

St. Vartan Voice

The Newsletter of St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church

Rev. Fr. Krikor Zakaryan, Parish Priest



Սուրբ Վարդանի Չայն

Ս. Վարդան Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցու Պաշտօնաթերթ



Fr. Krikor Zakaryan

November 2022

What Is Advent?

“Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” (James 5:8)

Advent means “coming”—the coming of Christ. It is the 50-day period during which we prepare to celebrate the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the Armenian Church, Advent lasts approximately two weeks longer than it in the Western churches, hence the Armenian word for the season: Hisnag, “a 50-day period.” It is a time for us to think of the why of Christmas—why the greeting cards, the decorations, the gifts, the family gatherings? A time to look within our hearts to see if there is anything that stands between us and the Good News of Jesus’ birth.

During Advent, we can rededicate ourselves to Christ through our actions, thoughts, and prayers. This is a good time for us to improve our habits and offer them as gifts to God. Perhaps Advent can also be an occasion to discover God’s gifts all around us. We need to have an open heart to receive Christ—God’s greatest gift of all! We complain that Christmas is too “commercial,” but there is a way to live out the real “reason for the season.”

Special Feasts and Fasts During Advent

Fasting During Hisnag

Hisnag is in a sense introduced by a week of fasting. The fast is officially known as “the Fast of the Beginning of Hisnag.” There is a second fast of a week’s duration following the third Sunday of Hisnag. This fast is known as “the Fast of St. James, Bishop of Nisibis.” The commemoration of the latter takes place on the following Saturday.

The third and final fast, again of a week’s duration, precedes the Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Christ our God, and that is how it is officially recognized in the liturgical calendar.

During the remaining weeks of Hisnag when there is no fasting, the Wednesdays and Fridays are regularly observed as fasting days.

Feasts During Hisnag

The Armenian Church celebrates a number of feasts and observes some important commemorations during the 50 days of Hisnag.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Holy Virgin to the Temple, as it has a fixed date, is celebrated on November 21st, even if it falls within the week of the fasting. On such occasions, the feast is cele-



Bible Readings

Nov. 6 Luke 8:49-56
Nov. 13 Luke 9:44-50
Nov. 20 Luke 11:1-13
Nov. 27 Luke 12:22-31

Isaiah 40:3

A voice of one calling:
“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD ;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.”



brated liturgically, but the fasting prevails in dietary matters.

The same practice is also observed during the Feast of the Conception of the Holy Virgin by St. Anna, which is always celebrated on December 9th.

During the Hisnag we commemorate some of the important and major saints of the Christian Church. Among them are the 4th-century founders of Christian theology St. Gregory the Wonderworker and St. Basil of Caesarea; the Holy Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew, the enlighteners of Armenia; the Egyptian fathers; the early bishops of the church, such as St. Clemens, St. Ignatius, St. Polycarpus, St. Nicholas; St. James of Nisibis; and at the very end of the year, King David commemorated as a prophet; the Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord; St. Stephen the Protomartyr; the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul; the Holy Apostles James and John, both of them surnamed as Sons of Thunder.

By EDACNA



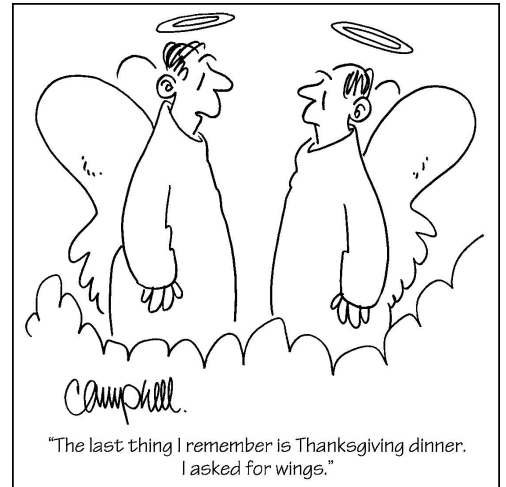
NorCal Armenian Clergy visited with Bishop Daniel Findikian of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church, at St. John Armenian Church in San Francisco on Tuesday, September 27, 2022.



