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JANUARY 2012

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by Giulio De Vita and Sebastien Latour
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Is Chris Rush the Funniest Fuckin’ Comedian in the Solar System?

Although he may not be a household name like Eddie Murphy, Chris Rock, or George Carlin, fearless, foul-mouthed, bullet-headed comic Chris Rush may arguably be called, the funniest guy in our solar system right now. Working as a standup since the mid-70’s, Rush has been voted the Best Male Comic by the Association of Comedy Artists, was one of the first comics signed up to do an album for Atlantic Records, and has opened for musical acts as diverse as B.B. King, The Talking Heads, Tom Waits, Sarah Vaughn, Meatloaf, and the Electric Light Orchestra. Since then he’s gone on to do more comedy albums, has written a book, and done a one-man show, Bliss. He’s been compared to a Sicilian Catholic Lenny Bruce, with his trademarked blend of profane, intelligent, insightful, sci-fi flavored gibes at politics, religion, and the absurdity of modern life. Having gone through college cracking up to his first album, First Rush and seeing him live several times in New York City; I was determined to track him down for an interview for Dossier. After all, since Rush himself claims to be obsessed with ray guns and big tits, Heavy Metal is the perfect venue for his unique worldview. For definitive proof of this, check out his website: www.chrisrush-comedy.com and watch this one-of-a-kind stand-up maniac in action. And don’t say I didn’t warn you, Metal-Heads.

HEAVY METAL: Chris, how did you become a stand-up?

RUSH: You know, in the old, old, days, where the funny guy in the tribe that no one could kill because he had sexual relations with cactus and stuff like that, and he would make people laugh. He was amusing. And he was also known as the village idiot, or the crazy guy. Eventually, a bunch of us got together and started moving from village to village for corn and little sacks of salt, and that was the primitive beginnings of comedy...

I went to Catholic school, see? There was a lot of stress and tension. We had SS nuns and the humor would come as a source of tension relief. I was always the funny guy in grammar school and later in high school....I used to be a chemist, a research biologist, actually, so I started, instead of working with chemicals, I started eating some of these chemicals, and I would just start to rap comedy for hours on end. I didn’t know where it came from. I still don’t. The news, universal consciousness, whatever the hell it is that takes you over, and I would just hook with another human being and laughs would be produced. It was my greatest high and my greatest love. Now, I lucked out. I was doing it in a loft building for free, I never thought of becoming a professional comedian...

My first album came out in ’74. This is way back, three years before that. Somebody saw me at a loft building, and said, “Hey, how would you like to have a record deal on the same label as George Carlin?” who I loved. So I signed up on Atlantic Records, and a few months before that, another loft building, a guy saw me and said, “Hey, you’re really funny. I’ve got a brand-new magazine; it’s one issue old, called National Lampoon. So I started writing for National Lampoon. And that was actually my first official conversion into a whore, where I started selling my humor with the National Lampoon. And shortly after, I think it was ten months, I cut my first album with a very large record company, Atlantic Records. So I just went from a natural tendency, I’m a twisted person. So, it’s like asking Quasimodo how he got into bad posture. (Laughs) I was just born that way, man.

HEAVY METAL: What was your first professional gig?

RUSH: It was one of the Village clubs; I am going into the Village clubs where you would have, like, you know, five girls in leotards, black leotards, singing depressing folk songs. And now, here’s Chris Rush. They didn’t have comedians back then in those clubs and they didn’t want to laugh. Really heavy, man, I just riffed. I riff, man, and I become like zero, and the universe spills humor through me to get to the people in front of me, and that’s my kick... I’m very much into consciousness and an entity far beyond our own personal egos and personalities, and I think, I know, that that turns into humor and comes through me. So, I started at The Gas Lamp, a lot of little places...And then from there, I did the loft building weekend and I got picked up by Atlantic Records, and I did dozens and dozens of gigs with large rock bands and large jazz bands, and then comedy hit and I started headlining all over the place, particularly in colleges. Now the album came out in ’74, so this was all from just before, like ’73 onward.

