

# Wadi al Far'a village profile



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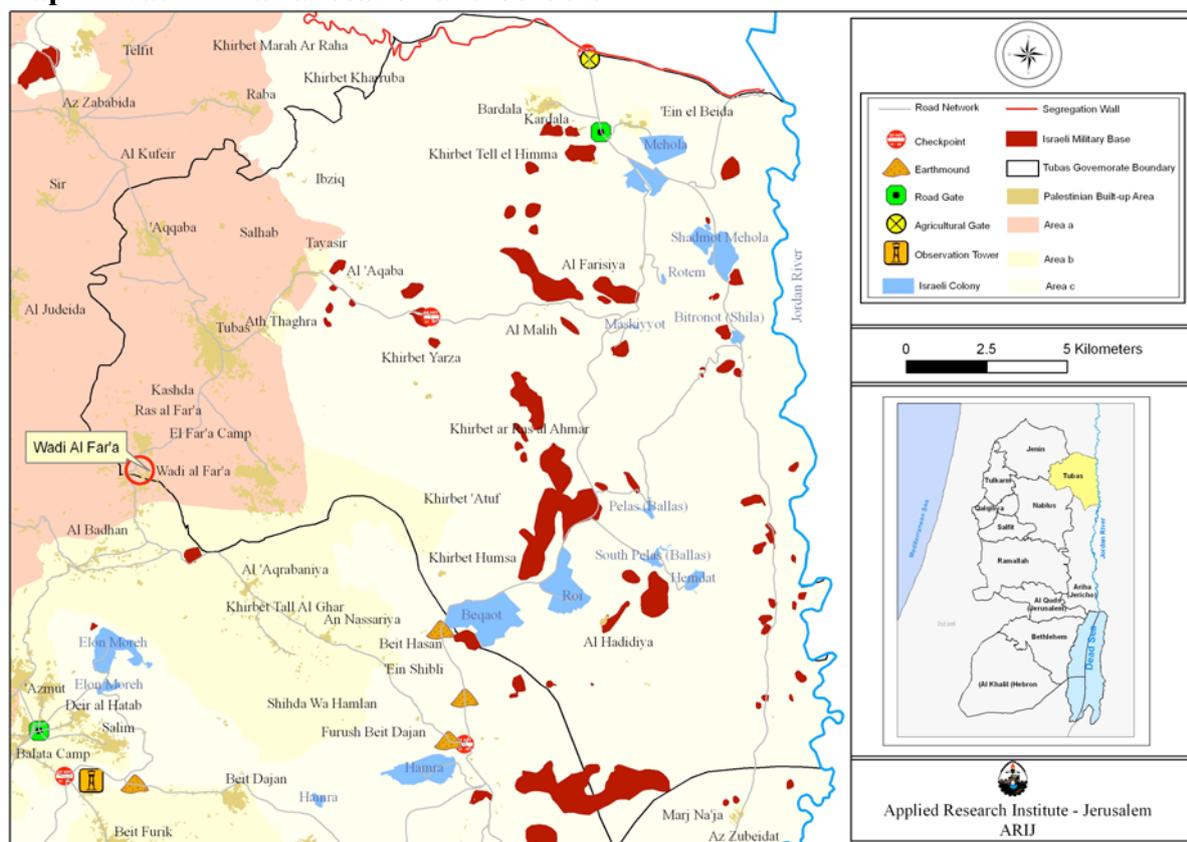
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# Wadi al Far'a village profile

## Location and Physical characteristics

**WADI AL FAR'A** is a Palestinian village, which is located 5 km to the south west of Tubas city, in the northeastern part of West Bank. Wadi Al Far'a village is bordered by Tammun village to the east, Tubas city and El Far'a Camp to the north, Yasid village (Jenin Governorate) to the west and Wadi Al Bathan to the south.

**Map 1: Wadi Al Far'a location and borders**



The total area of Wadi Al Far'a is 12,000 dunums, which represents approximately 2.3 % of the Tubas Governorate's total land area. 337 dunums are classified as 'built up' areas, whilst 10,500 dunums are agricultural.

