

A STUDY ON DISCRIMINATION FACED BY PEOPLE BASED ON CASTE AND COLOUR

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature

by

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

SATHYABAMA

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this Project Report is the bonafide work of **V. SHOBANA (40010028)** who carried out the project entitled "**A study on discrimination faced by people based on caste and colour**" under my/our supervision from January 2023 to May 2023.

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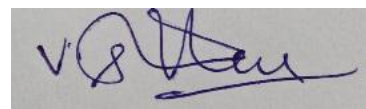
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ABSTRACT:

The topic of discrimination faced by people based on caste and color is a prevalent issue in society. The novels "Dear Martin" and "Untouchable" shed light on this issue and explore the experiences of individuals who face discrimination based on their caste and color. The novels show how people of color and those from lower castes are often subjected to biased treatment, stereotyping, and prejudice, leading to various forms of discrimination, such as social exclusion, economic marginalization, and violence. Through their powerful narratives, the novels highlight the urgent need to address this issue and work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society where people are not judged based on their caste or color.

Key words

Discrimination, Caste, Color, Prejudice, Bias, Inequality, Exclusion, Violence, Marginalized, Social Justice, Inclusion, Equity, Diversity.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Discrimination based on caste and colour has been a longstanding issue in various societies around the world. It has led to social, economic, and political inequality, and it continues to affect millions of people's lives. In many societies, people are born into a particular caste or colour, and they are expected to remain within the confines of their caste or colour for their entire lives. This has resulted in a deeply entrenched system of discrimination that has denied people their basic human rights, such as access to education, healthcare, and equal opportunities. Caste-based discrimination is particularly prevalent in countries like India, where the caste system has been a part of the social fabric for centuries. This system assigns people to different castes based on their birth and family background, with the higher castes enjoying more privileges and power than the lower ones. Dalits, also known as "untouchables," are at the bottom of the caste system and face severe discrimination and violence from upper-caste individuals and communities. Similarly, colour discrimination is prevalent in various societies worldwide, where people with darker skin tones are often subject to bias and prejudice. This discrimination is particularly pervasive in countries with a history of colonialism, where lighter skin tones were associated with power and privilege. This introduction highlights the pervasive nature of discrimination based on caste and colour and the detrimental impact it has on individuals and communities. It is essential to acknowledge and address these issues to create a more just and equitable society.

Discrimination based on caste and colour has far-reaching consequences on individuals and societies. It perpetuates poverty, limits access to opportunities, and affects mental health and well-being. The discrimination that people face based on their caste or colour is often deeply ingrained in cultural and societal norms, making it difficult to eradicate. In India, the caste system has been legally abolished, but the social and economic disparities between castes still exist, and Dalits face daily discrimination and violence. The government has implemented affirmative action policies to provide opportunities for Dalits and other marginalized communities, but these policies have been met with resistance and controversy. Similarly, colour discrimination persists in various societies worldwide, perpetuated by stereotypes and prejudices that lead to bias and inequality. This discrimination is particularly prevalent in industries such as fashion and entertainment, where lighter skin tones are often preferred over darker ones. Efforts to address discrimination based on caste and colour require education, awareness, and a commitment to change. It is crucial to challenge the cultural and societal norms that perpetuate discrimination and promote diversity. Through affirmative action policies, anti-discrimination laws,

and social activism, we can work towards creating a world where people are judged based on their abilities and character, rather than their caste or colour.

1.2 DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination refers to unfair or unequal treatment of individuals or groups based on certain characteristics, such as race, gender, age, religion, caste, sexual orientation, and disability. Discrimination can manifest in many forms, including verbal abuse, exclusion from opportunities, unequal pay, harassment, violence, and systemic biases in institutions and policies. Discrimination is a violation of human rights and can have severe consequences for individuals and communities. It perpetuates inequality, limits access to opportunities, and undermines social cohesion. Discrimination is often rooted in cultural and societal norms, making it challenging to eradicate. Efforts to combat discrimination require education, awareness, and a commitment to change. Anti-discrimination laws, affirmative action policies, and social activism are some of the ways in which discrimination can be challenged and eliminated. By promoting diversity, we can create a more just and equitable society that values and respects the rights and dignity of all individuals.

Discrimination can have significant social and economic costs. It can perpetuate poverty, exacerbate social tensions, and limit economic growth and development. Discrimination can also have severe mental health consequences, causing stress, anxiety, and depression. Discrimination based on race, gender, religion, and other characteristics has been a pervasive issue throughout history, affecting millions of people's lives. It has led to the oppression of marginalized communities and the denial of their basic human rights. Even today, discrimination continues to affect individuals and communities worldwide, leading to a wide range of social and economic inequalities. Efforts to combat discrimination require collective action, including public awareness campaigns, anti-discrimination laws, and affirmative action policies. These efforts must be based on a commitment to promote equality, and diversity in all spheres of life. By acknowledging and addressing discrimination, we can create a more just and equitable society that values and respects the rights and dignity of all individual.

1.3 DISCRIMINATION FACED BY PEOPLE EARLIER

Throughout history, people from various groups have faced discrimination based on their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, nationality, and other characteristics. Some of the most significant examples of discrimination faced by people earlier include:

Racial discrimination against Black people in the United States, such as slavery, segregation, and institutionalized racism.

The caste system in India, which has led to social exclusion and economic marginalization of lower castes and Dalits.

Anti-Semitic discrimination against Jewish people in Europe, including pogroms, the Holocaust, and ongoing prejudice.

Discrimination against women in various societies, including gender-based violence, unequal access to education and employment, and restrictions on their rights.

Discrimination against Indigenous peoples, including forced removal from their lands, cultural suppression, and assimilation policies.

These are just a few examples of the discrimination faced by people earlier. Discrimination continues to be a significant issue today, and many groups are still fighting for their rights and equal treatment.

Here are some more examples of discrimination faced by people earlier:

Discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals, including criminalization, harassment, and violence.

Religious discrimination against Muslims, Jews, and other groups, including discriminatory laws and policies, hate crimes, and Islamophobia.

Discrimination against people with disabilities, including exclusion from public spaces, unequal access to education and employment, and stigma.