HEAVY METAL: Was your first album, First Rush, basically your routine, or did you write new material for the record?

RUSH: See, here’s the thing, man. There’s a flaw right there. I never wrote material. What I would do is...I would go onstage with concepts in my mind: butterflies have taste buds on their feet. I was always into strange little scientific facts and other trivia, and then what I would do is, follow the equation, I would get in front of an audience, I’d have the concept, and then like I said, I’d like disappear, and the comedy...
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Complete but collective.

...as if both bodies had everything to share.

...and that "indefinable" obstruction.
Is it moving?

Seahorse, are you kidding me?...You're wrong about the weather, water density and salinity, you can't recognize marine life anymore, and on and on...You didn't even notice the whale that just passed by us...What good are you?
...ALONE. BUT NOT SCARED...

I AM COMING BACK TO THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER, WHEREIN I BURDENED HIS MEMORY WITH HORRIBLE TRUTHS. STILL FEEL LIKE I COULD ADD TO IT. HIS SELFISHNESS, HIS PUSHINESS, HIS NARCISSISM, HIS NIHILISM... ALL HIS "NESSES" AND "ISMS", FROM THE ENORMOUSNESS OF OUR WEDDING TO THE ANTI-CONFORMISM OF HIS DEATH. NOW THAT HIS BODY FEEDS WHAT IS LEFT OF THE FISH IN WHAT IS LEFT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN...
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THE FLOW OF EMOTIONS CARRIED YOU AWAY LAST NIGHT. YOU CRUMBELED AT MERLIN’S FEET! I PUT YOU TO BED. DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM LAST NIGHT?

ENOUGH TO WANT TO SCREAM. I’D HOPED IT WAS JUST A BAD DREAM!

WOULD YOU RATHER THE OTHER HALF?

I PUT YOUR THINGS OVER THERE. HURRY, MERLIN’S WAITING FOR US.

I’M HALF NAKED!
YOU SAVED ME LAST NIGHT. THANK YOU.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?

MERLIN! YOU MEAN... THE MERLIN? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? I CAN'T ALREADY BELIEVE THAT...

WOW!
ANYONE WITH SUCH VIVID VISIONS WOULD HAVE GONE MAD... JOHN WAS A MAGNIFICENT ARTIST!

HIS ULTIMATE VISION MADE HIM A PROPHET AMONG THE FABLED ONES: THE LAST OF THE WISHERS, A DJINN SURVIVING... SOMEWHERE.

YOU WERE HIS QUEST, NIGEL... HIS OBSESSION... HIS INSPIRATION TOO. HE WENT OUT LOOKING FOR YOU AROUND THE GLOBE.

IN SYRIA, HE FOUND A MEDALLION THAT WOULD HAVE BELONGED TO YOU. HIS VISIONS STARTED AGAIN. THEY BROUGHT HIM BACK TO LONDON.

JOHN SACRIFICED HIS LIFE SO THAT YOU COULD SAVE ALL OF OURS ONE DAY. ARE YOU REALLY THE ONE WE ALL HOPE FOR?

DON'T GET ME WRONG! I WANT TO HELP YOU... BUT I AM NO HERO.

THERE'S A HERO IN ALL OF US, NIGEL. WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES CALL FOR IT.
EIREANN MENTIONED THE MI10... THESE MEN WITH HATS WANT TO KILL ME AND NO ONE CAN STOP THEM EXCEPT YOU?

FOR MOST PEOPLE, GREAT MAGICIANS ARE IN VEGAS, AND THE FABLED ONES IN VIDEO GAMES! IF OUR EXISTENCE IS ALREADY UNBELIEVABLE TO THEM, YOU CAN ONLY IMAGINE IF THEY EVER KNOW ABOUT A SECRET SOCIETY PREYING ON US WITHOUT MERCY?

