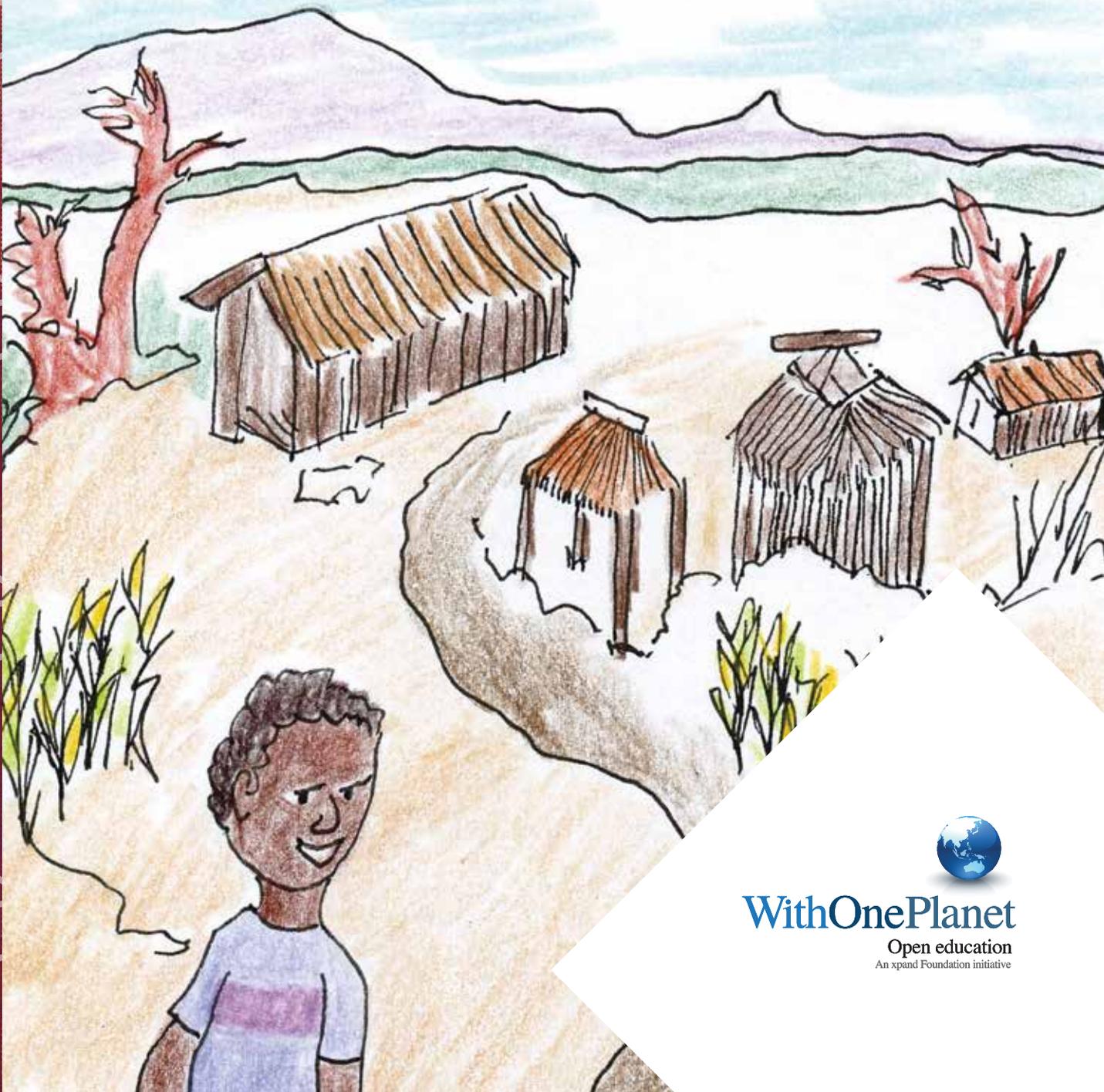


My Community

Life in a Timorese village

Written by Robin dos Santos
illustrated by Sue Worcester



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Published by xpand Foundation in 2015 to support the WithOnePlanet open education initiative (withoneplanet.org.au) with thanks to Timorlink. Designed by Disruptive Media.