Wadi Al Far'a village is located in a level area of land and is surrounded by mountains at moderate an elevation of 150 m above sea level. It has a moderate climate where the summer is worm and dry, whilst the winter sees a lot of rainfall. The mean annual rainfall in Wadi Al Far'a village is 367 mm, the average annual temperature is 20 °C and the average annual humidity is 59 % (ARIJ GIS).

Since 1997, a village council has governed the village, at present the village council comprises of seven members who elected during the 2005 local authorities' elections. The village council has 4 paid employees and its operations and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning and development;

2. Social development services;
3. Infrastructural maintenance, water, water channels, electricity, solid waste collection.

## History

Wadi Al Far'a was known historically as "Tarzza". Some believe that its current name (Wadi Al Far'a) came from its geographical location, which is located in a level valley, which is rich in springs and branches out like a tree. For that reason, it is called "Wadi Al Far'a" (Valley of Branches).

Wadi alfar'a land originally was owned by Taloza residents who cultivated the land with different crops and go there only for that reason but live in Taloza as they thought that dwelling in the higher parts of the valley would provide more security. During the 1960's, landowners gradually started settling near their lands.

In 1996, the Ministry of Local Authority declared that Wadi Al Far'a village is separated from Taloza and should be administrated by Tubas Governorate (Wadi Al Far'a council).

### Photography of Wadi Al Far'a village



## Demography and Population

In 1997 the total population of Wadi Al Far'a village was 1713, of which 878 were males and 835 were females. There were 293 households resident in 358 housing units. (1997 census)

The population of Wadi Al Far'a village constitutes about 4.9 % of the total population of the Tubas Governorate in 1997 and considered rural area.

## Age groups and gender

The data of the 1997 census reveals that the classification of population of Wadi Al Far'a by age groups and sex. The data showed that 43.4 % are less than 15 years, 52.8 % are in the age group 15-64 years and 3.7 % are 65 year and above (See table 1)

Sex	Age				Percentage
	0 -14	15 -64	65 +	Total	
Male	373	476	29	878	51.3
Female	371	429	35	835	48.7
<b>Total</b>	744	905	64	1713	100

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

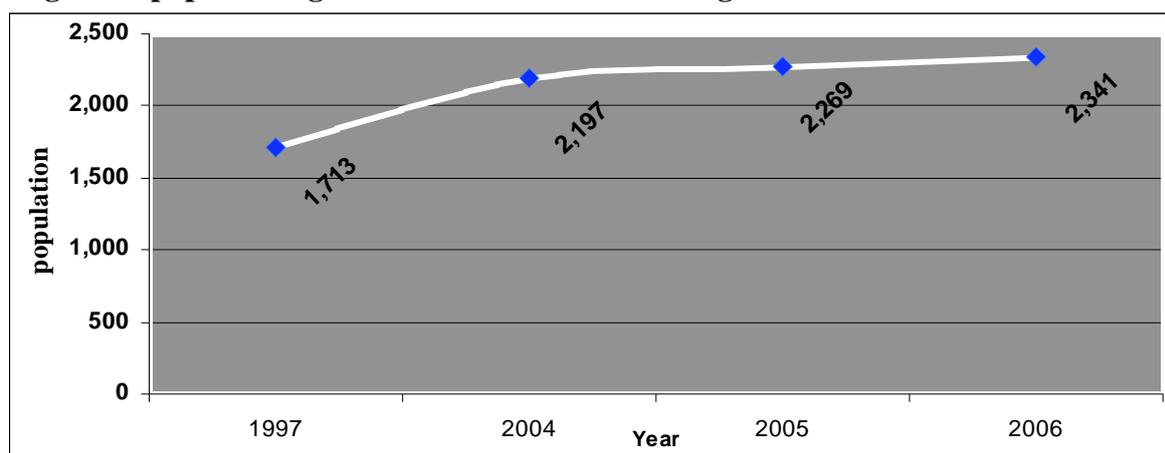
The sex ratio in the village was 105.1 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 51.3 % of the population and females constitute 48.7 %.