ONLY ONE OF YOUR WISHES COULD HELP US RECLAIM OUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD. PEOPLE WOULD BELIEVE IN MAGIC, BECAUSE WE WOULD LIVE AMONG THEM. FOR THE MI10, YOU ARE A REAL DANGER!
YOU KIDDIN’ ME? WE USED TO BE THE LITTLE GREEN MEN BACK THEN!

WHO HEADS THE MILO?

SIR GEORGE CROSS...OUR PATHS HAVE CROSSED THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES! EVERYTHING CHANGED THE DAY HE KILLED ONE OF MY DEAR FRIENDS, A DRAGON WHO LIVED IN LIBYA.

THE WORLD SEEMED BIGGER THEN. AND WE WEREN’T AFRAID OF ONE KNIGHT, BUT THE DRAGON SLAYER BECAME A LEGEND, GAINING NUMEROUS DISCIPLES ALONG THE WAY, AS WE WERE LOSING OURS TO THEIR SWORDS.

HE DID SO MUCH DAMAGE ACROSS EUROPE THAT I HAD TO BUILD THIS SANCTUARY. MAGIC WAS ALREADY FADING AROUND ME.

THANK YOU.

GEORGE PERSUADED QUEEN VICTORIA THAT WE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF PRINCE ALBERT, HER TRUE LOVE. HER DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE GAVE HIM THE UNLIMITED POWERS HE’D ALWAYS LONGED FOR. THE GREATEST EMPIRE DESCENDED UPON US!

SINCE THEN, SIR GEORGE’S AGENTS INFILTRATED THE HIGHEST POSITIONS OF POWER IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AND HIS ALLIES ARE MIGHTY AND ANCIENT.

GEORGE WILL SEND HIS BEST AGENT. HIS NAME IS MICHAEL BOUND. HIS FAMILY HAS BEEN SERVING THE CROSSES FOR GENERATIONS. HE’S VICIOUS AND FORMIDABLE, AND HE WILL KILL YOU WITHOUT REMORSE WHEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY. WE WILL PROTECT YOU UNTIL YOU RECLAIM YOUR POWERS.

TO TAKE CARE OF A WISHER, GEORGE WILL SEND HIS BEST AGENT.

GETS BETTER AND BETTER...
THE FABLED ONES LEARNED TO HIDE WITH WHAT’S LEFT OF THEIR MAGIC... SOME LIVE AMONG US, RUNNING THE RISK OF BEING REVEALED BY OUR OWN FAIRIES.

SEEMS LIKE WE FASCINATE THEM AS MUCH AS THEY FASCINATE US!

YOU WANT TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN THAT COST THE LIVES OF YOUR S.A.S. UNIT IN PAKISTAN? THE FABLED ONES ARE A DISEASE THAT MUST BE ELIMINATED!

THESE BULLETS CONTAIN POWERFUL ALLERGENS. NOW PROVE TO ME THAT I WAS RIGHT TO RECRUIT YOU INTO THE MI10!

THIS PICTURE OF THE CHURCH DATES FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY. NOTICE ANYTHING?

THE GARGOYLE ON THE RIGHT OF THE BELL TOWER SHOULDN'T BE THERE...
MY FIRST FABLED ONES, AGENT BOUND. CAN'T WIN IF YOU DON'T PLAY!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU KNEW IT WOULD TAKE OFF!

YOU'D RATHER HAVE A STILL TARGET?

GARGOYLES ARE VERY FAST. IN A FEW SECONDS, THIS ONE WILL BE OUT OF REACH. DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE!

I CAN GET IT, SIR! THERE!

K-THUMP
OK GUYS,
LET'S PRESENT THEM OUR DEEPEST APOLOGIES, FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF HER MAJESTY AND CLEAN EVERYTHING UP. GOT IT?

AND IF SOME IDIOT TOOK SOME PICTURES, INVITE HIM TO VISIT BUCKINGHAM PALACE WITH US!

