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# MSANT WALLEY

To the Batch of 2020

From the tiny infants that played catch on the centre steps, to the grown bunch of 95 young adults, with tailored pants, and ironed Kameez's, we stand here today, expressing gratitude for this remarkable journey, as we bid our hardest goodbye.

अब तक की ज़िन्दगी की खुशियाँ, सपने और बहुत सी मीठी यादें समेट कर आगे बढ़ने की घड़ी आ गई है, कितने दोस्त बनाए हमने, कितने रिश्ते कायम हुए, क्यूँ इतनी जल्दी बड़े हो गए हम? यह सफर अब ख़तम होने को है, नया सफर बाहें खोले बुला रहा है, पर दिल चाहता है कि कुछ देर और ठहरे यहाँ, क्योंकि दिल अभी भरा नहीं।

Today as we descended these 21 stairs, our minds just stopped wandering for a moment, desperately trying to relive 14 years full of unforgettable experiences and clinging onto these maroon and beige walls that redefined what we called 'home'. This 14 year long journey of some unforgettable bonds, memorable events, remarkable teachers, and some forever implanted scoldings would have been unimaginable without each one of us standing here on stage today.

From skidding in the AV room during dance classes to jumping out of classroom windows to escape teachers. From our usual lining up for the next class, to breaking lines daily just to grab lunch. From plunging into the splash taal in the summer days, to collectively drowning in piles of pending assignments and essays. We've done it all, and all together.

In an otherwise conflict-ridden batch, be it about batch hoodies or date sheets, there's just one painful topic that immediately binds all 90 of us into one individual entity - and that is our luck, or lack of, should I say? From the batch that missed their Class 2 night stay, to the first batch that took the board exams after 9 years. From the only batch that didn't get snow at Yamunotri to the one that dressed up in flouncy red costumes to perform on the Beatles their last year in school. From the class that was refused badges to the one that never went on the unforgettable Alaknanda expedition. But for the batch of 2020 even our ill-fate couldn't weaken our spirits.

We knew that as long as we were all in it together, the journey would be enjoyable nonetheless. We grew closer after every obstacle that we collectively faced and found happiness in our togetherness despite our circumstances. Yes we are that batch that got down on their fours and climbed the slippery peaks of the Yamunotri. Yes we are that batch that cannot popcorn count till 20 and yes we are that batch that stands in the heat with our hands raised thinking its a social experiment.

#### SCHOOL WATCH

#### Sociology Essay Writing Competition

Class 11
1st Jai Kapoor
2nd Jindsaroop Kaur Sandhu
3rd Gauri Minocha
Class 12
1st Aahana Banerjee
2nd Tia Gulyani
3rd Amaaya Arora

#### Class 9 Inter House Mathematics Quiz

Winners
Blue House
Vedant Singh, Saarthak Khosla,
Aryan Agarwal and Anand Athlaly

#### Shabd Gyan Pratiyogita

Class 9
1st Inaaya Gulati
2nd Udhay Aman Chopra
3rd Advaita Sehgal and Jai Mittal
Class 10
1st Mahika Dalmia
2nd Shaurya Chandna
3rd Agastya Gupta

Congratulations!



As we stand here today, waiting to cross the rubicon, we would like to thank our teachers and all members of staff that have shaped us into who we are. From scolding us for patakas in Class 6, deodorant fires in Grade 10, even accusing us of partaking in the conspiracy of silence, their undying commitment somehow gave direction to our lives. They taught us right from wrong, made us believe in ourselves and also became our mentors, best friends, and confidants as we grew up.

#### हम स्कूल के दीदी भाइया का तहे दिल से शुक्रियादा करना चाहते हैं जिन्होंने हम जैसे छोटे नाक मे दम करने वाले बचो को इतना प्यार दिया, और हर मोड़ पर हमारी देखभाल की ताकि आज हम आपके सामने खडे होने के काबिल बन सके |

I know years down the line, as we sit in different parts of the world, possibly attending boring college lectures, our minds would somehow find their way back to the tunnels in the jhoola-bari, the play-room ship and the fear of being summoned to Ms.Krishnan's office.

So, to the batch where all our differences and vast personalities somehow found their niche, and to the people in whose faces and embraces, we found comfort. Batch of 2020, you have our heart. It's been real fam.

