp  
Memorial Hospital, Shell Mera

**JOHNNY KEENAN** — MAF PILOT, stationed at Shell Mera; flying col-  
league of Nate Saint

**CAPT. McGEE** — Pilot of helicopter

**LARRY MONTGOMERY** — Wycliffe Bible Translators

**MAJOR NURNBURG** — U. S. Air Force

**DAVE SANFORD**, Berean Gospel Mission, Administrator of Epp Memo-  
rial Hospital, Shell Mera

**JACK SHALNKO** — HCJB staff member

**DEE SHORT** — Christian Missions in Many Lands

## INTRODUCTION TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

**ARAJUNO** — Marilou and Ed McCully's Quichua Indian Mis-  
sion station; refueling point for air rescue party; starting point  
for land party.

**ECUADOR** — Small country in South America with Western  
banana country, rocky Andean backbone, and tropical eastern  
jungle.





Elliot, Nate Saint, Roger Youdarian, and Pete Fleming.

**JIM ELLIOT**, tall, broadchested, was born into a good Christian home in Portland, Oregon. He turned aside from exceptional ability in architectural drawings to direct his life to the mission field. In Wheaton College he studied Greek as his major, and saw life as a shifting evanescent vapor. He yearned in his fervent prayers to be saturated with the fuel of the Spirit instead of the dead asbestos of other things. American college senior, champion wrestler, honor student, poet, and man of versatile ability, Jim Elliot used this extravagant variation of personal ability and genius to good advantage in the Auca epic.

**PETE FLEMING**, born in Seattle, Washington, had an unusual grasp of Scripture knowledge and breadth of spiritual attainment. Converted at the age of thirteen, he literally "walked with God." He earned letters in basketball and golf and was valedictorian of his class. He entered the University of Washington as a philosophy major and later became president of the University Christian Fellowship. His aim and goal in life was to let God have everything. This realization was to permeate all areas of his young life. Of aesthetic cast, he saw God and His purpose in things of beauty such as mountains, music, poetry, and even in the sharp tang of an apple.

**NATE SAINT** was born into a Philadelphia home of deep Christian piety and early placed his faith in Christ. At the age of seven he was captivated by the wings of flight and the wide sky. His high school life was spent largely in aeronautical imaginations and finally, the walls of the class room changed into the masonry and steel of a welding shop, an airport, Air-Force hanger and maintenance building.

One winter day, in Detroit, Michigan, he was gripped by the clarion call of the mission field. The old life of chasing the soap baubles of transient things faded away in the glow of his new-found joy. In California, while working with the Fourth Air Force, he met the founders of MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) and his future companion, Marj Ferris, a graduate nurse. Nate was a methodical man, inventive and efficient. He began his new way of life in Shell Mera on the edge of the Ecuadorian jungle. He became pilot of Missionary Aviation Fellowship, an inter-denominational organization whose aim was to transport missionaries, supplies, and the sick to and from remote jungle outposts. The broad wings of his little yellow plane became a welcome sight to missionaries on jungle outposts as they carried life's necessities and ferried life's diseased. He was equally at home in preaching, building, welding, flying, or operating jungle transmitters. He transformed the perspiring, fatiguing jungle trek into a graceful arch of air-borne flight and condensed days of backbreaking toil into a few minutes of time. The alternate fuel system on his plane, and the spiraling bucket drop used so prominently in Operation Auca were his own inventions.

**ED McCULLY** came from a Midwest home and was the son of a traveling preacher. He chose business and economics as his major in Wheaton College, and became a star end on Wheaton's champion football team. He also won honors in track and won the national Hearst Oratorical Contest in San Francisco in 1949, and was Senior Class President. A year later, he entered law school at Marquette University, but through the Lord's dealing with him he desired to live a life of reckless abandon for God. After his decision to become a foreign missionary, he enrolled at the School of Missionary Medicine in Los Angeles where he learned the fundamentals of tropical diseases and their treatment.

**ROGER YOUNDARIAN** was born near Sumatra, Montana, the seventh child of a ranch family. He was greatly influenced by his mother in solid Christian principles. He pursued the study of piano but polio crippled him at the age of nine. He lost his touch for the familiar instrument and the gracefulness of his carriage through this disease. Later he served as paratrooper in the army and received a decoration for action in the Battle of the Bulge. After his wartime activities he wrote to his mother about a call from God either to be a missionary or a minister. In 1946 he enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts at Northwestern Schools in Minneapolis, after which he left for Ecuador.

So God prepared five men from different backgrounds and with various abilities for Operation Auca. After discussing, planning and praying over methods of contact, the actual search began in September 1955.