CONGRATULATIONS, RAJAD, I'VE ALREADY CHOSEN YOUR NEXT TARGET...WE'VE GOT DJINN TO TAKE CARE OF!
What if John got it wrong? What if I wasn’t the Djinn?

Most of the fabled ones here are the last of their kind. Even if you’re not the Djinn, you’re giving them hope! That’s good enough for me!

What do you think, Aelle? He doesn’t look too terrifying the Great Warrior Djinn...

Maybe but he’s still cute...

There remains a mystery surrounding your past that I must solve. A powerful magic protected the secret of your existence, the same magic...

That made John’s quest so long and difficult. It’s as if you were erased from our memories. I assigned Cy to solve the puzzle of your lives.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO CY. HE KEEPS RECORDS OF THE HISTORY OF THE FABLED ONES IN HIS CYCLOPEDIA, AS HE LIKES TO CALL IT.

HELLO NIGEL. I AM STUDYING JOHN’S NOTES DURING HIS QUEST TO FIND YOU. HE HAD ONE INTERESTING THEORY...

..."THE GENIE’S LAST WISH". YOU WOULD HAVE ERASED YOUR OWN MEMORY AND THAT OF THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU. BUT IT GOES EVEN FURTHER...

I FOUND SEVERAL PASSAGES IN MY CHRONICLES THAT RELATE TO THE HISTORY OF THE DJINNS.

HOW FAR ARE YOU WITH THE FIRST VOLUME?
YES! I'M HERE!
THE TEXT IS DIFFICULT TO READ. CV DOESN'T
REMEMBER WRITING IT AND THE WORDS DON'T
MAKE SENSE...

IT'S AS IF SOMEONE HAD CODIFIED
THEM AFTER THEY WERE WRITTEN.
THE REST OF THE PAGE IS
PERFECTLY READABLE THOUGH!
IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME...

A TROUBADOUR
FROM SULTAN
SALADIN'S COURT
WROTE A NUMBER
OF POEMS WHERE HE
MENTIONS THE DJINNS.
JOHN FOUND
GREAT INSPIRATION
IN THEM.

SO I AM SUPPOSED TO BE
HOW OLD? TWO THOUSAND,
THREE THOUSAND YEARS OLD?
I DO HAVE PICTURES OF
MYSELF AS A KID,
YOU KNOW!

WHERE
DID
I PUT
THEM?

THERE
IT IS!...

"THEIR WARRIORS
POSSESS THE STRENGTH
OF A HUNDRED MEN
AND THE COURAGE OF
AN ARMY"...AND IN THIS ONE...
"THE DJINN IS A CREATURE
ENSLAVED BY HIS DESIRES,
AND THE VIOLENCE OF
HIS EMOTIONS WILL
SEDUCE YOU AT
FIRST SIGHT..."
 His sexual appetite is enormous! Yes... well... I’ll just keep studying the subject matter.

Fine. Let’s pretend I am the genie of the lamp... how can we be sure? I don’t really want to spend the rest of my life stuck in this sanctuary!

There is a ritual that we could perform... a trial by fire for the fabled one that you are to be reborn. I won’t lie to you. It’s very risky.

I’m risking a lot here or outside, am I not? Unless I can grow a magic shield against bullets I won’t have time to convince the MILD that they’re wrong. I’ve got my money on the pretty fairies, then!

A long time ago, the last djinn made the choice to disappear. He might not appreciate to be woken up again...

We have no choice. We have to play with fire!
### Specials

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Years ago the Qlitric Plague spread around the world. Those infected by it lost the capacity to dream.

**Dreamz**

*Story: RG Llarena  
Art: Axel Medellin*

Samantha Chavez: Works hard. Despair now fills her heart.

We won't save enough of the harvest.

We'll see what else we can do, my love.

Reika Adachi: Tries hard not to lose hope.

We ran out of options. We'll have to talk to...