Sehej Kaur & Yash Gupta, 12

# 30TH FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

#### **ORCHESTRA**

There was never a dull moment during orchestra practice. Jokes Dread filled everyone's mind at the starting of the first few days sounds of untuned instruments. The atmosphere in the design centre ran high with excitement and enthusiasm. With participants from class 8 to 11, new friendships were bound to blossom. All 75 of us musicians learnt an array of new tunes and the singers sang in the perfect pitch and rhythm. The many hours of practice paid off as we performed on the final day with all the instruments and voices blending beautifully and harmoniously. The upbeat and energising songs, some of Disney's best hits, had the audience and the musicians tapping their feet along the beat. As I sat there, squinting my eyes as the bright lights flashed, my mind wandered back to the practice sessions in the design centre and I thought, oh how I'll miss this.

#### Mehek Anand, 9





#### CLASS 7

प्रत्येक वर्ष की भाँति इस वर्ष भी हमारा स्थापना दिवस बड़ी धूमधाम और हर्षील्लास से मनाया गया। यह हमारा तीसवाँ स्थापना दिवस था जिसमें सभी विद्यार्थियों ने बढ़-चढ़कर भाग लिया और अपने अथक परिश्रम से उसे सफल भी बनाया।

इस वर्ष की हमारी जुनियर विंग की थीम "साहित्य के नौ रस" थी. जिसकी छोटे-छोटे बच्चों ने नृत्य और अभिनय के माध्यम से सुंदर प्रस्तुति दी और अपने भाव-भंगिमाओं और परिधानों से सभी का मन मोह लिया।

सीनियर विंग की थीम "डिज्नी" थी:जिसके अंतर्गत नृत्य, नाटक और कथा को अभिनय में पिरोकर विद्यार्थियों ने सुंदर प्रस्तुतीकरण दिया। बड़े ही रोमांचकारी ढंग से छात्रों ने ऑर्कस्ट्रा का सुंदर कार्यक्रम और बारहवीं कक्षा ने मंच पर आकर हमारा विद्यालय गीत प्रस्तुत किया। सम्पूर्ण रंगारंग कार्यक्रम के समापन पर हमारे निर्देशक श्री अरुण कपूर ने अभिवावकों को धन्यवाद देते हुए सर्वश्रेष्ठ पुरस्कारों की घोषणां की। विद्यालय की संचालिका श्रीमती रैखा पूरी और प्रधान अध्यापिका श्रीमती रेखा कृष्णन और श्रीमती रेखा बक्शी ने मेधावी ally was an adventure! छात्रों को पुरस्कार दिए।

इस प्रकार हमारा तीसवाँ स्थापना दिवस सफलतापूर्वक सम्पन्न ह्आ !!!

#### CLASS 6

being cracked, doing push-ups as punishment, the comical of dance practice- when we had to prepare for the Founders' Day. Little did we know how fun it will be in the end.

> At last, the big day came. We all were very enthusiastic and nervous. As we were in the wings, I could not see anything but happy, beaming faces in the half-light.

> I wish I could describe those two minutes on stage, every move, and every turn. All I can say is it went absolutely perfect.. As we exited the stage, our heart beating rapidly, a sense of satisfaction engulfed us.

> The best part after Founders' Day was when one was walking down to the main gate. There the numerous parents congratulated us as we left for our Diwali break.

#### Udai Relan, 6





#### CLASS 8

Founder's practice has always been the most awaited time of the year for us, since we get to miss lessons. Little did we know that this time our PE and Aesthetics lessons would be taken too.

"Practice is enough", "It is fun only" the teachers said. Class 8 was the most unruly grade when it came to practice. I don't envy the choreographer who had the task of acquainting himself with the 8th graders. The practices were a cacophony of raised voices and discordant singing, but we didn't lose our enthusiasm. Though dubbed 'even worse than class 10', we danced with fervour. It re-

Jokes aside, I have to give credit to our class for finally reaching the stage. We defied the impossible!