Fr. Krikor recently met with Reverend George Mockel, pastor of the Church of Santa Maria in Orinda. A lot was discussed about both the Armenian and Catholic church, parish life and more.



On September 13, 2022, Fr. Krikor made a presentation to NorCal Armenian Senior Services and stayed for lunch and activities.



Thanksgiving Jokes
Why didn't the taxidermy turkey want seconds?
He was already stuffed.
What can you never eat for Thanksgiving dinner?
Breakfast or lunch.
What always comes at the end of Thanksgiving?
The letter G.



On-Line Bible Study

Wednesday, November 2

Thursday, November 10

Wednesday, November 30

Register for Bible Study at:
www.stvartanoakland.com/events

Donations

St. Vartan Church Parish Priest and Council gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

In Honor of Gay Diers 90th Birthday—Don and Lisa Manoogian, Michael Malione and Jennifer Barron (Endowment Fund)

Food Festival Donations

Leg of Lamb—Susan Van Diggelen, Linda Diers, The Kestekyan Family, Tom and Dinorah Diamond

Bazaar General—Regina Garabedian, Lou Aronian, Linda Diers (cookie dough), Ed and Kristian Minasian, Arlene Boyd, Susie Garriott

Tent—Ed and Suzanne Vasgerdsian, Linda Diers

Case of Armenian Beer—Edward and Armineh Jamgotchian

In Memory

† Albert Odabashian

Lou Dokos, Sandra and John Capurro (Endowment Fund), Seza and Dana Dominguez, Lou Aronian, Janet Kamian

† Rick Magarian

Janis Christopher (Richard Demirjian Athletic Fund)

† Ara Kaprielian

Ursula Kaprielian, Donald and Virginia Tafjen, Mary and Jack Aslanian, Mike Kilijian, Lillian Mardikian (St. Vartan Voice)

† Lawrence Chang for Lawrence Chang Retaining Wall Fund

Alice Sarafian, Suzanne and Ed Vasgerdsian, Trina and Alfredo Lieras, Sandra and John Capurro, Vonalee Mazmanian

† Lawrence Chang

James and Marjorie Kurkjian, Lou Dokos, Greg and Seta Tcherkoyan

† Dorothy Hazarian

Suzanne and Ed Vasgerdsian, Greg and Seta Tcherkoyan

News From Our St. Vartan Family

Condolences

A funeral service was held for **Tsovinar Azizian** on September 21, 2022 at St. Andrew Armenian Church.

Our condolences to her children, Albert Azizian, Ara & Angel Azizian, Armen & Diko Azizian, Levon & Rita Azizian; her grandchildren, Shaunt, Herant, Zovig, Ani, Natalie and Emma Azizian; and her great grandchildren, Elise and Noeme Azizian.

A funeral service was held for **Greg Tcherkoyan** at St. Vartan Church on October 22, 2022.

Our condolences to Greg's wife, Seta; daughters, Kathi, Patti (Jerry) and Kirsti; four granddaughters, Stacey, Caeti, Nicole and Krista; a great-granddaughter, Francesca, born the day before he died; sister, Diana Shirin; and brother-in-law, Harry Sherinian; and many nieces, nephews and cousins related by birth or affection.

A funeral service for **Ara Kaprielian** was held on Friday, October 21, 2022 at 10 am at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, CA.

Our condolences to his wife of 58 years, Ursula; his sons, Christopher and Peter; his daughters-in-law, Petra and Angelina; his granddaughter, Sophia; as well as nieces and nephews and many friends.

Baptism

Skyton Kenna Yeranossian was baptized at St. Vartan Church on September 10, 2022. Her father is Artin Yeranossian and mother is Desiree Autumn Jimenez. Her Godfather is Apo Arakelian.

Send Your Christmas Greetings

You can send a Christmas Greeting in the December issue of the St. Vartan Voice newsletter to all your family and friends at St. Vartan Church. Call the church office at 510-893-1671 or email stvartanoakland@aol.com before November 15, 2022 to place your greeting. Suggested donation is \$30.



