

ALL BIRDS HAVE ANXIETY Handbook

All birds have anxiety: Understanding Bird Anxiety and How to Address It

Birds are often seen as symbols of freedom, beauty, and serenity. However, beneath their vibrant feathers and cheerful chirping lies a complex emotional world. One significant aspect of their mental health is anxiety—a natural, though sometimes problematic, response to their environment. Recognizing that all birds have anxiety is crucial for bird owners, avian enthusiasts, and conservationists alike. This understanding helps foster better care, promotes well-being, and enhances the bond between humans and these remarkable creatures.

Understanding Bird Anxiety

What Is Bird Anxiety?

Bird anxiety refers to the emotional state in which a bird experiences heightened nervousness, fear, or stress. Similar to humans and other animals, birds can react to various stimuli that threaten their sense of safety. While some level of alertness is natural and beneficial, chronic or excessive anxiety can lead to health issues and behavioral problems.

Why Do Birds Experience Anxiety?

Various factors contribute to anxiety in birds, including:

- **Environmental Changes:** Moving to a new cage, changes in habitat, or unfamiliar surroundings.
- **Loud Noises or Sudden Movements:** Thunderstorms, fireworks, or household disturbances.
- **Social Stress:** Lack of social interaction or conflicts with other birds or pets.
- **Health Issues:** Illness or pain can cause discomfort and anxiety.
- **Inadequate Enrichment:** Boredom or lack of stimulation.
- **Neglect or Poor Handling:** Rough handling or neglect can erode trust and cause fear.

Recognizing these causes is the first step toward managing and reducing anxiety in birds.

Signs of Anxiety in Birds

Understanding the signs of anxiety allows owners and caregivers to intervene promptly. Common behaviors indicating bird anxiety include:

Behavioral Signs

- Repetitive behaviors such as feather plucking or self-marring
- Persistent vocalizations or screaming
- Aggression towards humans or other pets
- Excessive hiding or avoidance
- Restlessness, pacing, or constant movement
- Loss of appetite or changes in eating habits
- Flattening of feathers or puffed-up appearance

Physical Signs

- Rapid breathing or increased heart rate
- Weakness or lethargy in severe cases
- Feather loss or skin issues related to stress behaviors

Promptly recognizing these signs helps in implementing calming strategies and seeking veterinary advice when necessary.

Impacts of Anxiety on Birds

Chronic anxiety can have profound effects on a bird's overall health and quality of life. These impacts include:

- **Physical Health:** Stress can weaken the immune system, making birds more susceptible to illness.
- **Behavioral Issues:** Anxiety may lead to destructive behaviors, aggression, or self-harm.
- **Reproductive Problems:** In female birds, chronic stress can disrupt breeding cycles.
- **Reduced Lifespan:** Ongoing stress has been linked to decreased longevity in some bird species.

Addressing anxiety is essential not only for their comfort but also for their physical health and longevity.

Strategies to Reduce Anxiety in Birds

Effective management of bird anxiety involves creating a safe environment, offering proper enrichment, and fostering trust. Here are comprehensive strategies:

Environmental Enrichment and Habitat Management

- **Provide a Stable Environment:** Minimize sudden changes in cage placement or routine.
- **Offer Stimulating Toys:** Mirrors, bells, foraging toys, and perches can reduce boredom.
- **Maintain Optimal Lighting and Temperature:** Natural light cycles and comfortable temperatures support well-being.
- **Create Hiding Spots:** Caves or covered areas help birds retreat when stressed.

Handling and Social Interaction

- **Build Trust Gradually:** Approach patiently, speaking softly and offering treats.
- **Consistent Routine:** Regular feeding and interaction times help reduce uncertainty.
- **Avoid Forcing Interaction:** Let the bird approach on its own terms.
- **Socialize Appropriately:** For social species, companionship with other birds can alleviate loneliness.

Stress Reduction Techniques

- **Limit Loud Noises and Sudden Movements:** Keep household noise levels moderate.
- **Use Calming Toys and Music:** Soft music or white noise can soothe anxious birds.
- **Introduce Gradual Changes:** When necessary, change environments slowly and with patience.
- **Provide Consistent Care:** Regular health check-ups and a balanced diet support resilience against stress.