Sara Jaykumar, 8

- कायरा धर

#### CLASS 9

One of the most anxiously awaited occasions in our school is the Founder's Day. This year Vasant Valley School celebrated its 30th Founders Day. The theme was Disney and Class 9 got to dance on the songs of the animated superhero film- The Incredibles. Our dance was divided into three sections the first one was on Mr. Incredible, the second one on Elastic Girl and the third one was the finale. Seven girls danced with a neon elastic band which was a whole new experience. Performing our dance on stage with lights and a smart costume was great and enjoyable. It was a powerful and amusing dance but it would have been better if we had put in more energy. Dancing together as a batch is always fun but this year it was even more interesting as we danced on the songs we grew up listening to.

Sukriti Jain, 9



#### **CLASS 11 - THE LAST DANCE**

Each of us views the batch of 2021 as our extended family, and the time we spent together preparing for our last Founder's day performance had a huge contribution towards the same. Rajan sir helped us learn new things daily- he showed us that our attitudes were stopping us from moving our bodies freely, and that to dance, we had to rid ourselves of this attitude and the box we had caged ourselves in. The first few weeks saw minimal participation from many of us, but we were all singing and dancing together with a lot of enthusiasm towards the end. Perhaps most importantly, we were all motivating each other to do our best.

Practice was a lot of fun and always started with us warming up to popular songs like 'Señorita'. However, all of us soon realized that this was going to be the last time we all played games like '007', messenger and '21' together as we waited for our turn to dance on the center stage. This was going to be the last time we all danced together and enjoyed ourselves on stage with the people closest to us. This was going to be the last time we all missed lessons for Founder's day practice, and the last time we waited anxiously on Lights and Sound Rehearsal to see what our costumes looked like upon being worn.

With these thoughts in our minds, we gave this final dance our all and enjoyed every second of our performance. It was an honour to grow up with this batch, and our dance was an excellent way of celebrating these 13 years of togetherness.

Siddhant Gandhi, 11

#### CLASS 10

From chairs being thrown around to taming the loud voices that seemed to echo throughout the room - this year's Class 10 Founder's Day practices were, in short, chaotic. After two months of rehearsal, and finally getting our act together in the final week - our final performance pleasantly surprised everyone. Amidst all the chaos, it dawned upon me and others in my batch that this was something truly special. We resonated with the theme of Beauty and the Beast - a metamorphosis of a bunch of troublemakers into a graceful portrayal of Disney characters. And on a lighter note, we all learnt a thing or two about couples dance and enjoyed laughing as we learnt. It was, to say the least, memorable.

Anshuman Singh, 10



#### AWARDS SEASON

Anger, Fear, Confusion... a myriad of emotions overwhelmed many of us in Vasant Valley School when our names were not announced for the Subject/Excellence awards. Some cried, some argued and some simply lashed out at all the teachers. But then there were some, who managed to look at the bigger picture. However, what remains constant is the end result for all. Two months down the line, all the regret and feelings of loss will be taken over by fear and anxiety from new sources. What happened in those centre steps will soon be forgotten and new memories will replace the old ones. So, for all those feeling disillusioned, it is only one award. Each one of us in Vasant Valley is excellent in our own ways!





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#### 30th Founders Day - Class 5

DISNEY, this year's Founder's Day theme, was another big hit. After last year's musical edition of The Beatles, I was not expecting another fun song and dance show this year. When we heard about it, we got



very excited. Disney became a huge talking point in our batch. The practice sessions were fun. I waited for them in anticipation. I couldn't resist taking a break from hours of studies! The boys and I from 5A danced on 'Frozen Heart' from the super duper hit Disney movie, Frozen. We dressed in a pearl white costume with some straps of silver cloth wrapped around it, and a silver belt. In the dance, some people and I held hammers, while others held Ice Cubes. While I enjoyed the fun sessions with my friends, I really feel I might have enjoyed a more interesting dance than the marching beat in Frozen Heart. Maybe, Hakuna Matata? I was on the senior school center stage for the first time. It was an amazing feeling, despite the butterflies in my stomach. The center stage looked splendid. The dazzling lights and spacious stage allowed for a full- blown performance. The familiar tunes lifted the mood many notches higher. This was a fantastic Founder's Day experience but I'm pretty sure, the next one will be even better.