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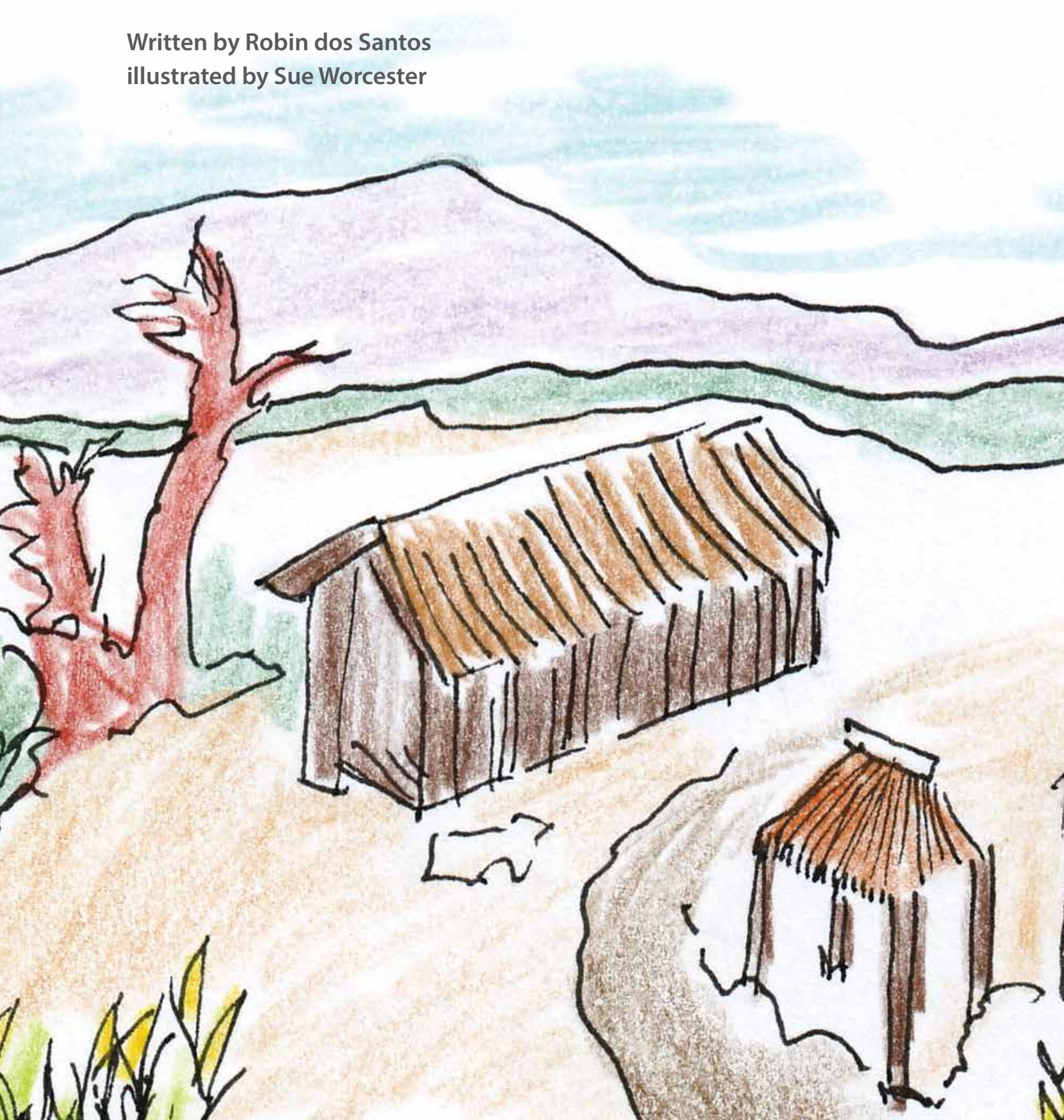
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2 My Community

Hi, my name is Fransisco. I live in a small village in a country called Timor-Leste.

Look, here is Darwin, and here is Timor-Leste. They are really close together. Australia and Timor-Leste are **neighbours**. Come on neighbours, I want to show you all around my village, and introduce you to my family. Lets go!



This is the road in to **my village**. The only way to get to my village is to walk, because we live right next to a mountain called Mount Matebian. It is too steep for cars to pass. All of the houses in my village are made of bamboo, wood, grasses, and other things from the forest.

When someone needs to make a new house, they call the whole village together and everyone helps with the building.



4 My Community

This is my mum. She is **cooking in the kitchen**. She has to spend a lot of time preparing food because before she can cook, she has to walk for one hour to get water, then get some wood to cook with, and then get some vegetables from our fields.

I love my mum, she always cooks yummy food for us to eat, even though she is very tired from all her work!



This is my dad. He goes every day to **work in our fields**. The fields are very far away, one and a half hours from our house. My dad plants corn, sweet potatoes, beans, peanuts, and green leafy vegetables in his fields. He used to plant rice, but now we don't get enough rain to be able to grow any rice.

Sometimes I go to help my dad in the fields. He always sings songs, and I love learning our traditional songs as we work together.