The estimated population of Wadi Al Far'a village by mid 2005 was 2,269 and in mid 2006, it will increase to 2,341. The data in table 2 indicates that the population of Wadi Al Far'a grew by 32.5 % between 1997 and mid 2005 and in 2006 it will increase by 3.2 % (an increase of 72 people) (See table and figure 2).

	1997 census	Mid-year population in		
		2004	2005	2006
<b>Wadi Al Far'a</b>	1,713	2,197	2,269	2,341

Source: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/populati/pop10.aspx>

**Figure 1: population growth in Wadi Al Far'a village**



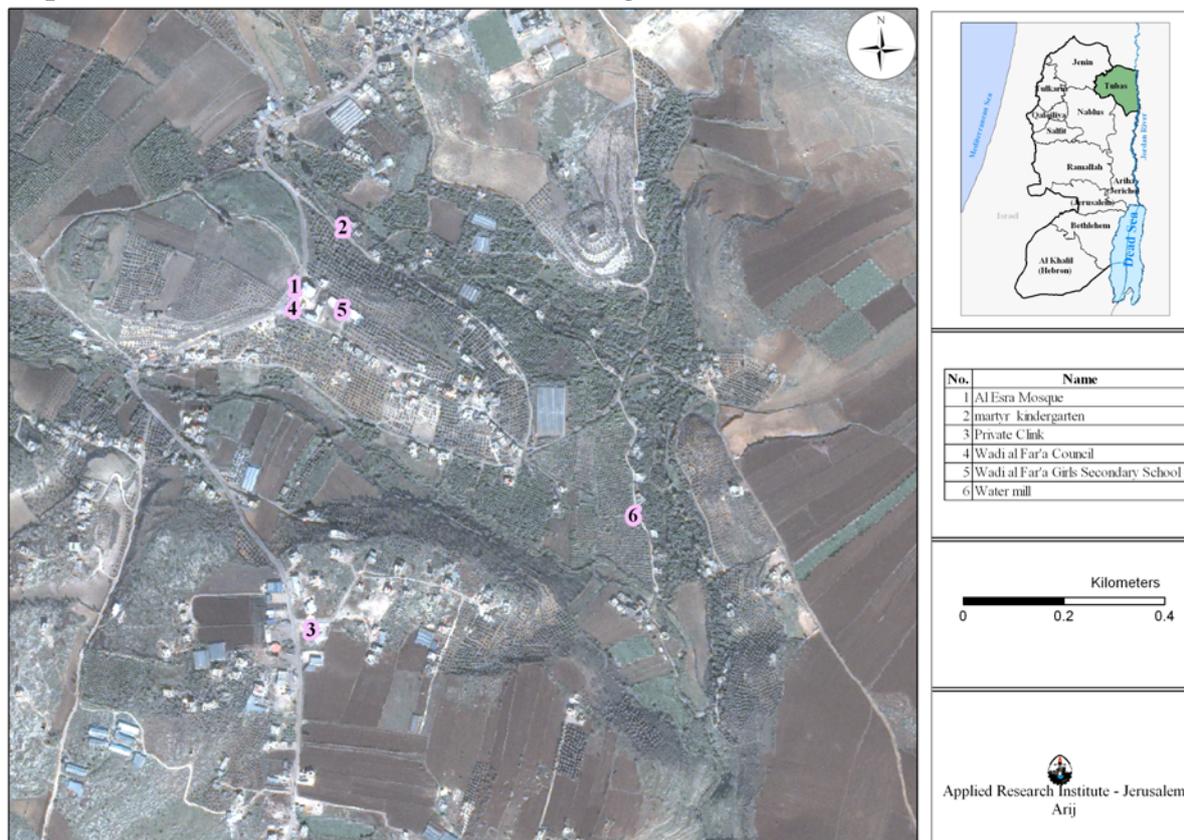
## Families:

The population of Wadi Al Far'a village comprises of six main families: Al Janajreh 30 %, Al Barahemeh 30 %, Al Salahat 30 % and (Al Darawshah, Al Shanableh and Al Balatyah )10 %.