Rouvin Upadhyay 5A

#### मेरा फ़ाउंडर्स डे का अनुभव

इस बार मैं यह सुनकर बहुत ख़ुश हुआ जब मुझे पता चला कि फ़ाउंडर्स डे की थीम बच्चों के मनोरंजन के बादशाह 'वाल्ट डिज़्नी' पर रखी गई है। डिज़्नी की सारी फ़िल्में मैंने देखी है और उनके गाने भी मुझे काफ़ी पसंद हैं। तो शुरू हो गया हमारा अभ्यास। बहुत सारे अच्छे नृत्यों में से मैं 'हकूना मटाटा' के लिए चुना गया। ये पहली बार था कि मुझे सेटर स्टेज पर नाचने का मौका मिल रहा था। मुझे नाचना बहुत पसंद है। मयंक सर ने हम सब को अच्छा प्रशिक्षण दिया और हमसे ख़ूब अभ्यास भी करवाया। हम सब भी ख़ूब मज़े से अभ्यास करते। फ़ाउंडर्स डे वाले दिन रौशनी की चमक कुछ और ही थी। नृत्य, गीत पहनावा सब एक से बढ़कर एक। मुझे अपने नृत्य के अलावा 'फ़ेंड लाइक मी' भी बहुत अच्छा लगा। कक्षा ' में आकर सेंटर स्टेज पर नाचने का यह अनुभव मज़ेदार रहा।

#### Water

Water is very special to us.

And some people play with water and fuss.

Then on a sunny day

Water evaporates in a funny way.

When water evaporates it turns into water vapour.

And becomes as light as paper.

Water is not found in deserts at all

But we waste mostly in a mall.

Saira Master Kumar III - B

#### Ode to India

India oh India you are my country I love you whole heartedly when I see your tricolour waving high I salute it with a content sigh you are a land of courage and bravery your heroes freed us from slavery the love for you is forever in my heart no matter where I travel it will be my integral part Taj mahal, Lal Qila, India gate are a delightful sight The tip of Himalayas always shine bright Your deserts Thar, Kutch are huge and vast Your 22 languages leave me Aghast Festivals here bring harmony and peace The vibrant states are a bliss Food of different states is delicious and yummy It always satisfies my empty tummy The chandrayaan 2 has been launched on moon Your growth in science is a boon My great country may you Hail and rise With all your citizens responsible and wise. Dhriti Yadav IV - C

India Oh India!

You are our great land, Conscious am I of how thou art so grand! With culture so varied and art so diverse, Praise of you will fill many a verse! India Oh India! With many religions to celebrate,

Languages and festivals with bounty so great! With mountains so high and valleys so deep,

Armed forces help citizens sleep,

India Oh India!

Unity of our population,

Rich architecture throughout our great nation,

With 28 states and handicrafts galore,

Ancient yoga and Ayurveda have all nations floored!

India Oh India!

This country is blessed,

In Science and technology we are better than the best! Thank you my country, I cherish you with pride, A strong democracy, all obstacles we will tide!

Anhad Kashyap IV - A



Master Strokes by Foundation A

#### On a rainy Day

One day two girls were playing in a park. Suddenly the rain came and wanted to be their friend. They liked rain and became her friend. The puddles also wanted to be friends with the girls. The naughty thunder made a big sound. The girls got scared and did not want to be friends with thunder. The clouds too wanted to be friends with the girls and play with them. Thunder was sad because no one wanted to be his friend. He promised he would not make loud sounds any more. They all clapped for thunder and became friends with him. Miraya Chabbra II - A

# And the Man Booker Prize goes to...

Named the greatest award in the English speaking world, the Man Booker was awarded this year amid drama and records. It was given to Margret Atwood for The Testament, and Bernardine Evaristo for Girl, Women, Other. For the third time ever in the illustrious history of the prize it was split between two authors even though the Booker rules say "that the prize may never be divided or withheld." The authors themselves made history with Atwood being the oldest winner ever at the age of 79 and Bernadine for being the first black women to ever win the award.

The four female one male panel of judges had been clearly instructed that this year the prize would under no condition be split. Yet the judges discussed and debated. This process only deepened their love for both novels. They appealed to the Literary editor and the trust chairman Baroness Kennedy Qc. Both books are not just incredibly well written but also provide an important commentary on issues we face today.