Samual Coyote: Uses despair and hope as his favorite weapons. A liar.

The Great City always welcomes fresh dreamers, so this is a great opportunity for you ladies.

I'll be out of here in a week. Hope you can collect the fee.

Same old story.

I want to help you. But I need to see the money upfront.

It's dangerous out there. Shadows lurk everywhere.

I'll go.

I'll go and as soon as I can, I'll send whatever it's needed so Coyote can take you there, sweetheart.
THE THRILL KILLERS
Fifteen homocidal maniacs had escaped from a nearby insane asylum. Would you pick up a hitchhiker? Dennis Keckakian did and was brutally slain by “The Mad Dog” Click. Cash Flagg, aka Ray Dennis Steakley, one of the slavishly loyal army of brutal hitmen murdering the students to understand the teen-age mind, teach higher math and maybe carry on a little romance. Of course, there’s always the danger of cunning and taking up the role of a normal airheaded graduate, who misbehaves. Item No. EFDVD-8904 $29.95

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Four beautiful but mysterious girls embark on a road trip for a relaxing weekend getaway in the woods. Unknown to them, two clans of estranged male cousins follow them to their secluded and picturesque lakeside coves in the mountains. The girls appear to be easy prey for the predatory perverts until the fastidiously stroke of midnight when all hell, literally, breaks loose and the tables are turned. Includes: Original Soundtrack. Item No. SSDVD0828 $19.95

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This month’s Metal Media involves Hollywood stars, famous movies, flare, a real life mass-murdering maniac — and me.

Presented for your approval:

THE ZODIAC BUTTON

(Or: Ray, that’s just weird)

By Horatio (Ray) Weisfeld

Recently I was watching David Fincher’s excellent 2007 film Zodiac for the fourth or fifth time, and exactly 100 minutes into the movie, during a montage over which a detective is heard reading aloud one of the notorious letters the depraved killer sent the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper, I suddenly registered the words “Melvin Eats Blubber,” obvious to me as a parody on the phrase “Melville Eats Blubber,” a line which appeared on one of the well-known counterculture buttons written and manufactured by my father, Irwin Weisfeld, from his shop in New York City. Got all that? From the movie, I had now learned that the real life killer was making reference to the real life buttons made by my father. If anyone cares, the “Melville Eats Blubber” button was something of a sequel to my father’s earlier 60s button, “Shakespeare Eats Bacon.”

April 28, 1970: Addressed to the San Francisco Chronicle.

Dragon card & writing on flip side: The first of the infamous letters where the killer demands his own Zodiac button after threatening to blow up a school bus packed with kids.

“If you don’t want me to have this blast I would like to see some nice Zodiac buttons. Everyone has these buttons like (Peace Sign), Black Power and Melvin Eats Blubber…”


The Super-Villain style outfit was described by the survivor of a Zodiac attack. The artist continued to investigate the case for many years and published the book on which Fincher’s 2005 film is based. Graysmith’s number one suspect was never charged.
In the Hippie Era my father’s buttons were ubiquitous among hipsters of all types and often featured on TV's hit comedy show, Rowan And Martin's LAUGH-IN. In the letter that is read in Fincher’s Zodiac movie, the real life killer is twisting my father's phrase so that “Melville” becomes “Melvin”, an obvious jibe at lawyer Melvin Belli, who the Zodiac Killer was involved with during his rampage.

Anyway, I immediately stopped the movie (as I said before, I'd already seen it at least three times) – and examined all of the notorious “Zodiac Letters” online.

Now - let me back up for a minute here:

While I only become interested in the real life Zodiac killer case after watching David Fincher’s movie in 2007, I’ve had a nearly lifelong fascination with Clint Eastwood and the first (and best) Dirty Harry film. The 1970 movie, directed by Don Siegel, pits the title cop character against a crazed terrorist who calls himself “Scorpio”, and who I was vaguely aware had been modeled on the Zodiac Killer who terrorized San Francisco around the same time as the film's release. In both Dirty Harry and the real life case, a maniac shoots seemingly random citizens and then threatens to slaughter all the kids on a school bus.