## Religious and Archeological Sites

There is one mosque in Wadi Al Far'a village and there are a few historical and archeological sites in the village such as: Al Far'a Tower, Al Hafreia that is a collection old houses and water mills were used for wheat milling.

**Map 2: Main locations in Wadi Al Far'a village**



## The Economy

The dominant economic sector in the Wadi Al Far'a is agriculture; it has a large and fertile agricultural area which covers 10,500 dunums. Approximately 80 % of the residents are engaged in agricultural activities. Agricultural production forms the main source of income. The second main source of income for the residents is the Israeli labor market which decreased significantly in its contribution due to Israeli closures and the restriction of permits for workers to work inside Israel. In Wadi Al Far'a village there are 10 shops and groceries, two factories producing bricks and floor tiles, household productions (such as white cheese and yogurts), transportation and services.

### Labor Force Construction

In 1997, the percentage of participation in the labor force in Wadi Al Far'a was 67.2 % of the total population of the village; women participation was assessed to be 32.6 % (558 women in total). The labor force in Wadi Al Far'a consists of 1151 people in total, of which 37.8 % are

'economically active' people and 62.2 % are 'non-economically' active people. Of the economically active people 94.9 % are employed people, 5.1 % are unemployed people. The largest groups of non-economically active people are the students and housewives, who constitute 37.7 % and 39.8 % respectively. Table 3 shows the labor force in Wadi Al Far'a village.

**Table 3: Wadi Al Far'a Population (10 years and Over) by Sex and Employment Status**

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Un-Employed	Un-Employed Never Worked	Total	Students	House-Wife	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	
M	402	10	12	424	140	-	23	2	4	169	593
F	11	-	-	11	130	285	25	1	106	547	558
<b>T</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>1151</b>

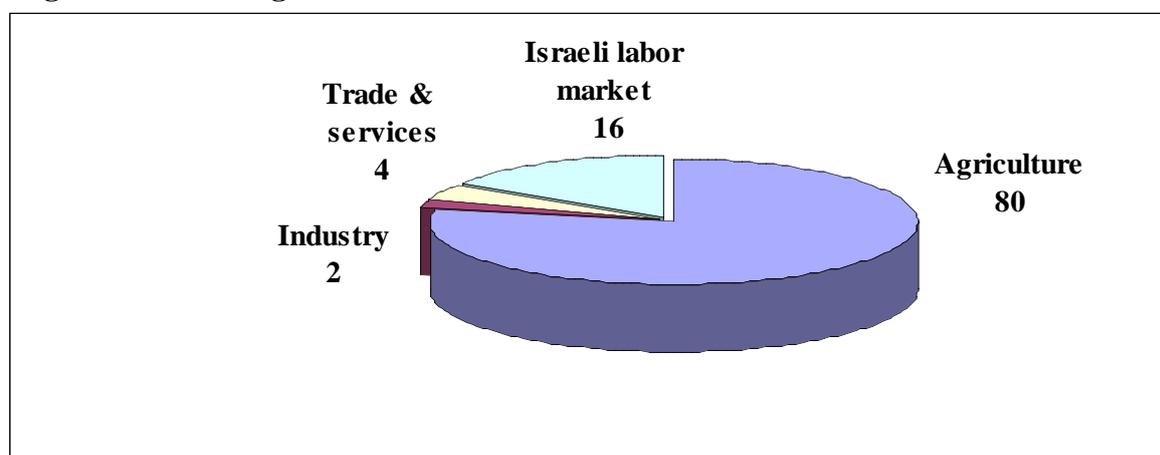
Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

Since the outbreak of the second Intifada in September 2000, most of the Palestinian migrant labour force could not reach their places of work in Israel and the settlements. As a result the workers have lost their primary source of income and many have returned to work in their lands.

Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH in November 2005, the active economical sectors and percentages of residents who work in those sector are listed below (see figure 2)

- The agricultural sector 80 %,
- The industrial sector 2 %,
- The trade sector 1 %,
- The service sector 3 %,
- Israeli labor market 16 %.