Fifteen minutes from the jungle station Arajuno clearings with patches of manioc were discovered. Gifts for the Aucas of machetes, buttons, salt, etc. decorated with colorful ribbon streamers were let down by the spiraling line technique invented by Nate Saint. The plane would circle sixty-five miles per hour while the descending plane would drift lazily to pivot on a spot on the ground below. Battery powered loud speakers blared from the plane newly acquired phrases from the Auca language such as: "I like you!" At times the Aucas would tie their own gifts to the end of the line, and they would be carried to the end of the airstrip back at the base; there they would be released by the automatic release mechanism.

On the Curaray river, threading its serpentine way through the green jungle, a short sand bar was discovered which was measured off by dropping little bags of pigment paint powder in three bright colors. It was approximately four and one-half miles from Terminal City, a name given by the men to the home of the Aucas, to the bank of the



Curaray called Palm Beach, where the missionaries built a tree house and stacked supplies. Each item of Operation Auca was planned with battle strategy. Nothing of importance was forgotten. Each detail was assigned. There were even gifts for the Aucas. Such items as an harmonica, snakebite kit, flashlight, Viewmaster with reels, yo-yos and notebooks of Auca language material were taken. The date for Operation Auca was set for January 3, 1956, when each of the men prepared by the constraint of God's love would bridge the gap between the stone age and twentieth century. The day dawned clear, and the strains of "We Rest on Thee" to the stirring tune of "Finlandia" were sung.

On Friday, January 6, three Aucas appeared at Palm Beach; a young man and two women. They were naked except for the customary strings and ear plugs. They were shown the modern marvels of rubber bands, balloons and a yo-yo and were served lemonade and hamburgers. There still was no sign of the main group of Aucas, so Nate Saint flew over Terminal City to encourage them to come to the Curaray. He spotted a group of men heading toward Palm Beach. Nate flew back and as he landed on the strip of sand he shouted, "This is it guys, they're on the way!" He radioed his wife Marj back at the Shell Mera base that he would make the next contact at four thirty. No static crackle ever broke the painful silence. HCJB flashed the news of the missing men around the world. The next day when companion pilot Johnny Keenan flew to Palm Beach to find out what happened, he sent back the tragic report that the little yellow plane had been stripped of its fabric and the men were nowhere to be found. Frank Drown, of the Mucama jungle station, headed a search party which slogged its way to Palm Beach. The combined forces of the United States Armed Forces with the Ecuadorian forces worked together in the project. A helicopter hovering over the Curaray downstream from the scene of martyrdom found four of the bodies in the river. One of the bodies never was found. Ecuadorian soldiers spread out in a semi-circle to keep guard and two Indians dug the common grave under the tree house, while others waded into the Curaray looking for the possessions of the men. The fury of a tropical rainstorm was unleashed on the search party. Prayer was uttered, the grave was filled up and the search party returned.

The details of the findings were related to the five widows who were upheld mightily by the grace of God. Their continued expressions of praise and confidence in the perfect will of God were a source of amazement to personnel associated in the search.

Many questions relating to the details of the slaughter will never be answered. It doesn't really matter. They are with Christ. "Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall save it."

Operation Auca will never end! The far-reaching impact of the martyrdom of these dedicated men along with the thrilling testimony of their wives have moved many hearts and lives in consecration to God. This chapter will end beyond the gates of splendor when the multitudes reached and saved through the power of the gospel because of Operation Auca will write the final sentence.

Somehow it seems that this whole tremendous story like a surging symphony of dedication to God can be summed up in the words of Jim Elliot: "I walked out to the hill just now. It is exalting, delicious, to stand embraced by the shadows of a friendly tree with the wind tugging at your coat-tail and the heavens hailing your heart, to gaze and glory and give oneself again to God — what more could a man ask . . . ?"

Rev. Gerrit Schut

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

### MISSIONARY GROUPS INVOLVED

Berean Gospel Mission  
Christian Missions in Many Lands  
Christian Missionary and Alliance  
Gospel Missionary Union  
World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc.  
Wycliffe Bible Translators  
Missionary Aviation Fellowship

### INITIALS USED

NBC — National Broadcasting Corporation  
TAO — Transportes Aereas Orientales,  
air company in Ecuador  
HCJB — Missionary Radio Station  
SIL — Summer Institute of Linguistics

### SPECIAL MENTION

U. S. Air Force  
U. S. Navy  
U. S. Army  
Ecuadorian Army  
Ecuadorian Air Force  
Other members of Ground Party

### CREDITS:

Harper Brothers for quotes from "Through Gates of Splendor"  
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Cover picture in color taken by Nate Saint  
Black and White pictures taken by Marj Saint

