# THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN HERALD

FFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROMANO BYZANTINE SYNOD OF THE ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH! PO Box 16201 - Duluth Minnesota 55806-1612

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you..." Isaiah 43:1-2

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May the Lord bless you on this the preparation for His great and holy feast.

# LIVING AND DYING THE FAITH

# Preamble by Archbishop Stephen

Archimandrite Mark Gielow left many beautiful memories of himself with the Church, and especially with those who knew him. He was born in Gary Indiana on February 23, 1951. He was baptized and raised in the Carpatho Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church, but was ordained a priest on January 28, 1976, in the Greek Orthodox Church by His Grace Bishop Timotheos Haloftis of Blessed Memory. In 1980, he incardinated into the Romano Byzantine Synod at Saint Paul's Monastery in LaPorte Indiana. He became a Bishop-elect in 1993, but never lived to receive this honor as he passed on to the Lord in 1994. He died of AIDS as a result of a blood transfusion received several years before. He was a great example of faith to those who knew him as he accepted his cross without a complaint: continued his priestly life without hesitation even when in severe pain and discomfort; and died peacefully at his rectory with several clergy around him who had cared for him, as he wished, during his illness.

We believe that he was blessed with a vision the night before his death. When visited in the emergency room, he asked: "Your Eminence, would you be upset with me if I were to return to

where I just came from? I saw beautiful flowers and rivers that I never saw before There was warmth and no pain, only joy. I want to return." I gave him my permission, and then he was released from the hospital to return home where he passed away the very next afternoon. However, the night before, as he laid in pain, he brought laughter into the hearts of all the clergy and a few laity who surrounded him. It was his gift to make us all laugh, but we could not help the tears that were being shed within. For we all knew that one of our best and most dedicated priests was about to leave us. We rejoice now knowing that he is with Almighty God, and we share one of his writings with you.

**Continued on Page 5** 

# DEACON ORDAINED AT ST MARY'S PRO-CATHEDRAL

[Minnesota] Timothy Aaron Kjera MCSB was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Stephen on Sunday, October 22nd, 2000, and assisted by Very Reverend Basil Koch of Tacoma Washington. Deacon Timothy was ordained at St Mary the Theotokos Pro-Cathedral in Duluth. Refreshments followed in the parish hall. Deacon Timothy has been preparing for the Sacred

Vol 15 Issue 1 January – March 2001

Official Acts... - Page 2
Home is... - Page 3
Church World - Page 4
Living and Dying... - Page 7
Sophia! - Page 7
Classified Ads - Page 8

Priesthood since 1996. He was made a subdeacon at St Thomas Chapel, Michigan City Indiana, in the summer of 1999. He is now studying for his Master of Divinity through the Metropolitanate and Holy Family Collegiate Seminary. Father Deacon Kjera is a member of the Monastic Community of Saint Basil, St Mark's Abbacy of Lancashire England. Relatives and friends from throughout the United participated States in ceremonies. The newly ordained Deacon will continue to assist at Saint Mary's Church, and at the Metropolitanate where Synodal Financial Officer. He is expected to be ordained Priest in the Fall of 2001. ₩



Father Deacon Timothy

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Orthodox Christian Herald 2

# ORDINATIONS AND RELIGIOUS CLOTHINGS

- † Timothy Aaron Kjera ordained Deacon on Sunday, October 2 2nd, 2000, at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, by His Eminence Metropolitan Archbishop Stephen.
- Monk Timothy Aaron Kjera professed his perpetual vows to His Eminence Archbishop Stephen on Sunday, November 19th, 2000, to the Monastic Community of Saint Basil, Abbacy of Saint Mark in England.
- † Patrick Raphael Kneafsey ordained Subdeacon on Sunday, November 12, 2000, at St Mark's Hermitage and Parish (England), by Right Reverend George Singleton MCSB VG.
- † Father Michael Mason professed into the Monastic Community of Saint Basil, Abbacy of St Mark in Lancashire England, November 26, 2000.

# APPOINTMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS

- † Reverend Fr James Busongo, Pastor of St Stephen the Protomarytr Parish and Christ the Savior Parish, Bunda Tanzania, effective August 30, 2000.
- Reverend John Mbaga Kapangala, Pastor of St Michael & All Angels Parish, Ubungo Tanzania, effective September 27, 2000.
- Father Deacon Timothy Aaron Kjera MCSB, Assistant at St Mary the Theotokos Church, Duluth MN, effective October 25, 2000.
- Subdeacon Patrich Raphael Kneafsey, Assistant at Saint Mark's Hermitage in Lancashire, effective November 13, 2000.

Reverend Father Patrick Lemming transferred to Sevierville Tennessee, effective August 15, 2000.

- Reverend Father Michael Mason, Assistant at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Duluth Minnesota, effective November 26, 2000.
- Reverend Fr Philomon H
   Mboma, Pastor of Ss Joachim
   Anna Parish, Mbeya
   Tanzania, effective August 30,
   2000.
- Reverend Essau Z Mgeni,
   Pastor of Ss Peter & Paul
   Parish, Vigunguti Tanzania,
   effective September 27, 2000.
- Reverend Angel G
   Mwaisaka, Pastor of Holy
   Nativity of Christ Parish,
   Keko/Mwanga Tanzania,
   effective September 27, 2000.
- Reverend Eliat Raphael Sanga, Pastor of Holy Cross of Jesus Parish, Iringa Tanzania, effective August 30, 2000.
- † Reverend Fr Peter R Simbeye, Pastor of St Timothy's ProCathedral, Dar Es Salaam Tanzania, effective August 1, 2000; and Rector of St Nicholas Romano Byzantine Institute, Mbeya Tanzania.
- Right Rev Archimandrite George Singleton, Abbot of the Monastic Community of Saint Basil, effective November 10, 2000.
- Father Deacon Joseph Zafar, Assistant at St Mary's Pro—Cathedral, Duluth Minnesota (transferred from Diocese of Pakistan), effective in 2000. Deacon Joseph will assist with chancery affairs as well as assist on occasion St Michael's Parish in Norfolk Virginia during his studies leading to the Holy Priesthood.

# PROMULGATION OF NEW CANONS (STATUTES) & CANONICAL NORMS

The Metropolitanate has reviewed all the votes submitted from the Synod concerning various issues of uniformity and the following have been granted approbation. (1) The Synod will continue wearing the cincture instead of zone with liturgical vestments. (2) The Metropolitanate will review the need for a Coadjutor Metropolitan (without right of succession) and will announce its appointment of such in the year 2001.

#### APPROBATION FOR ISSUANCE OR DISSOLUTION OF CHARTERS

#### **Canonized and Chartered:**

- All Saints Parish, Shinyanga Tanzania, September 28, 2000.
- Christ the Savior Parish, Bunda Tanzania, September 27, 2000.
- † Holy Nativity of Christ Parish, Keko Tanzania, September 27, 2000.
- Protection of the Virgin Mary Parish, Dar Es Salaaiu, September 27, 2000.
- † St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Msoma Tanzania, September 27, 2000.
- St Basil's Hermitage, Baxenden Lancashire England, November 30, 2000.
- St Irene's Parish, Dar Es Salaam Tanzania, September 27, 2000.
- St Mary Magdalene Parish, Geita Tanzania, September 27, 2000.
- St Michael & All Angels Parish, Ubungo Tanzania, September 27, 2000.
- St Michael the Archangel Parish, Norfolk VA, July 16, 2000.