Discrimination against immigrants and refugees, including xenophobia, deportation, and barriers to integration.

Discrimination against people based on their language, accent, or dialect, including language-based discrimination in education and employment.

These examples highlight the wide range of discrimination faced by people throughout history, which has had far-reaching and long-lasting effects on individuals and communities. It is essential to acknowledge and address the systemic and structural factors that perpetuate discrimination and work towards creating a more equitable and just society for all.

1.4 DISCRIMINATION FACED BY PEOPLE NOWADAYS

Discrimination continues to be a significant issue in the world today. Here are some examples of discrimination faced by people nowadays:

Racial discrimination against Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), including police brutality, mass incarceration, and structural inequalities.

Discrimination against women, including the gender pay gap, gender-based violence, and restrictions on reproductive rights.

Discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals, including discrimination in the workplace, hate crimes, and lack of legal protections.

Discrimination against people with disabilities, including accessibility barriers, lack of accommodations, and stigma.

Discrimination against religious minorities, including Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and discrimination against other religious groups.

Discrimination against immigrants and refugees, including xenophobia, border policies, and barriers to integration.

Discrimination based on age, including ageism in employment and healthcare.

These are just a few examples of the discrimination faced by people nowadays. Discrimination takes many forms and affects individuals and communities in different ways. It is important to recognize and challenge discrimination wherever it exists and work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

1.5 CASTE DISCRIMINATION

Caste discrimination, also known as casteism, is a form of discrimination that has been prevalent in various societies for centuries. Caste refers to a social hierarchy system in which individuals are born into a particular caste based on their family background, with the higher castes enjoying more privileges and power than the lower ones. This system has led to a deeply entrenched system of discrimination that has denied people their basic human rights and limited their access to opportunities and resources.

In India, the caste system is particularly prevalent, and Dalits, also known as "untouchables," are at the bottom of the caste hierarchy. Dalits face severe discrimination and violence from upper-caste individuals and communities, including restrictions on their access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Despite the Indian government's efforts to eradicate casteism, it remains a pervasive issue that affects millions of people's lives. Caste discrimination has far-reaching consequences for individuals and society. It perpetuates poverty, exacerbates social tensions, and undermines social cohesion. It also has severe mental health consequences, causing stress, anxiety, and depression among those who experience it. Efforts to combat caste discrimination require a multifaceted approach. This includes public awareness campaigns, anti-discrimination laws, affirmative action policies, and social activism. It also requires a fundamental shift in cultural and societal norms that perpetuate casteism. By promoting inclusivity, diversity, and equality, we can create a more just and equitable society that values and respects the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their caste or social status.

Caste discrimination is not only limited to India but is also prevalent in other countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In Nepal, for example, the caste system is deeply rooted in society, with Dalits facing significant discrimination and violence. In Bangladesh, the Dalits, known as "untouchables," face social exclusion and are denied access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Efforts to address caste discrimination have gained momentum in recent years, with international organizations and human rights groups calling for an end to this practice. However, progress has been slow, and discrimination continues to affect the lives of millions of people worldwide. One way

to combat caste discrimination is through education and awareness-raising initiatives. By educating individuals and communities about the harmful effects of caste, we can challenge cultural and societal norms that perpetuate this system of discrimination. In addition, anti-discrimination laws and affirmative action policies can help create a more level playing field for individuals who have been historically marginalized. However, efforts to address casteism require a collective effort. It requires the support and commitment of individuals, communities, and governments to create a more just and equitable society that values and respects the rights and dignity of all individuals. By working together, we can overcome caste discrimination and build a more inclusive and equitable world.

In conclusion, caste discrimination is a pervasive issue that continues to affect millions of people's lives, particularly in countries like India, where the caste system is prevalent. Addressing casteism requires a comprehensive and sustained effort that promotes inclusivity, diversity, and equality. By acknowledging and addressing caste discrimination, we can create a more just and equitable society that values and respects the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their caste or social status.

1.6 COLOUR DISCRIMINATION

Colour discrimination, also known as racism, is a form of discrimination in which individuals are treated differently based on their skin colour or ethnicity. This type of discrimination has been prevalent throughout history, affecting millions of people's lives and perpetuating social and economic inequalities. Colour discrimination can manifest in many forms, from overt acts of violence to subtle forms of prejudice and bias. In some cases, it may be institutionalized through policies and practices that favour one racial group over another. This type of discrimination can also lead to social exclusion, limiting access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. One of the most significant examples of colour discrimination is the treatment of Black people in many parts of the world, particularly in the United States. Black people have faced systematic discrimination and oppression throughout history, from slavery to Jim Crow laws and ongoing police brutality. In addition, Indigenous people, people of Asian descent, and other ethnic minorities also face significant discrimination and racism in various parts of the world. Colour discrimination has far-reaching consequences for individuals and society. It perpetuates poverty, exacerbates social tensions, and limits economic growth and development. It also has severe mental health consequences, causing stress, anxiety, and depression among those who experience it.

Efforts to combat colour discrimination require a multifaceted approach. This includes public awareness campaigns, anti-discrimination laws, affirmative action policies, and social activism. It also requires a fundamental shift in cultural and

societal norms that perpetuate racism. By promoting inclusivity, diversity, and equality, we can create a more just and equitable society that values and respects the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their skin colour or ethnicity.

In conclusion, colour discrimination is a pervasive issue that continues to affect millions of people's lives worldwide. Addressing racism requires a comprehensive and sustained effort that promotes inclusivity, diversity, and equality. By acknowledging and addressing colour discrimination, we can create a more just and equitable society that values and respects the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their skin colour or ethnicity. It is the responsibility of everyone to work together to overcome racism and build a more inclusive and equitable world. In recent years, there have been several movements and protests against colour discrimination, such as the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States and the protests against police brutality in Nigeria. These movements have brought significant attention to the issue and sparked important conversations about race and discrimination.