### MUSIC:

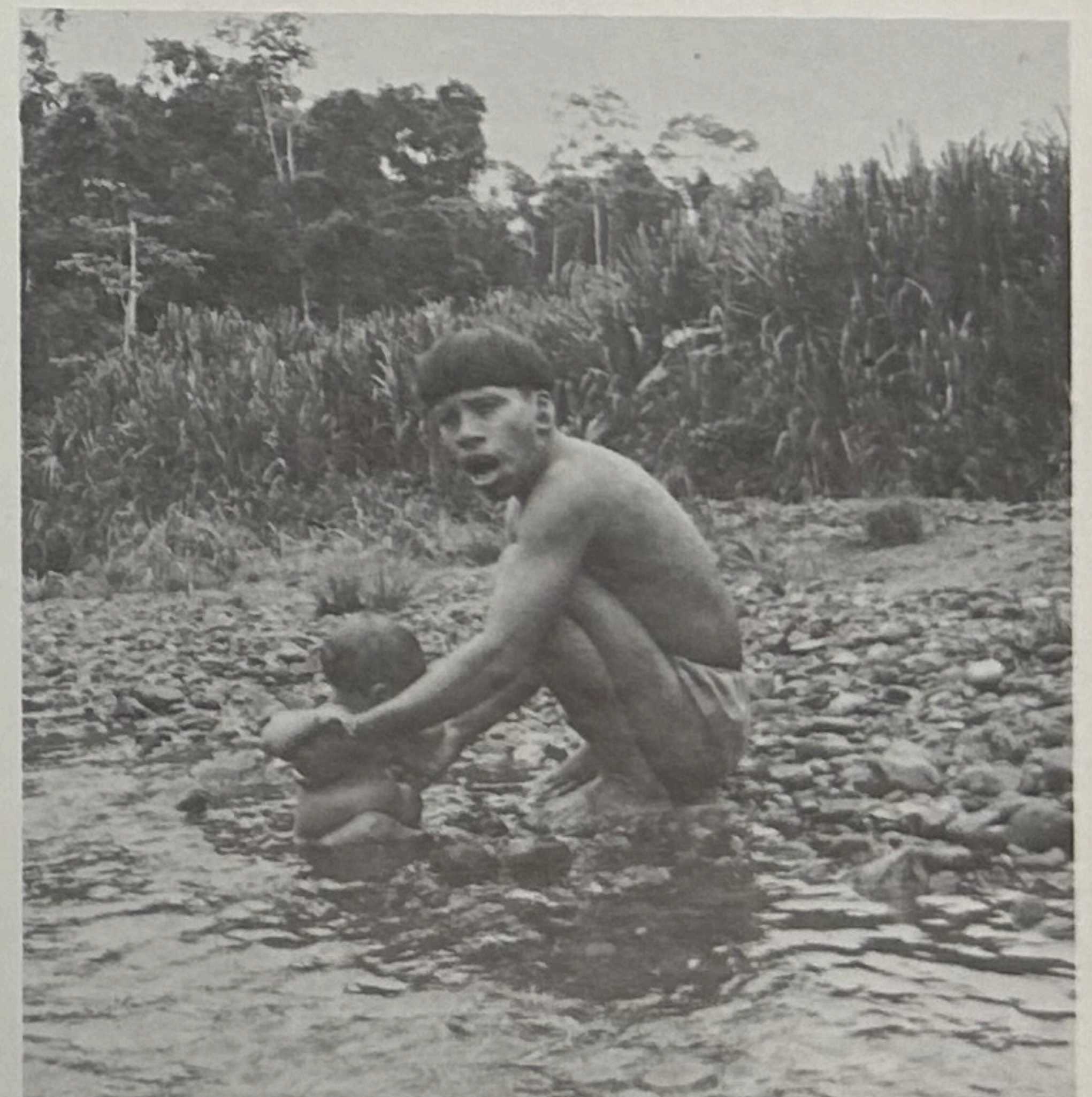
HCJB choir directed by Richard W. Jones, singing, "We Rest on Thee"  
Pianist, Robert Nybakken; Mary Lee Cummings, Organist  
Brass: Dr. Clarence W. Jones, trombone; Bruce Woodman, Baritone horn; Haraldo de Leon, French Horn  
Soloist, Joseph Springer  
Violin Bridge, Eugene Jordan  
Organ Bridges, Marilou McCully and Robert Nybakken  
Finlandia, Op. 26, No. 7.

Jan. 9-13, 1956 — Special recordings by Ben Cummings of HCJB.

### UNIDENTIFIED VOICES:

Dave Garway of New York City (radio contact with Dr. C. W. Jones)  
Dr. Paul Roberts (of the Rimmer Memorial Hospital) handling Quito Radio contacts  
Pilot of C-47  
Nancy Woolnough interviewing children

The Auca Story was coordinated and produced by Nancy Woolnough at radio station HCJB, Quito, Ecuador.



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