#### HOME IS WHERE YOUR HEART IS

I am Deacon Joseph Zafar from very religious and popular family in Pakistan. I completed matriculation in 1989, and joined the St. Mary's Seminary at Lahore. After completing four years. I proceeded to Christ the King Major Seminary at Karachi for philosophy and Theology. I studied about 8 years in the seminary and graduated in 1997. I was assigned as a professor and music teacher to the MSSP seminary at Faislabad. I was ordained Deacon on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2000 By Bishop Ruffian Julius at Gujranwala. I finshed my MA in 2000. Now I am serving at St. Mary's Church in the USA and preparing for Holy Priesthood under the guidance of His Eminence Archbishop Stephen. On 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. at Lahore airport, when my family saw me off, it was very difficult to leave my family, country and all that, there were tears in everybody's eyes. It seems to me at once that earth has moved from under my feet. But the God Who is everywhere, He gave me courage, Grace, and power of the Holy Spirit to go on my mission. Here I realized that your good deeds work, if you are honest, faithful and never try to deceive or harm others and especially if you have served and respected your parents, then there is no fear, God is always with you Who guides, provides, protects, helps and save you from every trouble. God made my journey save and peaceful Here I realized that one who loves humanbeing. God loves him.

Before coming to USA I had feelings that without my family I could not adjust, but as I reached at the airport my two brothers were there to pick me up. They were Rev. Father Michael and Rev. Deacon Timothy who had been sending me a lot of e-mails. I realized that my new family was waiting for me. My new family members are Most Rev. Archbishop Stephen who loves me same as my father loves me. Father Michael and Deacon Timothy and Carol, secretary of Archbishop; I found each of them very good so kind, helpful, patience, very cooperative, generous and positive in all ways towards me. I will always have love and prayers for them as I have for my family. Although it is difficult to adjust in new world of entirely different environment, I am praying and trying to adjust for the glory of God.

I am really thankful from depth of my heart to my parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, professors, friends and those who have planted this seed for the work of God. Many thanks to my Archbishop Stephen who accepted me with open heart and my Bishop Rufin Julius who took keen interest in my vocation and helped me a lot both spiritually and financially. Very special thanks to my parents who helped me very much spiritually and financialy.and all my family members very especially to my brother Emmaneul Ather Julius, president of PMI and director of human care and development agency, who arranged everything for me. May God bless each of you.

I would request everybody to remember me in your prayers as I remember you in my prayers. So I can be one day a good priest and serve the people of God well.

Yours in Christ Deacon Joseph Zafar

- St Nicholas Parish, Mara Tanzania, September 28, 2000.
- Ss Peter & Paul Parish, Vigunguti Tanzania, September 27, 2000.
- St Timothy Pro-Cathedral, Dar—Es-Salaam Tanzania, August 30, 2000.

#### **INCARDINATIONS**

- Reverend Michael Mason (Return from Leave of Absence)
- Reverend Luis Nazario (Pending)

♦ Reverend Roberto Walsh (Pending)

#### **DICIPLINARY ACTS**

† Bishop Lukas (Prieto) deposed from the Sacerdotal and Episcopal Offices on November 24, 2000, for serious canonical and civil offenses against the Church. The Archdiocese is currently under the administration of the Vicar General until further notice.

#### **COMPANIONS OF**

#### SAINT BASIL

- Patricia Anderson CSB, California
- Michael Houston CSB, Texas
- † Irene Koch CSB, Washington
- Mary Romano Leason CSB, Washington

# PRAY FOR THE ILL AND SUFFERING

- Archbishop Ricardo, Cuba
- † Father Roberto Cranshaw MCSB, California
- Archdeacon John DeMeis, New York
- Dr Albert DiPietro DCh LCh, New York
- Mrs Anna DiPietro, New York
- Dr Jane Hartman LRC, New Mexico
- **†** Fr Basil Koch, Washington
- ♦ Irene Koch CSB, Washington
- Father Patrick Lemming, Tennessee
- Robert Rhea, Kentucky
- Peter Smyth Family, Ontario Canada
- Chorbishop John (Utz) of Tennessee
- † Teresa Utz, Tennessee
- Brad Ziffer, New Jersey

#### PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

- Connie Bravoco, New Jersey, September 19, 2000.
- Please pray for all children who now rest in the peace of our Lord.





# NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHURCH WORLD

#### FATHER GREGORY ZHOU PASSES ON TO THE LORD

[Harbin China] It was learned from Mr Iljia Berthold, a contact for the Metropolitanate in Germany, that China's only Orthodox priest, Father Gregory Zhou, has passed away. Father Gregory was pastor of the Church of the Protection in the city of Harbin. The report went on to say that Dr Nikolas Gvosdev, Associate Director of the Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, Baylor University, contacted the Ambassador of China, Honorable Li Zhaoxing, on October 6, 2000, asking that the government allow another priest to take over the parish thus preserving the only Orthodox parish in China. It was also requested that an Orthodox priest be allowed to visit and perform the funeral services for Father Gregory. Prayers are requested for the Orthodox Church in the People's Republic of China. ffairs of the Monastic Community for the Metropolitanate.

#### **VICARIATE OF TANZANIA CONTINUES TO GROW**

[Dar Es Salaam] Reverend Peter Simbeye, Vicar of the Vicariate of Tanzania, informed the Metropolitanate on September 27, 2000, that five more previously independent parishes have joined the Romano Byzantine Synod. The five new parishes are in the Mara Region and their canonical names are: Christ the Savior Parish (Bunda), St Andrew the Apostle (Msoma), St Mary Magdalene Parish (Geita-Mwanza), All Saints Parish (Shinyanga), and St Nicholas Parish (Mara). In addition, another mission was established in Dar Es Salaam and named St Irene's Parish. Reverend James Busongo is the administrator of the parishes in the Mara Region.

Washington.

#### **COMPANIONS OF SAINT BASIL**

(England] The Romano Byzantine Synod has a society which encompasses those who wish to be associated with a religious congregation. This is open to healers, counselors, lawyers, and other professionals and non-professionals. Members are referred to as "Companions" and allowed to use the acronym "CSB" after their names. The Moderator, Brother Patrick Raphael MCSB, and Center for the Companions of Saint Basil is located in Lancashire England. Is God calling you to be closer to Him in your service to others? For additional information write to: St Mary's Church, 5907 Grand Avenue, Duluth Minnesota 55807. This is an ecumenically structured society open to men and women over the age of eighteen of the Christian Faith. Members receive a "Pilgrim's Cross" to be worn, Certificate, and Prayer Book. Your request will be sent on to England for review and response. Cordoba.

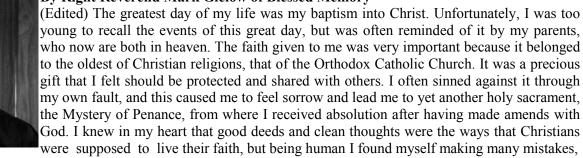
#### LADIES SOCIETY OF SAINT IRENE

The Ladies Society of Saint Irene is open to women who wish to serve their parishes or other apostolates in a philanthropic and benevolent manner. If you are interested in joining, or starting a chapter in your locality, more information can be received by writing to the Editor % Orthodox Christian Herald, PO Box 16201, Duluth MN 55816-0201.

Walk worthily of God, who calleth you unt His kingdom and glory.

## LIVING AND DYING THE FAITH

By Right Reverend Mark Gielow of Blessed Memory



mistakes that only I could accept the blame for. It was good to know that the God I loved was one of compassion and forgiveness for his children. There was no doubt in my mind that God would forgive me a million times as long as I was truly sorry for my sins, and always tried not to commit them again.

The next greatest day in my life is one that I can remember. It occurred in Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Chapel at St Andrew's Church in Chicago Illinois on January 28, 1976. I remember the day as being cold with much snow on the ground. We left Gary Indiana for Chicago early in the morning to get there by 10:00 A.M. It was on this day that I was to be ordained a priest of the Orthodox Church. We arrived and several priests and about fifty laity along with my family were in the Chapel of the Church. I was nervous and wondering why me? Why am I receiving this great gift? I could only respond, because a call was given to me by God, and now I must be ready to accept the responsibilities of this sacred calling. I knew that the life of a priest was not going to be easy, but I also knew that the rewards would be filled with joy. I began to recall the first priests of the Church, Christ and the Holy Apostles, and remembered how their lives were spent praying, healing, giving, preaching, administering the Holy Mysteries, and how each was subjected to great sufferings. I then realized how much easier they have made it for me to be a priest today. The Divine Liturgy began, His Excellency, Bishop Timothy of Rodostolon, and other clergy assembled around the holy altar. The choir singing, and the smell of incense filled the chapel. It wasn't long and one of the priests came and lead me to the Bishop. The ancient ritual of the Church began and soon I was a priest.