Even though this represents a historic departure from long standing traditions of the prize there is still controversy surrounding Margret Atwood's win as many believe it steals the spotlight from the historic win of the first black women author. Yet wonderful books have been celebrated and received recognition and it is the hope of the Booker prize that this inspires the love of reading in future generations and the celebration of literary arts.



### THE ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN

Creepy Jack-o-Lanterns, bright and flashy costumes, and overflowing stock of sweets. - Halloween can never get boring. This festival is awaited by children of all ages. However, Halloween was not always known as a magical festival. In fact, thousands of years ago, it was the night before the New Year for the Celts, an ancient group from what is now known as Ireland. On the Celts calendar, November 1st was marked as the beginning of a new year and October 31st was New Year's Eve. This day marked the ending of summer and the harvest season. by celebrating a festival known as Samhain. On this day, the worlds of the living and dead seemed to inter-twine and ghosts of the dead would return to Earth. This was also the time where Celtic priests would predict the fortunes of people and bring them comfort to bear the long winter. This truly was a ritualistic and symbolic festival which we are unknown to.

Siddant Nagrath, 9

# The most interesting Nobel Prizes

The Nobel Prizes have been announced rather recently and we have seen many brilliant discoveries given their due credit. Here are a few of the coolest, and most relevant discoveries or activities.

William G. Kaelin Jr., Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe and Gregg L. Semenza won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for finding how cells react in varying levels of oxygen, more specifically how genes adapt in various levels of oxygen. The trios discoveries will help create new strategies of fighting anaemia, cancer and other diseases.

John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino won the Nobel Prize for developing lithium-ion batteries which are now used in our mobile devices and cars for power. They are fully rechargeable and are helping pave the way to a society free of fossil fuels.

The Nobel Prize in Economics went to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer who created a new and reliable method to fight poverty by creating small questions on this issue and then answering them through careful experiments. These are the most interesting prizes announced up till now and these discoveries will all help us solve various prominent issues faced today.

Jehan Bhandal, 9

Jumping forward to 600 A.D, Christianity was spreading at lightning speed and had taken over Celtic lands. November 1st came to be known as Saint's Day or Hallow's Day. This meant October 31st would be Hallow's Eve, hence the name, Halloween. The festival entered America through the immigrants. They brought in a whole new version of the festival and started the tradition of rendering ghost stories. It slowly started shaping into the festival we are familiar with today.

Today's Halloween is a very commercial one. From all the fancy costumes, to the interestingly flavoured treats, everything has become an expensive celebration. Many a times we hear of celebrities going all out on Halloween parties with funky costumes. However, it is important for us to respect the origins of the festival rather than making it a pathway to profit. Munching sweets and dressing up is quite fun, but the story behind the festival is way cooler.

Shyla Upadhyay, 9

Diwali Daze and the Changing Ways

A day after the Big Bang Festival, as people sip their morning tea, the blinking fairy lights and the scattered boxes of sweets and unopened gifts raise

thoughts on how Diwali traditions have changed.

It's the electric bulb, fairy lights and paper chandeliers that light up Diwali instead of the mud lamps with oil and wicks. From heart-shaped bulbs to fruity illuminations, the lights strung over walls and balconies make a flashy statement. On Diwali morning you wake up with 104 alerts – many from unknown souls - wishing you Diwali in myriad ways, mainly unoriginal and forwarded. From animated videos, memes, selfies, to inspiring quotes, it's a day's job and more to get through the messages.

The onset of Diwali now means cards parties, spending and gambling. Pollution, noise, respiratory illnesses have become characteristic of the Diwali season. There is a nervous competitive edge in relationships because of expensive gifts and the rigours of ritualism. Gifts have become bigger than the people who exchange them, pujas are now occasions to announce bank balances - this private festival has turned into an ostentatious public affair.