Medical and Professional Support

- **Consult Avian Veterinarians:** Rule out medical causes of stress or behavioral problems.
- **Behavioral Consultation:** Professional trainers or avian behaviorists can offer tailored strategies.
- **Medication:** In some cases, vets may prescribe anti-anxiety medication for severe cases.

Preventing Anxiety in Birds

Prevention is often more effective than treatment. To prevent anxiety:

- **Choose an Appropriate Environment:** Select a cage and setup suitable for the species? needs.
- **Introduce New Stimuli Gradually:** Any environmental changes should be phased in slowly.
- **Ensure Proper Socialization:** Handle and interact with the bird gently from a young age.
- **Maintain Routine and Consistency:** Predictable schedules reduce uncertainty.
- **Provide Enrichment:** Regular mental and physical stimulation keeps birds engaged and reduces stress.
- **Monitor Health:** Regular vet visits help catch potential health issues early.

By implementing these practices, owners can create a safe haven that minimizes triggers for anxiety.

Conclusion

Understanding that all birds have anxiety is a fundamental aspect of responsible bird ownership. Recognizing their emotional states, identifying signs of distress, and taking proactive steps to create a supportive environment are paramount. While some level of anxiety is natural, chronic or severe stress can detrimentally affect a bird's health and happiness. Through environmental enrichment, gentle handling, routine, and professional care, owners can significantly reduce anxiety and promote a thriving, contented avian companion. Embracing this knowledge fosters a compassionate relationship with birds and contributes to their overall well-being.

Remember: Every bird is unique, and their responses to stressors can vary. Patience, observation, and kindness are key to ensuring they lead happy, healthy lives.

All birds have anxiety ? a statement that might initially seem surprising to casual bird enthusiasts or pet owners but is increasingly supported by scientific research. Anxiety, a complex emotional state characterized by feelings of tension, worry, and physiological arousal, is not exclusive to humans. In fact, many animal species, including birds, exhibit behaviors and neurochemical responses indicative of anxiety. Recognizing that all birds possess these anxieties has profound implications for avian welfare, conservation efforts, and our understanding of animal cognition and emotion. This article delves into the scientific basis for the claim, explores how anxiety manifests in different bird species, discusses the implications for bird care and conservation, and considers the broader philosophical questions about animal emotions.

Understanding Anxiety in Birds: Scientific Foundations

What is Anxiety in Animals?

Anxiety in animals, including birds, is generally understood as a state of heightened alertness and anticipatory fear that prepares the animal to respond to perceived threats. Unlike outright fear, which

is typically a response to an immediate danger, anxiety can be more anticipatory and persistent, often linked to environmental or social stressors. This emotional state triggers physiological responses such as increased heart rate, corticosterone (a stress hormone) release, and behavioral changes that are comparable to those observed in humans experiencing anxiety.

Neurobiological Evidence

Research into the neurobiology of birds has revealed that they possess brain structures analogous to the mammalian limbic system, which regulates emotion and stress responses. The avian brain features the pallium, particularly the dorsal ventricular ridge, which is involved in processing complex behaviors and emotional responses. Studies measuring corticosterone levels, neurochemical changes, and behavioral patterns demonstrate that birds respond to stressors in ways consistent with anxiety responses.

Behavioral Indicators of Anxiety

Birds exhibit a variety of behaviors that suggest an anxiety state, including:

- Feather plucking or over-preening
- Vocalizations such as frantic chattering or distress calls
- Aggressive behaviors toward cage mates or handlers
- Avoidance of certain areas or stimuli
- Repetitive behaviors like pacing or head bobbing
- Changes in appetite or sleep patterns

These behaviors are often observed in response to environmental changes, social disruptions, or captivity conditions, indicating that birds experience emotional states akin to anxiety.

Manifestations of Anxiety Across Bird Species

Domestic Birds and Pet Species

Pet birds like parrots, canaries, finches, and cockatiels are particularly susceptible to anxiety due to their reliance on stable environments and social structures. Common signs include excessive screeching, feather destruction, and self-mutilation. Stressors such as sudden changes in environment, loud noises, or lack of social interaction can trigger anxiety behaviors.

Wild Birds

In the wild, birds face constant threats from predators, environmental hazards, and competition.

Their anxiety manifests as heightened vigilance, rapid flight responses, and territorial behaviors. During breeding seasons or after disturbances, wild birds often display increased alertness and agitation, which can be viewed as adaptive anxiety responses.