It is essential to recognize that colour discrimination is not limited to individual acts of prejudice but also to racism. This includes policies, practices, and systems that perpetuate inequality and limit access to opportunities for people of certain ethnicities or races. Efforts to combat colour discrimination must go beyond individual attitudes and behaviours and address these institutionalized forms of racism. This requires working towards equitable policies and practices that promote diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all. Education is also a critical tool in combating colour discrimination. Educating individuals and communities about the history and impact of racism can help challenge and dismantle harmful beliefs and attitudes. It can also promote empathy, understanding, and respect for people of different races and ethnicities.

In conclusion, colour discrimination is a deeply ingrained issue that has far-reaching consequences for individuals and society. Addressing racism requires a sustained and multifaceted effort that challenges individual attitudes and institutionalized forms of discrimination. By working together towards diversity, inclusivity, and equality, we can create a more just and equitable society that values and respects the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their skin colour or ethnicity.

1.7 PROBLEMS FACED BY PEOPLE DUE TO DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination based on caste or colour can have severe and long-lasting consequences for individuals and communities. Some of the problems faced by people due to discrimination are:

Social exclusion: Discrimination can lead to social exclusion, making it difficult for individuals to participate in society and access opportunities for education, employment, and healthcare

Economic inequality: Discrimination can limit economic opportunities and perpetuate poverty, leading to income disparities between different social groups.

Mental health issues: Discrimination can cause stress, anxiety, and depression, leading to long-term mental health problems among individuals who experience it.

Limited access to justice: Discrimination can limit access to justice, making it difficult for individuals to seek legal recourse when they face discrimination or other injustices.

Physical harm: Discrimination can lead to physical harm, including violence and hate crimes, especially when individuals or communities are targeted based on their caste or colour.

Stigmatization: Discrimination can lead to stigmatization, leading to negative perceptions and stereotypes that can further limit opportunities for individuals and communities.

Reduced quality of life: Discrimination can reduce the quality of life, leading to a loss of dignity, self-esteem, and confidence.

Discrimination based on caste or colour can have significant and long-lasting consequences for individuals and society. Addressing discrimination requires a sustained and comprehensive effort that challenges individual attitudes and institutionalized forms of discrimination. By promoting diversity, inclusivity, and equality, we can create a more just and equitable society that values and respects the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their caste or colour. Discrimination can also have inter generational effects, passing down disadvantages to future generations. For example, when individuals are denied educational or economic opportunities due to discrimination, their children may also face limited opportunities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality. Discrimination can also create a sense of insecurity and fear among individuals and communities, leading to a breakdown in social trust and cohesion. This can create a ripple effect, impacting the broader society's ability to function and thrive. Moreover, discrimination can lead to a loss of talent and potential contributions to society. When individuals are denied opportunities based on their caste or colour, their skills, knowledge, and potential contributions are lost, ultimately harming the broader society.

Finally, discrimination can also impact the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Discrimination can lead to chronic stress, affecting physical and mental

health outcomes. This can further perpetuate inequalities in health outcomes between different social groups. In conclusion, discrimination based on caste or colour can have significant and far-reaching consequences for individuals and society. Addressing discrimination requires a sustained and multi-pronged effort that challenges individual attitudes and institutionalized forms of discrimination. By working together towards diversity, inclusivity, and equality, we can create a more just and equitable society that values and respects the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their caste or colour.

CHAPTER 2

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Discrimination based on caste and color is a prevalent issue in many societies around the world, and it has been the subject of extensive research in the field of social sciences. Here is a brief literature review on the discrimination faced by people based on caste and color:

In "Caste Discrimination: A Global Concern," Dheeraj Sharma and Varun Sahni (2021) explore the persistence of caste-based discrimination in India and its impact on the social, economic, and political spheres. The authors argue that caste-based discrimination is a significant barrier to social mobility and development, and they call for urgent action to address this issue.

In "Colorism: A Global Issue," Margaret Hunter (2007) examines the phenomenon of colorism, which refers to the discrimination based on skin color within the same racial or ethnic group. The author argues that colorism is a pervasive problem in many societies, including the United States, and it has significant consequences for individuals' self-esteem, opportunities, and social status.

In "Untouchability in Rural India," Siddharth Kara (2011) provides a comprehensive analysis of the practice of untouchability, which is a form of caste-based discrimination against Dalits in India. The author examines the social, economic, and cultural dimensions of untouchability and argues that it is a significant violation of human rights that must be addressed through legal and social reforms.

In "Intersectionality and Caste Discrimination in India," Anjana Narayan (2020) explores the intersections between caste, gender, and other forms of social identity in the experiences of discrimination faced by Dalit women in India. The author argues that intersectionality provides a useful framework for understanding the complex and interrelated dimensions of discrimination and for developing effective strategies to address it.

These are just a few examples of the literature on the discrimination faced by people based on caste and color. The literature highlights the urgent need to address this issue and the significant impact it has on individuals and communities.

CHAPTER 3

3.1 AUTHOR (NIC STONE)

Nic Stone is an American author of young adult novels. She was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1985 and grew up in a suburb of Atlanta. Before becoming a full-time writer, she worked as a teacher and as a rapper under the name "Tic Toc". Stone's debut novel, "Dear Martin," was published in 2017 and became a New York Times bestseller. It tells the story of a high school student named Justyce McAllister, who experiences racial profiling and police brutality. Stone has since published several other critically acclaimed young adult novels, including "Odd One Out" and "Jackpot." Her writing often explores issues of race, social justice, and identity, and is known for its authentic and engaging portrayals of young people. She has been a finalist for several awards, including the National Book Award and the Coretta Scott King Book Award.

In addition to writing, Nic Stone is also an advocate for social justice and has been involved in various initiatives to promote equality and fairness. She is a strong believer in the power of literature to promote empathy, understanding, and positive social change. Stone has also been recognized for her contributions to the literary world and to society at large. In 2018, she was named a William C. Morris Award finalist for "Dear Martin" and was also awarded the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award. In 2019, she received the Children's Book Guild of Washington, D.C. Nonfiction Award for her contribution to children's literature. Overall, Nic Stone is a talented and socially conscious author whose work has had a significant impact on the world of young adult literature. Her novels have inspired and touched countless readers and have helped to promote important conversations about social justice, race, and identity.