The Bodiless Powers

Every year, a Saturday in early November brings us to one of the more unusual observances of the Armenian Church calendar: the feast day dedicated to the holy archangels Michael and Gabriel. We'll greet it again on November 5.

Angels in popular culture seem like benign, even childlike beings. But the Bible depicts them as something else entirely—something truly incomprehensible to the human mind. “Fear not!” is the characteristic greeting that issues from an angel when it is sent to converse with a human being—suggesting that there is something potentially terrifying in our encounters with them.

The multitude of angels make up the “heavenly hosts”—the armies of God waging an invisible war against evil forces. The archangel Michael (whose name means, “Who is equal to God?”) is symbolically shown as a warrior who protects God’s people and contends with Satan. Gabriel (“God is my strength”) is best known as the messenger who announced Christ’s impending birth to St. Mary.

The Christian tradition regards the angels as “bodiless powers”: Thought without physicality; will without animal substance; beings of pure spirit, who do not occupy even a single point in space.

The very possibility of such creatures opens up deep questions about our experience of the material universe—and about man himself. For example: Are our thoughts just chemical reactions, or is human intelligence itself a sign of something beyond and above physical existence?

In that sense, the idea of angels enlarges our understanding of the universe that God has created, and of the place He has given to His human creations.

By EDACNA



Հիսնակաց պահք

Աստված, երբ մարդուն ստեղծեց, դեռևս դրախտում նրա համար պահք սահմանեց. «Դրախտում ամեն ծառի պտուղներից կարող ես ուտել, բայց բարու և չարի գիտության ծառից մի՛ կերեք, որովհետև այն օրը, երբ ուտեք դրանից, մահկանացու կդառնաք» (Ծննդոց 2.16-17):

«Պահքը դրախտում օրինադրվեց, և այն հասակակից է մարդկությանը», - գրում է Բարսեղ Կեսարացին իր «Վասն պահոց» ճառում: Եվ եթե նախածնողները պահեին պահքի պատվիրանը, կժառանգեին անմեղ և անմահ կյանք:

Պահքի օրերին հրաժարվում են կենդանական ծագում ունեցող կերակուրներից և սնվում միայն բուսական կերակուրներով: Սակայն պահքի խորհուրդը այսքանով չի սահմանափակվում. պահոց օրերին եկեղեցին պատգամում է սնվել Կենդանի Հացով՝ Աստծո խոսքով: Ինչպես Սուրբ Գիրքն է վկայում. «Գրված է՝ միայն հացով չի ապրի մարդ, այլ՝ ամեն խոսքով, որ դուրս է գալիս Աստծո բերանից» (Մատթեոս 4.4): Մարդը հոգի է և մարմին, ինչպես ուտելիքն է մարմնին հաճելի, այնպես էլ պահքը՝ հոգուն: Պահքի և աղոթքի ուժի ու զորության մասին վկայում է Սուրբ Գիրքը: Հիսուս Քրիստոս բժշկում էր դիվահարների և Իր աշակերտներին էլ տվել էր այդ իշխանությունը: Բայց մի անգամ նրանք չկարողացան բժշկել մի դիվահարի, և երբ հիվանդի տերը հայտնեց Հիսուսին, թե՝ Քո աշակերտները չկարողացան բժշկել այս հիվանդին, Տերը պատասխանեց. «Սա այնպիսի դիվահարություն է, որ կարող է բժշկվել միայն աղոթքով և պահքով» (Մատթեոս 17.20):

Հայ Առաքելական Սուրբ եկեղեցու ծիսակարգում տարվա մոտ կեսը պահոց օրեր են՝ բաժանված օրապահքերի, շաբաթապահքերի և Քառասնօրյա կամ Մեծ պահքի, նախատեսված ապաշխարության համար: Ըստ առաքելական կանոնի՝ յուրաքանչյուր չորեքշաբթի և ուրբաթ, բացառությամբ Սբ. Զատիկից մինչև Համբարձում ընկած չորեքշաբթի և ուրբաթ օրերի, օրապահքեր են: Չորեքշաբթի պահք ենք պահում ի հիշատակ Քրիստոսի մատնության, իսկ ուրբաթ՝ ի հիշատակ Նրա խաչելության: Շաբաթապահք է կոչվում, քանի որ տևում է մեկ շաբաթ՝ երկուշաբթիից մինչև ուրբաթ: Այն նախորդում է եկեղեցական որոշ մեծ տոների՝ ինչպիսիք են Վարդավառը, Վերափոխումը, Խաչվերացը, Վարագա Սուրբ Խաչը և այլն:

Ինչպես այսօր Քառասնօրյա կամ Մեծ Պահքի շրջանը ընդգրկում է Սուրբ Հարության տոնին նախորդող քառասուն օրերը, այնպես էլ քրիստոնեության վաղ շրջանում Սուրբ Ծննդյան տոնի համար

նույնպես սահմանված էր պահքի երկարատև շրջան, որը տևում էր 50 օր: Այդ շրջանը կոչվում էր Հիսնակ և սկսվում էր Սուրբ Ծննդյան տոնին նախորդող 50-րդ օրվա մերձավոր երկուշաբթի օրը: Այժմ 50-օրյա այդ շրջանը բաժանված է երեք շաբաթապահքերի՝ երկշաբաթյա ընդմիջումներով միմյանցից առանձնացված: Շաբաթապահքերից առաջինն սկսվում է հիսնակի՝ Սուրբ Ծննդյան տոնին նախորդող 50-րդ օրվա մերձավոր երկուշաբթի օրը: Երկրորդ ու երրորդ շաբաթապահքերը նախորդում են Սուրբ Հակոբ Մծբնեցի հայրապետի և Սուրբ Ծննդյան տոներին: Դրանք տևում են մեկ շաբաթ: Սուրբ Ծննդյան տոնի շաբաթապահքը սկսվում է դեկտեմբերի 30-ին:

Պահքերին նախորդող կիրակի օրերը կոչվում են բարեկենդան, որը նշանակում է բարի կենդանություն՝ ուրախություն:

Պահքը ինքնամաքման, աղոթքի, գղջման, մեղքերի գիտակցման և խոկման ընթացք է: Այն հոգևոր դաստիարակության լավագույն միջոց է: Սուրբ Հովհան Մանդակունին պահք է անվանում նաև բերանի լոռությունը, աչքերն արատությունից, լսելիքը՝ անդեպ լսելուց և սիրտը՝ պիղծ խորհուրդներից զերծ պահելը: Պահք է նաև չընկերանալը պատվի և իշխանության համար, չբարկանալը, չաղաղակելը, չնախանձելը, վրեժխնդիր չլինելը և չջանալ սեփական անձը ընկերոջ մոտ արդարացնելը: Պահք է նաև խոնարհությունը, հնազանդությունը և սուրբ սրտով բոլորին սիրելը: Նաև, մանավանդ, պահք է՝ այդ օրերին ինչ արգելում էս որովայնիցդ, այն աղքատներին ընձեռել: Այս է սուրբ և աստվածահաճո պահքը:

Հիսնակի պահոց շրջանին ֆիզիկապես և հոգեպես պատրաստվում ենք Քրիստոսի Սուրբ Ծննդյանն ու Աստվածհայտնությանը: Հիսնակի պահոց շրջանը իր լրումին է հասնում Սուրբ Ծննդյան ճրագալույցի Պատարագով և հունվարի 6-ին ջրօրհնյաց Պատարագով, նվիրված Քրիստոսի մկրտությանը Աստվածհայտնությանը: Կարինե Սուգիկյան



Volunteers met on September 27 to make 1,100 luleh kebabs for the Food Festival.

LAS POSITAS GOLF COURSE - LIVERMORE, CA

TREX OAKLAND 2ND ANNUAL CHARITABLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER 12TH, 2022
Shotgun Start at 8:30am

Shamble Tournament Format

Long Driver Contest

Closest to Pin Contest

Luncheon and Silent Auction to Follow

Player Information

\$140 Per Player Including Lunch

\$120 Per Player No Lunch

Sponsorship Information

Gold Sponsor - \$1,000 - Includes 4some, 3 Hole Sponsors and Lunch Recognition

Silver Sponsor - \$750 - Includes 4some, 2 Hole Sponsors and Lunch Recognition

\$250 for Two Hole Sponsorship

\$150 for Individual Hole Sponsorship

RSVP to

Stuart Arakelian - stufam62@gmail.com



St. Vartan Armenian Church Annual Food



Food Festival—October 7 & 8, 2022



Food Festival Thanks

Dear All,

Neither written nor spoken words can express our gratitude for the extraordinary dedication, love and service you've all rendered to execute the Annual Food Festival! Huge Success! Bravo!