Impacts of Habitat Loss and Human Activity

Human-induced changes, including deforestation, urbanization, and pollution, elevate anxiety levels in wild bird populations. These stressors lead to altered behaviors such as increased foraging times, reduced reproductive success, and changes in migration patterns—all indicative of heightened anxiety states.

Implications for Bird Welfare and Conservation

Pet Ownership and Care

Understanding that all birds have anxiety underscores the importance of providing environments that minimize stress. Proper housing, social interaction, enrichment, and gentle handling are essential to reduce anxiety-related behaviors in pet birds.

Pros of Recognizing Bird Anxiety in Care:

- Improved welfare through tailored enrichment
- Better understanding of behavioral cues
- Reduced incidence of self-destructive behaviors

Cons or Challenges:

- Difficulties in accurately diagnosing anxiety
- Variability in individual responses
- Potential over-interpretation of normal behaviors

Conservation Strategies

For wild populations, acknowledging anxiety emphasizes the need for habitat preservation and minimizing human disturbances. Conservation efforts should incorporate the psychological well-being of birds, not just their physical survival.

Features of Effective Strategies:

- Creating protected areas with minimal human interference
- Designing corridors that allow safe migration
- Conducting research on stress markers in bird populations

Challenges:

- Balancing human development with conservation
- Measuring and monitoring anxiety levels in the wild
- Addressing the cumulative effects of environmental stressors

Broader Ethical and Philosophical Considerations

Animal Emotions and Rights

The recognition that all birds have anxiety contributes to the growing movement advocating for animal rights and welfare. It challenges the perception of birds as merely biological machines and encourages us to consider their emotional experiences.

Implications for Scientific Research

Research into avian anxiety offers insights into the evolution of emotions, the neurobiological basis of stress, and the development of better welfare practices. It also raises ethical questions about how humans interact with and impact bird populations.

Species-Specific Variations

While the overarching theme is that all birds have anxiety, the intensity and manifestation of these emotional states vary across species with different ecological niches, social structures, and cognitive capacities. Recognizing these differences is critical for developing species-appropriate welfare strategies.

Conclusion

The assertion that all birds have anxiety is supported by a growing body of scientific evidence demonstrating that avian species experience complex emotional states similar to those observed in mammals. These feelings influence their behaviors, physiological responses, and overall well-being. Acknowledging this emotional dimension compels us to re-evaluate how we care for pet birds, manage wild populations, and conduct research ethically. It also fosters a deeper appreciation for the cognitive and emotional lives of birds, encouraging us to foster environments—both natural and artificial—that promote their psychological health. Recognizing the universal presence of anxiety in

birds is not only a scientific insight but also a moral imperative to ensure their welfare and respect their intrinsic emotional experiences.

Question Do all bird species experience anxiety similarly to humans? While birds can experience stress and anxiety-like behaviors, the intensity and manifestation vary across species. Some birds may show signs of anxiety in captivity or stressful situations, but it's not universal in the same way humans experience anxiety. **What are the common signs of anxiety in birds?** Signs of anxiety in birds include repetitive behaviors like pacing, feather plucking, vocalizations, aggression, loss of appetite, and self-mutilation. Observing these behaviors can indicate that a bird is stressed or anxious. **Can environmental changes cause anxiety in all birds?** Yes, sudden or significant environmental changes, such as new surroundings, loud noises, or lack of social interaction, can induce anxiety in many bird species. Providing a stable and enriching environment helps reduce stress. **Are there ways to reduce anxiety in pet birds?** Yes, providing a consistent routine, a comfortable habitat, social interaction, mental stimulation, and minimizing stressful stimuli can help alleviate anxiety in pet birds. Veterinary consultation may also be necessary for severe cases. **Is anxiety in wild birds a concern for conservation efforts?** While wild birds naturally experience stress from predators and environmental changes, chronic anxiety due to human activity or habitat destruction can impact their health and reproduction, posing challenges for conservation. **How is research on bird anxiety advancing our understanding of avian welfare?** Recent studies focus on behavioral and physiological indicators of stress in birds, helping improve captive management, conservation strategies, and understanding of avian emotional states, emphasizing the importance of reducing anxiety for their well-being.