Nic Stone is also known for her work in promoting literacy and education. She is a frequent speaker at schools and literary events, where she shares her love of reading and writing with young people. Stone is particularly interested in promoting literacy among underrepresented and marginalized communities, recognizing the importance of access to books and educational resources for all. Stone has also been involved in various charitable initiatives, including fundraising for organizations that support education, social justice, and marginalized communities. In 2020, she launched the #DearJustyce initiative, which raised funds for organizations working to address issues of racial injustice and inequality in the United States. Aside from her literary work, Nic Stone is also a devoted mother and wife. She has spoken publicly about the importance of family and the role that her loved ones have played in her journey as an author and as an advocate for social justice. In summary, Nic Stone is a multifaceted and inspiring individual who has made significant contributions to the world of literature, social justice, and education. Her work is a testament to the power

of literature to promote empathy, understanding, and positive change, and she continues to be an influential voice in the fight for equality and justice.

3.2 OVERVIEW OF THE NOVEL “DEAR MARTIN”

"Dear Martin" by Nic Stone is a powerful and thought-provoking young adult novel that tells the story of Justyce McAllister, a high school student in Atlanta, Georgia. The novel explores issues of race, social justice, and identity through the eyes of Justyce, who is a black teenager trying to navigate a predominantly white world.

The novel begins with Justyce being wrongfully arrested by a police officer, despite being a straight-A student and aspiring Ivy League student. This incident sets off a chain of events that forces Justyce to confront the realities of racism and discrimination in his community and in the wider world. As he struggles to come to terms with his own identity and his place in society, Justyce turns to the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. for guidance and inspiration. Throughout the novel, Stone examines the complex and often painful realities of being a person of colour in America. She explores the ways in which racism and discrimination manifest themselves in everyday life, from the casual rude that Justyce experiences at school to the more overt forms of violence and injustice that he witnesses in his community. Through Justyce's eyes, we see the emotional toll that these experiences can take on an individual, as well as the resilience and strength that is required to overcome them. Ultimately, "Dear Martin" is a powerful and important novel that speaks to the experiences of millions of people in America and around the world. It is a call to action for all of us to confront the realities of racism and discrimination and to work towards a more just and equitable society.

In addition to exploring issues of race and discrimination, "Dear Martin" also delves into the complexities of identity and belonging. Justyce is a young man who is struggling to find his place in the world, torn between his desire to succeed academically and his desire to connect with his peers and his community. He is also grappling with questions of masculinity and what it means to be a black man in America.

Throughout the novel, Stone also explores the role that history and tradition play in shaping our understanding of ourselves and our place in the world. Justyce turns to the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. as a source of guidance and inspiration, and his relationship with his grandfather, who is a civil rights activist, underscores the importance of passing down knowledge and wisdom from one generation to the next. Overall, "Dear Martin" is a powerful and deeply affecting novel that offers a poignant and insightful look at the experiences of people of colour in America. It is a call to action for all of us to confront the realities of racism and discrimination and to work towards a more just and equitable society. It is a must-read for anyone who cares about social justice, equality, and human rights.

One of the strengths of "Dear Martin" is its use of a young adult protagonist to explore complex and weighty issues. By telling the story through the eyes of a teenager, Stone is able to convey the emotional impact that discrimination and racism can have on young people, as well as the resilience and determination that is required to overcome these challenges. The novel is written in a clear and accessible style that will resonate with readers of all ages, and its themes are particularly relevant in today's social and political climate. Another notable aspect of "Dear Martin" is its use of multiple narrative techniques to convey Justyce's story. The novel incorporates letters that Justyce writes to Martin Luther King Jr. as a way of processing his experiences and seeking guidance, as well as flashbacks and dream sequences that offer insight into his thoughts and feelings. These different narrative devices work together to create a rich and immersive reading experience that engages the reader on both an emotional and intellectual level.

In conclusion, "Dear Martin" is a powerful and important novel that speaks to the experiences of millions of people in America and around the world. It is a call to action for all of us to confront the realities of racism and discrimination and to work towards a more just and equitable society. Through its vivid characters, rich storytelling, and insightful commentary on the state of American society, "Dear Martin" is a must-read for anyone who cares about social justice, equality, and human rights.

3.3 DISCRIMINATION FACED IN DEAR MARTIN NOVEL

In "Dear Martin," Nic Stone portrays various forms of discrimination faced by black people in America. Justyce, the protagonist of the novel, is a high-achieving student who is constantly subjected to racial profiling and discrimination, even in situations where he has done nothing wrong. He is targeted by the police and accused of crimes simply because of the colour of his skin, and his efforts to defend himself only seem to make things worse. One of the most poignant scenes in the novel involves a confrontation between Justyce and a white police officer, during which the officer pulls a gun on him and threatens to shoot him. This scene powerfully captures the fear and uncertainty that many black people experience when interacting with law enforcement, and highlights the dangers and injustices of a system that is biased against people of colour. Justyce also faces discrimination in his personal life, as he struggles to connect with his predominantly white classmates and friends. He is often made to feel like an outsider, and experiences aggressions and other forms of subtle discrimination on a regular basis. The novel also explores the effects of institutional discrimination on black communities, as Justyce and his family deal with the aftermath of a shooting that takes place in their neighbourhood.

Overall, "Dear Martin" offers a searing indictment of the discrimination and racism that pervades American society, and calls on readers to confront these issues head-

on and work towards a more just and equitable future. It is a powerful and important novel that sheds light on the experiences of people of colour in America, and is a must-read for anyone who cares about social justice and human rights.

In addition to Justyce's experiences, the novel also explores the discrimination faced by other characters in the story. Justyce's best friend, Manny, for example, is Afro-Latino and experiences discrimination from both the black and Latino communities. He struggles with feeling like he doesn't belong in either world, and must navigate the complexities of his own identity in the face of societal expectations and prejudices. Stone also highlights the impact of discrimination on Justyce's mother, who is a successful lawyer but is still subjected to racism and sexism in her workplace. She must constantly navigate a system that is stacked against her and work twice as hard to achieve the same level of success as her white counterparts. Through these various characters and their experiences, "Dear Martin" illustrates the pervasive nature of discrimination and its effects on all aspects of society. It is a powerful reminder of the work that still needs to be done to create a more just and equitable world, and is a call to action for readers to confront their own biases and work towards positive change.