You all are indeed special, exemplary members and building blocks of our Church and Community! What I have witnessed throughout the past months, the weeks before, and the days of the Festival has only left me amazed and full of joy and gratitude for having you all. St. Vartan is indeed a blessed, special and exemplary parish! And all that... thanks to you!

I'd like to also shortly touch on this past Sunday's message and relate it to our success. It is the story about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ standing in the temple observing the people who were donating to the treasury box. There were many people who gave out of their abundance, but a poor widow who only left a few coins in the treasury box. The Lord acknowledged that she was the one who gave more than anyone else, because she gave her everything out of her poverty. The Lord acknowledged it and blessed it because she gave it all, which in this case is not related to a number, but related to her wholehearted commitment (reflection on the Gospel of Mark 12:41-44). We are blessed and successful because you give your all!

God's abundant blessings are with you all and your families! Please accept our deepest gratitude and love.

Der Krikor

St. Vartan Café also known as Hye Café, would like to express its deepest gratitude, thanks and appreciation to all of the individuals who helped the food preparation for the Festival; making special middle eastern dips and beoregs, cutting, peeling, chopping the vegetables, baking, frying in the kitchen, boxing the foods, cutting the gyro, serving customers and being cashiers at the booth. Without their devoted help and the love of our Church and community, it wouldn't have been as successful.

May God bless them all and hope to see all of them next year again.

Love, thanks and gratitude,

Seta Jindoian, Anto and Hasmig Cingoz

To All the Food Festival Volunteers,

Thank you to the over 200 volunteers who gave of themselves...renewing our Armenian Culture and Bay Area Community for a new generation...all while uplifting our beloved St Vartan Church. We had people young and old, new and experienced - barbecuers, food line servers, dessert makers, children's game helpers, door welcomers, raffle ticket sellers, Khanoot stockers, music performers, dance choreographers and dancers, Grandma's attic donors, Armenian gift vendor, jewelry maker, tour giver, printers, cleaners, cashiers, pilaf and food makers, Armenian beer and wine sellers, setter-uppers, taker-downers, planners, announcers, donors, and more - all working together, not just for two days, but months in advance. Because each volunteer cared enough to share their talents and time, we did well and reached our goal of making people happy and bringing in needed funds to the church. Thank you and hope you can help again at the next Food Festival!!

Suzanne Diers

Co-Treasurer, Parish Council 2022



Lara Maxie, representative from California Attorney General Rob Bonta's office, presented St. Vartan Church with a Certificate of Recognition for years of service to the Armenian Community.



Oakland City Council President and District 2 Councilmember, Nikki Fortunato Bas, stopped by the Food Festival to greet guests and share her appreciation to the St. Vartan Community.

Ladies Society Featured Recipe of the Month
Cream Khadaif

1 pint heavy cream

3 tablespoons sugar

1/2 lb unsalted butter (melted)

1/2 pint light cream

1/2 cup warm milk

3 tablespoons cornstarch

1 lb of Khadaif dough

Syrup:

1 1/2 cup sugar

3/4 cup water

1 teaspoon lemon juice

Step 1: Combine heavy and light cream together to a full boil. I use a 3 quart heavy saucepan to heat the cream.

Step 2: Combine cornstarch, milk and sugar to make a paste. Add to cream mixture. Bring to a boil and let cool. Texture will be like pudding.

Step 3: Separate and break dough in 3 to 4 pieces in a large bowl. Gradually drizzle the melted butter evenly on the dough, until all dough is covered.

Step 4: Put half of the buttered dough in an 8x10 baking pan. Cover dough with the cooled pudding and add remaining buttered dough on top.