I served the Greek Orthodox Church until 1979, and then transferred to the Archdiocese of Vasiloupolis, and finally in 1980 entered service to the Romano Byzantine Synod. There were many times of trial and tribulation, but there were many more days of joy and happiness. I realized how important it was to live the faith that I preached and taught. Suddenly, it became easier for me to be what I was - a priest! I enjoyed celebrating the Holy Liturgy and administering the Holy Mysteries. I looked forward to giving the love of Christ to the children and adults under my care. I truly enjoyed my life as a priest. But now, I faced yet another step in my life which caused me great stress and fear. I had received a blood transfusion many years before, and now in 1993 was advised that I have contracted AIDS. I went to my Archbishop, who was most comforting and truly a friend, and he gave me great support. As the days went on, and I became more ill and an invalid, I knew that my time was coming. My request was to die at home among my brother priests, and this the Archbishop graciously consented to. He, and four priests and two brothers, took around-the-clock care of me, feeding, bathing, and just making me feel good. I asked the Archbishop if he would miss me should I die, and as he fought back his tears, he said, "I will miss you greatly, but don't think about that."

I did think about it, day after day, and now I am reaching a point where my mind is starting to forget many things. I can move my hands, but can't walk without falling. The Archbishop, and others, have become my legs. It will be soon, I know. How can I ever repay those who have cared for me? I now feel happiness knowing that I will soon leave this pain and suffering, and will be safe with Almighty God. I find great comfort in this. Today is May 1, 1994, I know that the Archbishop is under great stress, and that there are those who are trying to discredit this man for all he stands for. I am weak and unable to help. I am sorry.

Father Archimandrite Mark died not even two months later. He could no longer write, talk, or move, but on the night before his passing he looked at all those assembled and said: "I have been a pain." He smiled at us all after these his last words. In all his suffering, he never once blamed anyone, and even the doctors and nurses who cared for him in a card said, "Father Mark was an inspiration to us all. He never once complained to us about anything, not even when we knew that he was in great pain." These things, this man, will never be forgotten.  $\maltese$ 

# DIALOGUE REESTABLISHED IN BANGLADESH

[Dhaka] After nearly five years, the Metropolitanate has once again dialogue resumed Bangladesh. Mr Isaac Baroi, once a seminarian there of the Church, has been out of contact due to circumstances many there including threats upon his family from Islamic fanatics. In his letter to the Metropolitan Archbishop, he affirms his loyalty to the Church and the Archbishop, and advises that he has never lost thoughts of the Church in the United States. It is now his plan to visit the Metropolitanate, with his family, within the months ahead. The Synod began plans in 1992 to establish a missionary vicariate in Bangladesh, and to prepare Isaac Baroi for Sacred Ordination. The Romano Byzantine Synod is already represented the Missionary Diocese of India and the Diocese of Pakistan.



# **ABBACY CANONIZED** IN ENGLAND

[Lancashire] The Metropolitanate has canonized and raised the Hermitage of Saint Mark's to the status of Abbacy. St Mark's Abbey is located in Lancashire England, and will serve the Monastic Community of St Basil throughout the world until an Archabbacy is established. Blessed with the title of Archimandrite and

Abbot is Right Reverend George Singleton MCSB VG. This act having been approved November 10th, 2000. ♥

# **BISHOP PEDRO OF CUBA ARRESTED** BY CUBAN SECURITY POLICE

[Havana] The Metropolitanate was advised by a journalist in the United States that His Excellency,

Bishop Pedro of Cuba, was arrested October 10 2000. bv state security police and jailed for helping poor black families within his parish locality.

immediately letters to President Fidel Castro, and other officials. facsimile, making their concern over this matter known, and urging them to

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> release the Bishop. By 6:00 p.m. of the same day, Bishop Pedro telephoned an interpreter and a conference call to the Metropolitan Archbishop was made announcing his release