Overall, "Dear Martin" is a powerful and emotionally resonant novel that speaks to the experiences of millions of people in America and around the world. Its honest and unflinching portrayal of discrimination and racism is both heart breaking and inspiring, and offers a powerful message of hope and resilience in the face of injustice.

3.4 STRUGGLES FACED BY JUSTYCE MCALLISTER

In "Dear Martin," Justyce McAllister is a black high school student who faces numerous struggles and challenges throughout the novel. Some of the struggles faced by Justyce include:

Racial Profiling: Justyce faces racial profiling and discrimination by law enforcement officers. He is frequently targeted and harassed by police officers, who assume he is guilty of crimes simply because of the colour of his skin.

Identity: Justyce struggles to understand his identity as a young black man in America. He questions his place in society and struggles to find a sense of belonging in a world that often seems hostile to people of colour.

Micro aggressions: Justyce experiences subtle forms of discrimination and racism, such as micro aggressions, on a regular basis. These small acts of prejudice and discrimination often go unnoticed by others, but can have a profound impact on the mental and emotional well-being of those who experience them.

Academic Pressure: Justyce is a high-achieving student who faces pressure from his family and community to excel academically. This pressure can be overwhelming at times, and he often feels like he is not living up to the expectations of others.

Trauma: Justyce experiences several traumatic events throughout the novel, including witnessing a shooting in his neighbourhood. These experiences have a profound impact on his mental and emotional well-being, and he struggles to process and cope with the trauma he has experienced.

Overall, "Dear Martin" highlights the struggles and challenges faced by many young black men in America, and offers a searing indictment of the discrimination and racism that pervades society. Despite the many obstacles he faces, Justyce remains resilient and determined, and his story is a powerful reminder of the strength and resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. Throughout the novel, Justyce grapples with the injustices and inequalities he sees around him, and begins to question the role of race in American society. He starts a journal of letters to Martin Luther King Jr., in which he seeks guidance and advice on how to navigate the complexities of race and discrimination in modern-day America. Justyce's struggles are further compounded by the fact that he attends a predominantly white private school, where he often feels like an outsider. He is constantly reminded of his status as a minority, and must navigate the complexities of his identity in a predominantly white environment. Despite these challenges, Justyce remains determined to make a difference and fight for justice. He becomes involved in a social justice organization and works to educate his classmates and community about the realities of discrimination and racism. He also forms a bond with his white classmate, Sarah, who shares his passion for justice and equality.

Ultimately, Justyce's journey in "Dear Martin" is one of self-discovery and empowerment. Through his struggles and challenges, he comes to a deeper understanding of his own identity and the role he can play in creating a more just and equitable world. His story is a powerful reminder of the importance of standing up for what is right, even in the face of overwhelming odds, and offers a message of hope and inspiration to readers of all backgrounds.

CHAPTER 4

4.1 AUTHOR (MULK RAJ ANAND)

Mulk Raj Anand was an Indian novelist, short-story writer, and essayist, born on December 12, 1905, in Peshawar, British India (now in Pakistan). Anand's novels and stories vividly depicted the lives of India's poor and oppressed, particularly those of the untouchables, a caste of people considered outside the Hindu caste system and subjected to extreme discrimination and social exclusion. Anand's best-known works include "Untouchable," "Coolie," and "The Village." His writing was strongly influenced by his experiences growing up in a family of relatively wealthy Punjabi landlords, as well as his interactions with members of the untouchable caste. Anand was also heavily influenced by his exposure to Western literature and philosophy, particularly the works of Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Marx. In addition to his literary work, Anand was also involved in political activism and social justice movements. He was a member of the Indian People's Theatre Association, an organization committed to using art and culture to promote social change, and was an active supporter of India's independence movement. Anand passed away on September 28, 2004, in Pune, India, at the age of 98. His legacy as one of India's most influential and celebrated writers continues to inspire generations of readers and writers around the world.

Mulk Raj Anand was a prolific writer who authored over 20 novels, as well as numerous essays and short stories. He was also a prominent member of India's literary and intellectual community, and played an important role in shaping the country's cultural and political landscape during the mid-20th century. Anand's writing was notable for its stark realism and unsentimental portrayal of the lives of India's poor and marginalized communities. He often drew upon his own experiences growing up in a landowning family in Punjab, as well as his interactions with untouchables and other marginalized groups. Throughout his career, Anand was a strong advocate for social justice and political reform. He was a vocal critic of British colonialism and imperialism, and played an active role in India's struggle for independence. He also advocated for greater rights and representation for marginalized communities, particularly the untouchables, and was a vocal opponent of the caste system. Anand's contributions to Indian literature and society have been widely recognized and celebrated. He was awarded numerous honours and accolades throughout his lifetime, including the Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan, two of India's highest civilian honours. Today, his writing remains a powerful testament to the struggles and resilience of India's marginalized communities, and continues to inspire readers around the world. In addition to his literary and political work, Mulk Raj Anand was also involved in various cultural and artistic initiatives. He founded and served as the president of the Progressive Writers' Association, an organization dedicated to promoting literature and culture that reflected the struggles and aspirations of India's working class.

Anand was also a noted art collector and patron of the arts. He was particularly interested in Indian folk art and crafts, and was instrumental in establishing the Handicrafts Board of India, which aimed to promote traditional handicrafts and provide economic opportunities for local artisans. Throughout his life, Anand remained committed to the ideals of social justice, equality, and humanism. His writing and activism were driven by a deep sense of empathy and compassion for the marginalized and oppressed, and he used his platform as a writer and public intellectual to advocate for their rights and dignity.

Today, Mulk Raj Anand is widely regarded as one of the most important and influential writers of modern Indian literature. His legacy continues to inspire writers, artists, and activists around the world who seek to use their talents and platforms to promote social justice and effect positive change in their communities.