Related keywords: bird anxiety, avian stress, bird psychology, bird behavior, pet bird anxiety, bird fear response, bird nervousness, bird mental health, bird anxiety causes, bird emotional well-being

42 Negative Confessions

Understanding the 42 Negative Confessions: An In-Depth Exploration

42 negative confessions are a fundamental aspect of ancient Egyptian religion and spirituality. These declarations, also known as the "Negative Confessions" or "Declarations of Innocence," serve as a moral and ethical code that individuals recited during their judgment before Osiris, the god of the afterlife. The purpose of these confessions was to affirm the deceased's virtue and righteousness, asserting that they had not committed various sins during their lifetime. This article delves into the origins, significance, and details of the 42 negative confessions, providing a comprehensive understanding of their role in ancient Egyptian culture.

The Origins of the 42 Negative Confessions

Historical Background

The 42 negative confessions date back to the New Kingdom period of ancient Egypt, approximately between 1550 and 1070 BCE. They are primarily recorded in the "Book of the Dead," a funerary text intended to assist souls in navigating the afterlife. These confessions reflect the Egyptian belief in moral accountability and divine justice, emphasizing that one's actions in life influence their fate after death.

Religious Significance

In ancient Egyptian theology, the judgment scene featuring Osiris and the 42 assessors was a pivotal moment. The deceased would stand before Osiris and his tribunal, reciting these confessions to demonstrate their innocence and moral integrity. The confessions functioned as a moral litmus test, ensuring that the individual had adhered to societal and divine laws.

The Content of the 42 Negative Confessions

Overview of the Declarations

The 42 negative confessions are a series of affirmations, each denying the commission of specific sins. They cover a broad spectrum of moral and social behaviors, emphasizing honesty, integrity, and piety. The confessions are typically structured as negative assertions, such as "I have not stolen," or "I have not lied."

Common Themes Covered

- Honesty and integrity
- Respect for others and social harmony
- Adherence to divine laws
- Rejection of violence and injustice
- Maintaining purity and righteousness

List of the 42 Negative Confessions

Enumerating the Confessions

- I have not committed sin.

- I have not committed theft.
- I have not slain men.
- I have not stolen food.
- I have not uttered lies.
- I have not carried away food.
- I have not cursed.
- I have not committed fornication.
- I have not caused pain.
- I have not committed robbery on land.
- I have not caused terror.
- I have not disrespected others.
- I have not defiled myself.
- I have not stolen from the gods.
- I have not spoken evil.
- I have not forsaken my father and mother.
- I have not caused anyone to weep.
- I have not disobeyed the law.
- I have not cursed the gods.
- I have not committed adultery.
- I have not oppressed others.
- I have not stolen a neighbor's property.
- I have not lied.
- I have not spoken evil of others.
- I have not stolen from a temple.
- I have not caused harm to animals.
- I have not committed fornication.
- I have not committed murder.
- I have not caused pain to others.
- I have not stolen household goods.
- I have not spoken falsely.
- I have not caused discord.
- I have not disrespected the elders.
- I have not taken bribes.
- I have not committed perjury.
- I have not misused my position.
- I have not been lazy or negligent.
- I have not caused corruption.
- I have not committed sorcery.
- I have not committed acts of violence.
- I have not abandoned my duties.
- I have not betrayed trust.

The Role of the Confessions in Ancient Egyptian Society

Morality and Social Order

The 42 negative confessions served as a moral code for ancient Egyptians, reinforcing societal norms and expectations. They encouraged individuals to lead honest and upright lives, aligning personal behavior with divine principles. By reciting these confessions, the deceased publicly declared their innocence and moral purity, which was believed to be essential for a favorable judgment after death.

Legal and Ethical Framework

These confessions also functioned as an ethical blueprint. They highlight the importance of justice, honesty, and respect within ancient Egyptian society. The emphasis on not causing harm or injustice reflects the societal values that maintained harmony and order.

The Significance of the 42 Negative Confessions in the Afterlife

Judgment Scene in the Book of the Dead

In the judgment scene, the deceased stands before Osiris and the 42 assessors, who are believed to embody the divine laws. The deceased recites the 42 negative confessions, asserting innocence in various moral aspects. If the declarations are accepted as truthful, the soul is deemed pure and granted access to the afterlife. Conversely, admitting guilt could result in punishment or denial of eternal life.