I am such a Dirty Harry fan that I have long coveted a still from the movie, which shows the killer (Scorpio) pointing his gun at the camera. The photo is inscribed by the actor to me: “To Ray - Andy Robinson / Scorpio.” The night I first saw Fincher’s Zodiac at a local theatre in 2007, it gave me the creeps as few movies do. I had lost the creeps by the time I got back to my apartment, but when I looked up and saw the photo of “Scorpio”, pointing his gun down at me from the wall, mentioning me by name – there were the creeps again.

Letter to the San Francisco Chronicle: June 26, 1970

“This is the Zodiac speaking

I have become very upset with the people of San Fran Bay area. They have not complied with my wishes for them to wear some nice (Zodiac symbol) buttons. I promised to punish them if they didn’t comply, by anilating a full School Buss. But now school is out for the summer, so I punished them in another way. I shot a man sitting in a parked car with a .38. ...”

Letter to the San Francisco Chronicle: July 24, 1970:

“Mailed to the San Francisco Chronicle

“This is the Zodiac speaking:

I am rather unhappy because you people will not wear some nice buttons, so now I have a little list, starting with the woman and her baby that I gave a rather interesting ride for a couple hours one evening a few months back that ended in my burning her car where I found them.”
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THE TANTS

STORY: ABRAHAM MARTÍNEZ
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LETTERS: JAME

MEISTER!
WE’VE BEEN WALKING FOR TWO WEEKS NOW. THERE ARE NO FUNGI LEFT TO EAT!

MY PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY!

OH MY GOD! ISN’T THAT A VIEW!

WE’LL REPLENISH TONIGHT.

THE OLD ONE’S MAP SAYS THERE IS AN OASIS, RIGHT BEHIND THOSE RUINS.

WE’LL SET CAMP ONCE WE GET THERE, I BELIEVE IT IS SAFE.

LET’S GO!

HEY THERE, TOUGH GUY.

GOT A MINUTE?

SURE KID. WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND?

DON’T YOU THINK IT’S A LITTLE BIT INTRIGUING THAT WE HAVEN’T STUMBLED INTO ANY TANTS YET? CONSIDERING THEY MIGHT’VE ATTACKED THE SETTLEMENT.

WE DON’T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY’RE OPPOSING. I MEAN, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A TANT?

NEVER. I JUST KNOW THEY DWELL THE ROAD TO ULTIMA. I’VE HEARD THEY LOOK LIKE US, BUT THEY AREN’T. SOME THINK THEIR ANCESTORS WERE HUMAN, BEFORE THE WAR.
They are beautiful.
Species V-651, non-intelligent.

They look human.
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Some say they are the ghosts of dead spacers.

May I enquire why you have come here, sir?

Anna is out there.

Your wife died 0.52 Terran years ago. She was in...

-Klik-

Anna is not dead!
---

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SAM ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS IN THE COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN IN WEST YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND. HE WAS AWARDED A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE WITH HONOURS IN THE YEAR 2000 FOR VISUAL COMMUNICATION. THIS DEGREE ENABLED HIM TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND HIS SKILLS IN BOTH ILLUSTRATION, FINE ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, SHORT FILM AND STOP-MOTION ANIMATION... IN ONE SUCH SHORT HE USED FROZEN MICE AND RATS... 'RE-ANIMATING' THEM SO TO SPEAK... MUCH TO THE DISMAY OF HIS TUTORS AND FELLOW STUDENTS.

SHORTLY AFTER, HE WENT ON TO BECOME A QUALIFIED ART TEACHER SPECIALISING IN LIFE DRAWING AND FINE ART. HE ACQUIRED A POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION FROM HUDDERSFIELD UNIVERSITY IN THE UK.

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