4.2 OVERVIEW OF THE NOVEL “UNTOUCHABLE”

Untouchable by Mulk Raj Anand is a novel set in India during the British colonial period, which portrays the life of the untouchable caste through the eyes of the protagonist Bakha. Bakha is a young sweeper who is considered the lowest of the low, and the novel follows one day in his life as he goes about his daily work. Throughout the novel, Anand exposes the inhumane treatment that the untouchables were subjected to, and the harsh realities of a caste system that denied them basic human dignity and rights. Bakha is denied access to public spaces, forced to live in the outskirts of the village, and is constantly reminded of his lowly status by the upper-caste people around him. He is not allowed to drink from the village well, is not permitted to enter the temple, and is subjected to insults and beatings for simply being who he is. Despite this, Bakha is portrayed as a sensitive and intelligent young man who dreams of a better life. He is fascinated by books and longs to learn to read and write. He is also a skilled athlete and hopes that his athletic ability will provide a way out of his miserable existence. However, the reality of his situation is that he is trapped by the caste system, with no real hope of escape. Through the novel, Anand challenges the reader to confront the harsh realities of the caste system and to question the assumptions and beliefs that underpin it. He exposes the hypocrisy of the upper-caste people who claim to be pious and spiritual but are willing to treat their fellow human beings as less than human. He also highlights the complicity of the British colonial administration in perpetuating the caste system. Untouchable is a ground breaking work that highlights the injustices and inhumanity of the caste system in India. It is a powerful indictment of a system that denied basic human rights and dignity to millions of people for centuries. It also explores the themes of education, religion, and the power of language and imagery to convey important messages. Throughout the novel, Bakha encounters various characters who represent different aspects of the caste system. Some are cruel and oppressive, while others show him kindness and understanding. Anand uses these characters to explore the complex nature of caste relations and to challenge the stereotypes that exist on both sides.

One of the most memorable characters in the novel is the young college student, Gandhi, who Bakha encounters at a public fountain. Gandhi treats Bakha with kindness and respect, and even offers to teach him to read and write. This encounter represents a glimmer of hope for Bakha, and he is deeply moved by Gandhi's gesture. Another important character is the Christian missionary who visits Bakha's village. The missionary offers Bakha a chance to escape his oppressive existence and join a Christian community, but Bakha ultimately decides to stay in his village and fight for change from within. This encounter raises important questions about the role of religion in promoting social change, and suggests that change must come from within society rather than from external sources. Anand's use of imagery is also noteworthy. The recurring image of the latrine, which Bakha is responsible for cleaning, serves as a powerful symbol of the filth and degradation that the untouchables are forced to endure. Similarly, the image of the well, which Bakha is not allowed to drink from, represents the exclusion and segregation that the untouchables face in every aspect of their lives. In conclusion, *Untouchable* is a powerful and thought-provoking novel that exposes the harsh realities of the caste system in India. Anand's portrayal of the life of the untouchables is both poignant and insightful, and his use of language and imagery is masterful. The novel challenges the reader to confront the deep-seated prejudices and assumptions that underpin the caste system, and to imagine a more just and equitable society. It is a timeless work that continues to resonate with readers around the world.

4.3 DISCRIMINATION FACED IN UNTOUCHABLE NOVEL

In *Untouchable*, the protagonist Bakha faces discrimination and oppression at every turn due to his status as an untouchable. The novel portrays the dehumanizing and inhumane treatment of the untouchables under the caste system in India. Some of the ways in which Bakha faces discrimination in the novel include:

Denied access to public spaces: Bakha is not allowed to enter the temple, the public well, or any other public spaces that are reserved for the upper castes. He is constantly reminded of his lowly status and is made to feel like an outsider in his own village.

Forced to live in the outskirts of the village: Bakha's community is segregated from the rest of the village and forced to live in a separate area. This isolation from the rest of the community reinforces their status as outcasts and prevents them from integrating into mainstream society.

Subjected to insults and beatings: Bakha is frequently insulted and physically abused by the upper-caste people around him. He is called derogatory names and is often beaten for no reason other than his caste identity.

Limited opportunities for education and employment: Bakha is denied access to education and is forced to work as a sweeper, a job that is traditionally reserved for

untouchables. He dreams of a better life and longs to learn to read and write, but the caste system denies him these opportunities.

Lack of representation in the political and social systems: The untouchables are not represented in the political or social systems and have no voice or power to effect change. They are completely dependent on the mercy of the upper castes for their survival.

The discrimination faced by Bakha and his community in *Untouchable* is a powerful indictment of the caste system in India. The novel highlights the dehumanizing effects of the caste system and challenges readers to confront the deep-seated prejudices and assumptions that underpin it. Another form of discrimination that Bakha faces in the novel is the lack of access to basic human needs and services. He is denied access to clean water, food, and healthcare simply because of his caste status. Bakha is not allowed to drink from the village well or eat from the same plates as the upper castes, and he is forced to rely on leftovers and scraps. The novel also portrays the systemic and institutionalized nature of discrimination against untouchables. The police, for instance, who are supposed to serve and protect all citizens, are shown to be deeply entrenched in the caste system and often perpetrate violence against the untouchables. Bakha's encounter with the police officer at the end of the novel is a stark reminder of the powerlessness of the untouchables in the face of institutionalized discrimination. Furthermore, the novel also highlights the insidious nature of caste-based discrimination, where even well-meaning individuals inadvertently perpetuate caste-based stereotypes and prejudices. Bakha encounters such individuals throughout the novel, including the kind-hearted Brahmin woman who hesitates to touch him, and the well-meaning college student who offers to teach him to read and write but still harbours certain stereotypes about the untouchables. Overall, *Untouchable* is a searing portrayal of the discrimination and oppression faced by the untouchables under the caste system. The novel raises important questions about social justice and equality, and challenges readers to confront their own assumptions and biases about caste and social hierarchy. One of the most poignant aspects of the discrimination faced by Bakha in *Untouchable* is the way in which it affects his sense of self-worth and identity. Bakha internalizes the caste-based discrimination he faces on a daily basis and begins to believe that he is somehow inferior to the upper castes. He feels ashamed of his identity and longs to be accepted by society. This internalized discrimination has a profound impact on Bakha's mental health and well-being, and he struggles to find a sense of belonging in a society that devalues him based on his caste. Another important theme in the novel is the role of education in challenging the caste system. Bakha dreams of learning to read and write and of breaking free from the cycle of poverty and oppression that his community is trapped in. Education represents a pathway to social mobility and empowerment, and Bakha sees it as a means of challenging the status quo and effecting change. However, the caste system denies Bakha and his community access to education, perpetuating the cycle of discrimination and oppression.