**Figure 2: Percentage of economical activities in Wadi Al Far'a**



The survey also indicated that the most affected social groups in Wadi Al Far'a by Israeli measures during the second Intifada are: 1) former migrant workers in the Israeli labor market, 2) families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 3) small farmers, 4) housewives and children and finally 5) small traders.

The average household income in Wadi Al Far'a village has been severely affected by Israeli procedures since 2000. In year 2000 the average household income was 2000 NIS. Today however it has declined sharply to 700 NIS. The result is that the average household income has decreased by 65 % in only four years.

## Education

In the 1997 census, the education status in Wadi Al Far'a indicated that about 12.2 % of the residents were illiterate, with women (80.7 %) comprising a greater percentage of illiterates than men (19.3 %). Of the literate population, 16.9 % of residents could read and write, 25.3 % completed elementary education, 28 % completed preparatory education and 17.7 % completed their secondary and higher education. Table 4 shows the education status in Wadi Al Far'a by sex and education attainment in 1997.

**Table 4: Wadi Al Far'a Population (10 years and over) by sex and Educational Attainment**

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & Write	Elemen- tary	Prepa- ratory	Secon- dary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	P H D	Total
M	27	93	168	173	70	33	26	1	1	1	593
F	113	101	123	149	44	20	7	0	1	0	558
<b>T</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1151</b>

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

At the end of the 2004/2005, scholastic year there was only one co-education school in Wadi Al Far'a village covered all levels of education: elementary education; preparatory education and secondary education, which provides the *Tawjihi* exam for local students to allow them to enter university. The school has 15 classes of which 8 classes are for females and 7 classes are for males. In total the school provides education for 530 students of which 372 females and 158 males.

Currently there is only one private kindergarten in Wadi Al Far'a village providing pre-education schools for 200 children.

Similar to other rural localities in Tubas governorate, Wadi Al Far'a village is suffering from many problems in the education status as:

1. Shortages of schools for male and females,
2. There are shortages of educational equipments and computers,
3. Shortages of qualified teachers,
4. Movements' difficulties for students due to access to the schools.

## Health Status

Situation of health sector is no better than educational sector, where there is only one governmental health clinic in wadi alfar'a, which provides medical services to residents on a part time bases. The residents of the village are therefore forced to access such services in nearby localities, in this case tubas city is their object.

In addition to what mentioned above, health sector is facing many obstacles such as: 1) No ambulance for emergencies. 2) No pharmacies to provide drugs for patients. 3) No private physicians in the village. And 4) most important is no hospitals in nearby localities.

## Infrastructure, Natural resources and Services

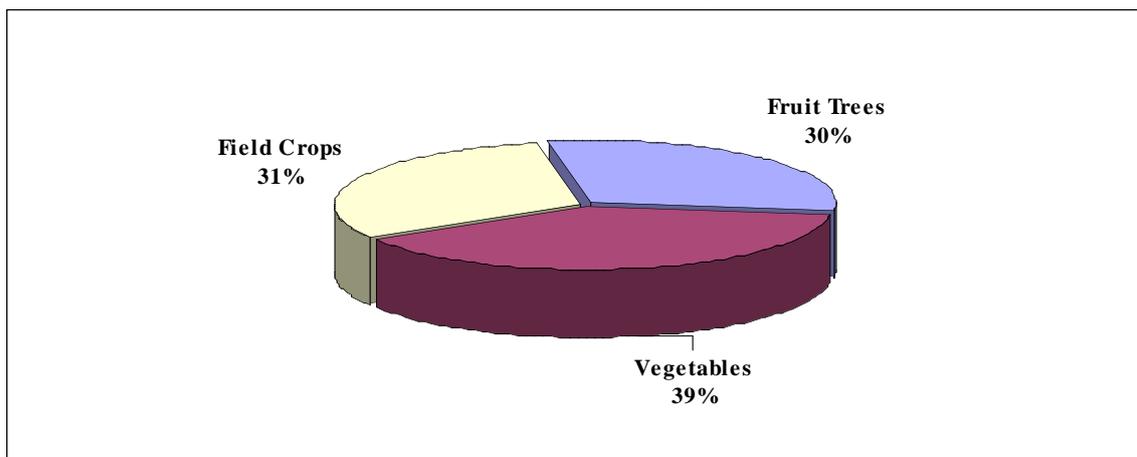
Except for what mentioned earlier about schools and clinics, Wadi Alfar'a has no other services institutions, such as women societies or youth clubs. In addition, wadi alfar'a is poor in any NGO's funds or development projects.