Symbolism and Moral Accountability

The confessions symbolize moral accountability, emphasizing that an individual's actions in life impact their fate after death. They reinforce the idea that virtue and righteousness are prerequisites for eternal life, encouraging adherents to adhere to divine laws throughout their lives.

Influence and Legacy of the 42 Negative Confessions

Impact on Modern Understanding of Ancient Egypt

The 42 negative confessions provide valuable insights into the moral and religious values of ancient Egypt. They reveal the importance of ethical conduct and divine justice in Egyptian spirituality. Modern scholars study these confessions to better comprehend ancient Egyptian beliefs, social norms, and legal principles.

Relevance to Contemporary Moral Philosophy

Although rooted in an ancient religious context, the principles embodied in the 42 confessions resonate with universal moral standards. Concepts such as honesty, integrity, and respect remain central to contemporary ethical discussions.

Conclusion: The Enduring Significance of the 42 Negative Confessions

The **42 negative confessions** serve as a testament to the ancient Egyptians' profound emphasis on morality, justice, and divine law. They reflect a society deeply committed to ethical conduct, where moral integrity was seen as essential for spiritual salvation. Today, these confessions continue to inspire discussions on morality, justice, and human rights, underscoring their timeless relevance. Whether viewed through a religious, historical, or philosophical lens, the 42 negative confessions remain a vital part of understanding ancient Egyptian culture and its enduring legacy.

Understanding the 42 Negative Confessions: A Comprehensive Guide

The 42 Negative Confessions, also known as the "Negative Confessions" or "Declarations of Innocence," are a pivotal aspect of ancient Egyptian religious beliefs and funerary practices. These declarations, inscribed on the walls of tombs, especially within the Book of the Dead, serve as a spiritual checklist for the deceased to affirm their purity and moral integrity in the afterlife. Understanding these confessions offers profound insight into ancient Egyptian values, morality, and their conception of the afterworld. This guide aims to explore the origins, significance, and detailed breakdown of each of the 42 negative confessions, providing a comprehensive overview for enthusiasts, students, and scholars alike.

Origins and Significance of the 42 Negative Confessions

The 42 Negative Confessions originate from ancient Egyptian funerary texts dating back to the New Kingdom period (around 1550-1070 BCE). They are primarily derived from the "Weighing of the Heart" ritual, where the deceased's heart is weighed against the feather of Ma'at, the goddess of truth, justice, and cosmic order.

In essence, these confessions function as a moral declaration, whereby the deceased affirms they have not committed specific sins or moral transgressions during their lifetime. By doing so, they demonstrate their worthiness to Osiris, the god of the afterlife, and to be granted eternal life in the Field of Reeds.

The Structure and Purpose of the Confessions

The 42 Negative Confessions are typically inscribed on tomb walls, coffins, or papyri. They are phrased as negative statements beginning with "I have not..." or "I have not done..." covering a broad spectrum of moral and social behaviors. The purpose of these confessions is twofold:

- Legal and moral verification: They serve as a moral testament, asserting the deceased's innocence.
- Ritual necessity: They are a required part of the judgment process in the afterlife, ensuring the soul's purity.

The confessions reflect a profound societal emphasis on morality, truthfulness, and social harmony. They also illustrate a worldview where moral failings could jeopardize one's eternal existence.

Detailed Breakdown of the 42 Negative Confessions

Below is a comprehensive list and explanation of each of the 42 declarations, organized thematically to better understand their focus areas.

- Moral and Ethical Conduct

These confessions emphasize honesty, integrity, and righteousness in personal behavior.

- I have not committed sin.
- I have not committed theft.
- I have not slain men or women.
- I have not stolen offerings.
- I have not caused anyone to weep.
- I have not stolen from the gods.
- I have not broken the laws.
- I have not murdered anyone.
- I have not lied.
- I have not cursed.

Significance: These declarations reinforce the importance of honesty and moral uprightness, critical virtues in Egyptian society.

- Respect for Property and Resources

Protection of property and resources was paramount.

- I have not stolen.
- I have not taken what is not mine.
- I have not damaged property.
- I have not taken food or drink that does not belong to me.

Significance: Respect for others' possessions was seen as essential for social harmony.