> advised Bishop Pedro the Archbishop that he refused to promise discontinuance of the Lord's work among these people of God, regardless of their color, and was warned that his actions would he monitored Excellency is now in fear for his own safety. The Metropolitanate continues to investigate this matter assisted by contacts being made by Right Reverend George Singleton of the Vicariate of the United Kingdom. \*

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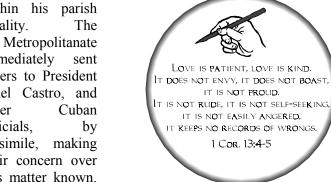
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# SOPHIA!

# Official Publication of the Romano Byzantine College Alumni Association

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

## RBC ALUMNI & STUDENTS - PLEASE NOTE

The newsletter "Sophia" will now be included in the Orthodox Christian Herald in its own section. It will no longer be sent separately as in the past. Please see notice in the "Sophia" section of this issue.

# CHANGES MADE IN "SOPHIA"

The "Sophia" newsletter will now be added to the Orthodox Christian Herald and sent to alumni and students at no charge. This is being done in an effort to cut costs and operating expenses for Romano Byzantine College. All alumni in good standing will receive this on a regular basis. If you have some news you would like to share with other students and alumni, please send it to Deacon Timothy Aaron Kjera, Romano Byzantine Synod, 2123 West 5th Street - 2nd Floor, Duluth MN 55806.

## DOCTOR OF DIVINITY AWARDED HONORIS CAUSA

Lempi Sample, Federal Way Washington, was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree, Honoris Causa, on September 24th, 2000, from Romano Byzantine College and Synod of Bishops. It was awarded for her meritorious service to Christian Education as both a teacher and author of several books. We congratulate you, Lempi Sample, D.D., for all your efforts and dedication to Christian Education!

#### RBC EXPANDS REPRESENTATION

Romano Byzantine College has established representation in two other countries in addition to the United States and Canada. Dr Jack Bensch is representative in South Africa, and Dr Mineo Moritani represents the College in Japan, and also is president of Academia Pansophia. Both are consultors in their respective countries for those seeking honorary or academic degrees from Romano Byzantine College of Norfolk Virginia. Dr Peter Smyth heads the Romano Byzantine College Extension in Bolton Ontario Canada, and Bishop Lukas Prieto is the rector of the College.

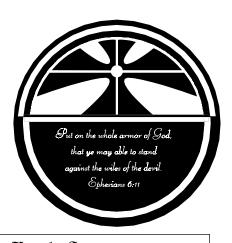
### SOUTH AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE FOR RBC

[Sandton] Dr Jack Bensch is the new representative of the Romano Byzantine College in South Africa. His appointment was made official on May 25, 2000 by the Metropolitanate. He succeeded Dr Ivan Simoen in this capacity. Dr

Bensch has proven himself to be a philanthropist and humanitarian, and has done much already to advance the mission and name of Romano Byzantine College in South Africa.

## HOLY FAMILY COLLEGIATE SEMINARY REDIES FOR FALL CLASSES

[Tacoma WA] Those interested in earning degrees in Biblical Studies, Judeo-Christian Studies, or Theology should write to Very Reverend Fr Basil James Koch, Rector, Holy Family Seminary, P0 Box 5461, Tacoma WA 98415. Information and application will be sent. Father Basil advises that ten students are engaged in study this Fall Semester.





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# **CLASSIFIED ADS**

## **NOTICES**

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information.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (2000) available through Romano Byzantine College of Norfolk Virginia for theocentric practitioners and canon lawyers. Write to: Romano Byzantine Synod, 2123 West 5th Street 2nd Floor, Duluth MN 55806; Fax: 218-733-0349.

# **RELIGIOUS ORDERS**

**COMPANIONS OF ST BASIL** (Romano Byzantine) open to married/single laity offers a new challenge and rewarding future to all that join. For more information on how you can serve humanity in counseling and healing as a member, write: St Mary's Church, 5907 Grand Avenue, Duluth MN 55807.

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