The novel also explores the complex relationships between members of different castes. Bakha encounters characters who challenge his preconceived notions of the upper castes and who treat him with kindness and compassion. Conversely, he also encounters members of his own community who are quick to judge and condemn those who do not conform to traditional caste-based roles and norms. The novel highlights the importance of empathy and understanding in challenging caste-based discrimination and promoting social justice.

Overall, *Untouchable* is a powerful indictment of the caste system in India and a call to action for social justice and equality. The novel challenges readers to confront their own biases and assumptions about caste and to imagine a more just and equitable society. It remains a timeless work that continues to resonate with readers around the world.

4.4 STRUGGLES FACED BY BAKHA

Bakha, the protagonist of *Untouchable*, faces numerous struggles throughout the novel due to his status as an untouchable. Some of the struggles he faces include:

Identity crisis: Bakha struggles with his identity as an untouchable and is ashamed of his community's lowly status. He desires to be accepted by society and feels trapped by the social hierarchy that he is born into.

Lack of access to education: Bakha is denied access to education and is forced to work as a sweeper. He dreams of learning to read and write and of breaking free from the cycle of poverty and oppression that his community is trapped in.

Discrimination and abuse: Bakha faces constant discrimination and abuse from members of the upper castes. He is insulted and physically abused for no reason other than his caste identity.

Limited opportunities for social mobility: Bakha's caste status denies him opportunities for social mobility and economic advancement. He is forced to work in menial jobs and is denied access to public spaces and resources.

Lack of representation in the political and social systems: Bakha's community is not represented in the political or social systems and has no voice or power to effect change. They are completely dependent on the mercy of the upper castes for their survival.

Strained relationships with family and community: Bakha's desire for education and his interactions with members of the upper castes put a strain on his relationships with his family and community. He is seen as a threat to traditional caste-based roles and norms, and this causes conflict within his community.

Despite these struggles, Bakha is a resilient and determined character who refuses to be defined by his caste status. He continues to dream of a better life and to challenge the status quo. Through his struggles, Bakha becomes a symbol of hope and resilience for untouchables everyday life. Another struggle that Bakha faces in the novel is a lack of access to basic human needs and services. As an untouchable, Bakha is denied access to clean water, food, and healthcare simply because of his caste status. He is not allowed to drink from the village well or eat from the same plates as the upper castes, and he is forced to rely on leftovers and scraps. Bakha's struggle for dignity and self-respect is also a major theme of the novel. He is constantly reminded of his inferior status by the members of the upper castes and struggles to find a sense of pride and dignity in a society that devalues him based on his caste. This struggle for dignity and self-respect is reflected in Bakha's desire for education and his hope that he can break free from the cycle of poverty and oppression that his community is trapped in. Bakha also struggles with the complexity of relationships between members of different castes. He is constantly faced with conflicting attitudes and behaviours from the members of the upper castes, some of whom treat him with kindness and compassion while others are cruel and discriminatory. This complexity challenges Bakha's preconceived notions of the upper castes and forces him to confront his own biases and assumptions. Finally, Bakha struggles with the violence and injustice that he witnesses and experiences throughout the novel. He is beaten by the police and witnesses the violence inflicted on his community by the members of the upper castes. These experiences leave him traumatized and emotionally scarred, and he struggles to find a sense of safety and security in a society that is so deeply entrenched in the caste system.

In all of these struggles, Bakha's resilience and determination shine through, and he becomes a powerful symbol of the untouchables' struggle for dignity, justice, and equality. Another struggle that Bakha faces in the novel is the internal conflict between his desire to break free from the caste system and his loyalty to his community and family. Bakha wants to pursue education and gain a better understanding of the world beyond his village, but he is torn between this desire and his duty to his family and community. He worries that his pursuit of education and social mobility will lead to the abandonment of his community.

This struggle is exemplified when Bakha witnesses the violent and discriminatory treatment of untouchables by the police, which motivates him to take action and speak out against the injustice. However, when he shares his ideas with his father, he is met with resistance and hostility, with his father suggesting that Bakha should abandon his aspirations and continue with his job as a sweeper. This internal conflict represents the struggle that many untouchables faced during this time period. While they recognized the injustice of the caste system and the need for change, they were also deeply rooted in their traditions and communities, making it difficult to break free from the cycle of poverty and oppression. Furthermore, Bakha struggles with his own self-worth and value as a human being. The constant discrimination and humiliation he faces due to his caste identity has made him feel like he is not deserving of basic

human dignity and respect. This struggle is evident when he begins to question his own value and purpose in life, wondering if he is destined to be nothing more than a sweeper.

Overall, the struggles faced by Bakha in the novel highlight the devastating impact of the caste system on individuals and communities. Despite these struggles, Bakha's determination and resilience inspire hope and represent the potential for change and progress towards a more just and equitable society. "Dear Martin" by Nic Stone and "Untouchable" by Mulk Raj Anand both explore the theme of discrimination and oppression faced by individuals based on their race and caste respectively. Through the lives of Justyce and Bakha, the novels highlight the many challenges and obstacles faced by individuals from marginalized communities, including police brutality, racial profiling, caste-based discrimination, and economic exploitation. Despite the many challenges and obstacles faced by the characters, both novels offer a message of hope and resilience. Justyce's determination to use his voice to speak out against injustice and Bakha's resolve to overcome discrimination and achieve self-respect and dignity are both seen as emblematic of the struggle for justice and equality. Both novels also highlight the importance of solidarity and community support in the face of discrimination and oppression. Justyce's relationships with his friends, family, and community offer a source of strength and support, while Bakha's interactions with other untouchables demonstrate the power of collective action in the face of discrimination and oppression.