- **Telecommunication services:** Wadi Al Far'a village is connected to the telecommunication network. Approximately 90 % of the households have a telephone connection.
- **Water services:** There is no water network in the village; residents depend on the water from springs and wells. There are two springs and six wells in the village, which provide water continuously to the residents. The spring and wells water is also used for household consumption and agricultural use.
- **Electricity services:** In 2002, the village connected to the electricity network supplied by Israeli Electric Cooperation. 100 % of households in the village are connected to the network. Before that the residents was using private generators to have electricity for a short time during the day.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** The solid waste is managed by the village council and collected once or twice aweek. Wadi Al Far'a is a member in the Joint Services Council in Tubas Governorate and solid waste is collected from the residential area and sent to a shared dumping site which far 6 km from the village. Burning is the main methods used for the disposal of solid waste.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Like other localities, Wadi Al Far'a village has no sewage network. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits which are emptied into valleys nearby. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the residents and to the groundwater.
- **Transportation services:** The total road network in Wadi Al Far'a is nearly 11 km, 4 km are paved roads and in good condition, 3 km are paved roads and in a bad condition and 4 km are not paved at all. Wadi Al Far'a village has a lack of transportation means; there are no buses or taxis. The residents travel using by Tubas vehicles which operate on the Nablus – Tubas road and by Alfar'a camp taxis.

**Agriculture Sector**

As we mentioned above 80 % of the residents of Wadi Al Far'a are engaged in the agricultural sector and depend on it for their livelihood. The total area of Wadi Al Far'a village is 12,000 dunums, 10,500 dunums are arable land whilst the cultivated area has reached 8645 dunums, of which 2470 dunums are primarily planted with fruit trees, 3255 dunums are for the cultivation of vegetables and 2550 dunums are for the cultivation of field crops. (Ministry of Agriculture 2004)

**Figure 3: Percentage of cultivated area of fruit trees, vegetables and field crops in Wadi Al Far'a village.**



Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH, Wadi Al Far'a village produces 150 tons of olive oil, 5 tons of nut stone and 60 - 70 tons of vegetables per annum. 3 % of the residents of Wadi Al Far'a village also keep livestock. Data from the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that there are 60 heads of cattle, 120 goats, 3050 sheep, 150 bee hives and 57,000 poultry.

**Agriculture fields in Wadi al Fara'a village**



## Impact of Occupation Practices

Wadi Al Far'a village is mostly spared from Israeli settlements and other procedures, so there is no direct friction with Israeli in the area. Due to its location between Tubas city and Nablus city, and due to the fact that it's the only way to get to Nablus, the village is indirectly affected by Israeli restriction on movement and various barriers, Israeli military forces periodically places numerous flying check points around the village causing delays for employees, workers and farmers whose trying to reach their places of work.

## Plans and Development Projects

Wadi Al Far'a village as a rural area has been neglected in the sense of basic infrastructure and development projects. However, the village council has recently implemented a project to rehabilitate and expand the main road in the village.

The village council in Wadi Al Far'a has set up a plan for the development of the village which included various new projects. The developmental projects which have been planed are listed in table 6.

**Table 6: Development plans and projects in Wadi Al Fara'a village**

Project	Type	Budget
Construct new water network	Infrastructure	750,000 USD
Increase electricity capacity	Infrastructure	100,000 USD
Rehabilitation entire roads	Infrastructure	17,777 USD
Built new class rooms in the village school	Education	11,112 USD
Rehabilitation and organizing water tunnels	Agriculture	50,000 USD

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