The Festival of Lights is not all negative and has evolved a lot over the years. Amidst the abundant festivity, the lights and the gifts, many are making a conscious and evident change-making efforts to quieten, simplify and individualise Diwali. Within the tradition, there is conservation. Within revelry, there is sobriety. To prevent the poor air quality and the blanket of smog that covers Delhi every year, India has mandated only low emission green fireworks ahead of the festival of Diwali. Thanks to vigorous efforts of sound pollution activists a time limit has been declared for festival noise. Many people celebrate the day by lighting up the lives of the poor through money and gifts and also make it a point to buy things from places where the proceeds will go to charity. Earlier, Chinese lights had caused a slowdown in the demand of earthen lamps but the traditional ways are making a comeback. #Potters Ki Diwali was launched to ensure this welcome change continues to take place by supporting local artisans.

One thing that stays constant about Diwali is that it has always been that time of the year when people come together and celebrate the joy of goodness, happiness, camaraderie and brotherhood.

Advaita Sehgal, 9

## क्या है ये हिंग्लिश ?

हमारे देश की एक अनोखी विचित्रता है कि हर प्रदेश की अपनी एक नहीं परन्तु अनेक भाषाएँ है. इस अनोखी व्यवस्था में हिंदी भाषा हैं जो विभिन्न प्रदेशों में बोली जाती हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त एक ऐसी भाषा हमारे देश में आई जिसे हम विदेशी भाषी के रूप में जानते हैं, यह भाषा है अंग्रेजी। जब अंग्रेज़ो ने धीरे- धीरे भारत के कोने – कोने में अपना दबदबा बनाया, तो अंग्रेजी भाषा जगह - जगह बोली जाने लगी।

आज एक अखंड भारत में प्रत्येक भाषाएँ अलग-अलग प्रदेशों में बोली जाती हैं, लेकिन अंग्रेजी और हिंदी, दो ऐसी भाषाएँ हैं जिनका प्रचलन पूरे देश में दिखाई देता है। अगर हम इसकी तुलना अलग देशों से करें, जैसे कि जापान, रूस, चीन, जर्मनी, तो इन देशों में केवल एक भाषा का प्रचलन है | हमारे देश में अंग्रेजी और हिंदी के मेल से, एक अनोखी स्थिति सामने आई है, जिसे हम हिंग्लिश के नाम से जानते हैं। हमारे रोज़मर्रा के जीवन में आज हमारी सोच और उसके अनुरूप हमारी भाषा नए रूप में स्वीकार होती जा रही है। यहाँ तक आजकल समाचार पत्रों , इंटरनेट और मोबाइल फोन पर इसका प्रयोग सजता से किया जाता है | हमारी सोच , समझ और बोली, मूलतः दो भाषाओं के मिश्रण से बन जाती है | उदाहरण के लिए- हिंदी बोलते हुए हुम अंग्रेजी के साधारण शब्द - एम्बुलेंस, टेलीफोन, फायर स्टेशन का इस्तेमाल करते हैं।

# भारत के लौह पुरुष

भारत के लोकप्रिय लौह परुष. सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल. थे एकता और अखंडता के प्रतीक. उन्होंने ही तो कराया विभाजित भारत के राज्यों का मेल।

५५० राज्यों में खंडित भारत को, एक जूट कर देश का मानचित्र जिसने बदल दिया, उस बलशाली सेनानी के जन्मदिन पर, हिंदुस्तान ने मिलकर ' एकता दिवस ' से उनका स्मरण किया।

गुजरात में स्थित एकता की मूर्ति, दुनिया के सबसे उच्च स्मारक के द्वारा, चूम गयी आसमान को, पटेल की राष्ट्रवादी विचारधारा।

हृदय कोमल और स्वर्णिम. आवाज़ जैसे शेर की दहाड़, बिजली- सा तेज़ मस्तिष्क ऐसे थे हमारे सरदार।

सुमाया बेरी, ८ ब

कुछ भाषा विद्वानों के अनुसार इस बदलाव से हम भाषा की शुद्धता को अशुद्ध कर रहे हैं , मगर यह दो भाषाओं का मेल एक ॲनोखा रूप ले रहा है जिसे विश्व के सम्मानित शब्दकोश भी स्वीकार कर रहे हैं। हिंग्लिश की आवश्यकता इसलिए पड़ी क्योंकि कुछ अंग्रेजी शब्दों का अनुवाद बड़ा और कठिन हो जाता है जो कि सीखने का नहीं हँसी का कारण बन जाता है ।

अनाहिता कुकरेजा, कक्षा १०

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