Overall, "Dear Martin" and "Untouchable" offer powerful and evocative portrayals of the discrimination faced by individuals from marginalized communities, and highlight the ongoing need to address discrimination and oppression in all its forms. Both novels serve as important reminders of the ongoing struggle for social justice and equality, and offer messages of hope and resilience in the face of adversity. It is also worth noting that both novels explore the intersectionality of oppression and how various forms of discrimination can overlap and intersect with each other. For example, in "Dear Martin," Justyce faces discrimination not just because of his race, but also because of his socio-economic status and educational background. Similarly, in "Untouchable," Bakha's experiences of discrimination are not just limited to his caste, but are also shaped by his gender and economic position. Both novels also highlight the importance of education and awareness in the fight against discrimination and oppression. Justyce's pursuit of education and knowledge helps him to better understand the systemic nature of racism and oppression, while Bakha's interactions with Gandhi and other reformers demonstrate the power of education in promoting social change.

Finally, both novels offer a call to action, challenging readers to examine their own biases and prejudices and to take action to address discrimination and oppression in their own communities. Through their powerful and evocative portrayals of the effects of discrimination and oppression, "Dear Martin" and "Untouchable" serve as

important reminders of the ongoing need for social justice and equality. Another interesting aspect of both novels is the way in which they use literary devices to convey their messages. For example, in "Dear Martin," the use of letters and journal entries allows the reader to get inside Justyce's head and understand the depth of his emotional turmoil. In addition, the use of flashbacks and non-linear storytelling adds to the sense of confusion and uncertainty that Justyce experiences as he grapples with the impact of racism on his life. Similarly, in "Untouchable," the use of imagery and symbolism helps to convey the dehumanizing effects of caste-based discrimination. The repeated use of animalistic imagery to describe untouchables, such as when Bakha is referred to as a "little black bug," highlights the way in which discrimination strips individuals of their humanity and reduces them to objects to be scorned and rejected. Overall, the use of literary devices in both novels adds to their emotional impact and makes them more effective in conveying their messages. By immersing the reader in the experiences of the characters and using vivid language to describe the effects of discrimination, "Dear Martin" and "Untouchable" serve as powerful and memorable works of literature that challenge readers to think critically about the impact of discrimination and oppression on individuals and communities. It is also worth noting that both "Dear Martin" and "Untouchable" are part of a larger literary tradition of works that explore the experiences of marginalized individuals and communities. In the United States, for example, works such as "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker, "Beloved" by Toni Morrison, and "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas have all addressed issues of race, gender, and oppression.

Similarly, in India, writers such as B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, and Premchand have written extensively about caste-based discrimination and the struggle for social justice and equality. Mulk Raj Anand himself was an important figure in the Indian literary tradition, and his works, including "Coolie" and "Two Leaves and a Bud," address issues of colonialism, class, and labor. By situating "Dear Martin" and "Untouchable" within this larger literary tradition, we can see how these works build on and contribute to ongoing conversations about discrimination and oppression. Through their powerful and evocative portrayals of the impact of discrimination on individuals and communities, these works challenge readers to confront their own biases and prejudices and to take action to promote social justice and equality.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, both the novels, "Dear Martin" by Nic Stone and "Untouchable" by Mulk Raj Anand, explore the theme of discrimination faced by people based on their caste and colour. Through their protagonists, Justyce and Bakha, respectively, the authors highlight the injustice and oppression experienced by marginalized communities. Both novels demonstrate the impact of systemic discrimination on individuals' lives, with Justyce and Bakha facing multiple struggles as they navigate a society that is deeply entrenched in the caste and color hierarchy. Their experiences are a testament to the destructive effects of discrimination, both on a personal level and for society as a whole. Moreover, the novels underscore the need for empathy, understanding, and social change. By raising awareness of the discrimination faced by marginalized communities, the authors call on readers to examine their own biases and work towards creating a more just and equitable society. In conclusion, "Dear Martin" and "Untouchable" are powerful works of literature that shed light on the devastating impact of discrimination and the urgent need for social change. They inspire readers to take action, challenge their own biases, and work towards creating a world where all individuals are treated with dignity, respect, and equality, regardless of their caste or colour. Both novels also highlight the intersectional nature of discrimination, showing how individuals can face multiple forms of oppression and discrimination simultaneously. For example, Justyce faces discrimination not only based on his race but also on his socio-economic status, while Bakha's experiences of discrimination are shaped by both his caste identity and his gender.

The novels also demonstrate the power of personal agency and resilience in the face of discrimination. Despite the struggles they face, both Justyce and Bakha remain determined to challenge the status quo and work towards a more equitable society. They are powerful examples of the strength and resilience of marginalized communities, and their stories provide inspiration for readers to stand up against injustice and discrimination.

Overall, "Dear Martin" and "Untouchable" are both important works of literature that provide a powerful critique of the caste and colour systems and the injustice they perpetuate. By exploring the struggles faced by their protagonists, both novels call on readers to take a stand against discrimination and work towards creating a more just and equitable society for all.

In addition to highlighting the struggles faced by marginalized communities, both novels also offer insights into the perspectives and experiences of individuals who belong to privileged groups. For instance, "Dear Martin" features Sarah, Justyce's white girlfriend, who grapples with her own privilege and struggles to understand Justyce's experiences of racism.

Similarly, in "Untouchable," Anand portrays the perspectives of individuals from higher castes, such as the priest and the police officer, who perpetrate discrimination and prejudice against untouchables. By providing these varied perspectives, the novels offer a nuanced portrayal of the complexities of discrimination and the role that individuals from all backgrounds play in perpetuating it.

Finally, both novels emphasize the importance of education and empathy in challenging discrimination and promoting social change. Justyce's mentor, Dr Martin Luther King Jr., advocates for education as a means of creating a more just and equitable society. Similarly, Bakha's desire for education and knowledge is a driving force behind his pursuit of social change.

Ultimately, both "Dear Martin" and "Untouchable" offer powerful insights into the destructive impact of discrimination and the need for empathy, understanding, and social change. They call on readers to examine their own biases and work towards creating a more just and equitable society for all individuals, regardless of their caste or colour.

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