- Social and Familial Responsibilities

Focus on social order, family, and social roles.

- I have not caused pain.
- I have not caused anyone to suffer.
- I have not disobeyed my parents.
- I have not disrespected elders.
- I have not caused division among people.

Significance: Maintaining social cohesion and respecting family hierarchy were vital.

- Religious and Ritual Purity

These relate to piety, respect for gods, and religious duties.

- I have not cursed the gods.
- I have not committed blasphemy.
- I have not lied in the presence of the gods.
- I have not failed to honor the gods.

Significance: Reverence for the divine was essential for spiritual well-being.

- Personal Conduct and Self-Control

Self-discipline and moderation were valued virtues.

- I have not committed fornication.
- I have not been lazy.
- I have not been arrogant.
- I have not been angry without cause.
- I have not been greedy.

Significance: Personal discipline was linked to moral integrity.

- Respect for Life and Others

Protection of life and avoidance of harm.

- I have not caused harm to anyone.
- I have not assaulted anyone.
- I have not caused the death of any living creature.
- I have not caused pain.

Significance: Non-violence and compassion were central values.

Thematic Summary of the 42 Confessions

| Theme | Key Confessions | Focus Points |

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| Morality & Ethics | Sin, theft, murder, lying, cursing | Personal integrity and moral conduct |

| Property & Resources | Theft, damage, food theft | Respect for property |

| Social Responsibility | Causing pain, disrespecting elders | Family and social harmony |

| Religious Respect | Cursing gods, blasphemy | Piety and divine respect |

| Personal Conduct | Laziness, arrogance, greed | Self-control and virtues |

| Respect for Life | Causing harm, violence | Non-violence and compassion |

The Role of the Confessions in the Afterlife

In ancient Egyptian belief, the 42 Negative Confessions are recited during the judgment scene, often depicted as the "Weighing of the Heart." The deceased stands before Osiris and 42 assessors, affirming their innocence by declaring these confessions. If the declarations are accepted, the soul is deemed pure and allowed to enter the eternal paradise; if not, it faces destruction or oblivion.

This process underscores the Egyptians' emphasis on morality and societal order, viewing life as a moral test that continued beyond death.

Modern Interpretations and Cultural Impact

While rooted in ancient Egyptian religion, the 42 Negative Confessions have influenced modern concepts of morality, ethics, and judicial systems. They exemplify an early codification of moral standards, emphasizing personal responsibility and accountability.

In contemporary discussions, they are often referenced as a moral blueprint, highlighting virtues such as honesty, respect, and compassion, and serve as a reminder of the importance of integrity in personal and social life.

Final Thoughts

The 42 Negative Confessions encapsulate the core values of ancient Egyptian society, emphasizing moral integrity, social responsibility, and divine respect. They serve as a timeless reflection of how morality was intertwined with spiritual belief, shaping the way individuals viewed their actions and their ultimate destiny.

Whether viewed as a religious doctrine or a moral code, these confessions continue to resonate today as a testament to the enduring human pursuit of righteousness and the quest for moral clarity in life and beyond.

Question What are the 42 negative confessions in ancient Egyptian religion? The 42 negative confessions are a series of declarations found in the Book of the Dead, where the deceased affirms they have not committed certain sins, serving as a moral checklist for entering the afterlife in ancient Egypt. **Why are the 42 negative confessions important in Egyptian mythology?** They are crucial because they represent the moral principles that the deceased must uphold to be judged worthy of entering the afterlife, emphasizing truthfulness and righteousness. **How do the 42 negative confessions influence modern understanding of ancient Egyptian values?** They provide insight into the ethical and moral framework of ancient Egyptian society, highlighting the importance of truth, justice, and moral integrity in their spiritual beliefs. **Are the 42 negative confessions still relevant in contemporary studies of ancient Egypt?** Yes, they are widely studied as part of Egyptology and religious studies to understand ancient Egyptian morality, religious practices, and conceptions of the afterlife. **Where can I find translations of the 42 negative confessions?**

Translations are available in many scholarly books on the Book of the Dead, Egyptological journals, and online resources dedicated to ancient Egyptian religion and mythology.

Related keywords: confession, ancient Egypt, negative confessions, Book of the Dead, funerary texts, Egyptian mythology, afterlife, morality, religious texts, tomb inscriptions

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