Step 5: Bake at 400 degree oven for 35 to 40 minutes or until lightly browned.

Step 6: Prepare syrup and boil for 5 minutes. Let cool before pouring on the hot Khadaif.

Step 7: Pour the half of the cooled syrup on the Khadaif. Save the rest for those who may want more syrup. Paree Aghorjak!



St. Vartan Church Ladies Society
General Members Luncheon Meeting

Thursday, November 10

12 noon in the John Marukian Church Hall

We will be donating "Stuff-a-Sock" to
Shepard's Gate in Alameda County

RSVP: Lisa Manoogian—925-698-6399



Save the Date

Thursday, December 8, 2022

12 noon

St. Vartan John Marukian Church Hall

Ladies Society Christmas Luncheon

"Home for Christmas"

Details to follow



ST. VARTAN CULTURAL COMMITTEE
PRESENTS

A VISUAL JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY OF ARMENIA AND ARTSAKH

A BOOK PRESENTATION BY

AUTHOR
DAVID KARAMIAN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2022

12:30PM

ST. VARTAN ARMENIAN CHURCH
JOHN MARUKIAN HALL
650 SPRUCE ST., OAKLAND, CA

\$15.00 INCLUDES A LIGHT LUNCH

PART OF THE
PROCEEDS
WILL SUPPORT
THE CHURCH



For more information:

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God at Work

There was a man who lived in an area where a hurricane was forecast. His best friend came by and asked if he could drive him to safety. The man said, "No, God will take care of me".

The hurricane started, and flood waters reached the man's doorstep. His neighbors stopped by on their way out of the area, and said, "Hey, come with us to safety!" The man said "No, I trust God."

The flood waters increased, and the man had to retreat to his second story, as the first floor was flooded. A local rescue agency came by in a pontoon boat and said, "Hey, come with us to safety!" The man said "No, God will take care of me."

As the waters increased even more, the man found himself up on his roof, surrounded by floodwater. A federal evacuation service came in a helicopter to rescue him—and still the man said "No, I'm counting on God."

The next moment, the man found himself at the gates of Heaven. He asked the angel there, "Am I dead?" The angel said "Yes, you drowned in the hurricane floodwaters." The man said "But I trusted in God!" The angel said, "God sent you four ways out. You said no to all of them."

God mostly works in ordinary ways, through ordinary people—including you!



St. Vartan Cultural Committee
cordially invites you to

CAL ASA's Culture Show

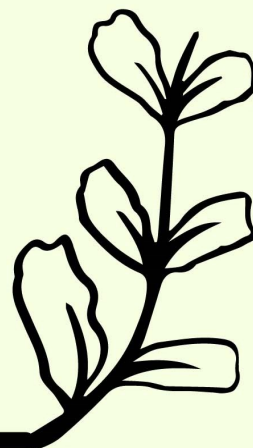
ZARTONK: CULTURAL REVIVAL

St. Vartan Armenian Church
650 Spruce St, Oakland, CA

Saturday, November 12th 2022
6:30pm-9pm

Ticket:\$20
(sold at door only)

Any questions?
Contact Nane Petrosyan at
nanepetrosyan7@gmail.com



St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church
650 Spruce Street
Oakland, CA 94610

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The deadline for all articles is the fifteenth of each month.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate
Rev. Fr. Krikor Zakaryan, Parish Priest and President of All Church Organizations
Parish Council Chair: Dicko Shahvekilian
Parish Assembly Chair: David Ojakian
Choir Director: Armena Petrosova
Organist: Araks Aghazarian
ACYO Chair: Anna Krikorian
Sunday School Superintendent: Karen Mener
Armenian School Superintendent: Anna Masis
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Hokejosh: Nora Hanoian
Hye Social Chair: Annette Kevranian
Boys Basketball Coach: Mike Boloyan
Girls Volleyball Coach: Annette Kevranian
Newsletter Editors: Arlene Hovsepian and Rachel Harger
Church Secretary: Rachel Harger
Altar Flowers: Carole Chang
Church Custodian: Wartkes Hagopian

Divine Liturgy—Sundays 10 am
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