6 My Community

This is my little sister. She is **washing our clothes.**

Because the river is one hour from our house, my sister carries our clothes to the river, washes them there, and then carries the clean clothes back home to hang out and dry.



This is my big brother. He has the very important job of **looking after our family's buffalo.**

The buffalo are very important for our lives, because we can sell some to get money for things like school. We also need buffalo for our *barlaki*, which a man's family has to give to a woman's family when they get married.



8 My Community

This is my grandpa. He is what we call a *lia nain*, which means he knows lots about our ancestors and their spirits.

He knows all of the **traditional ceremonies**, poems and songs. Now he is teaching my cousin all of his special knowledge, because one day when my grandpa dies, my cousin will become the *lia nain* for our village.



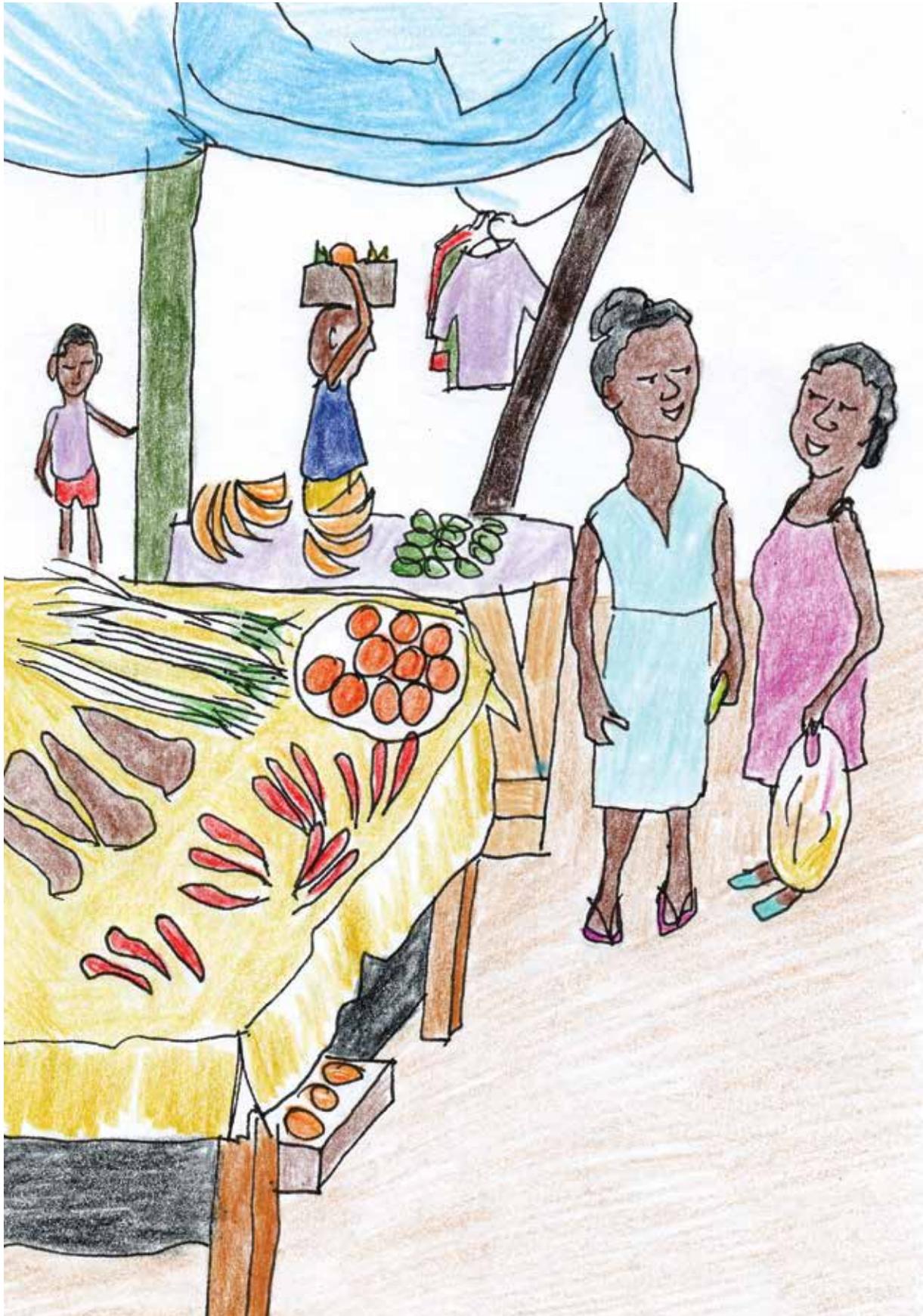
This is my grandma. She spends lots of time making *tais*, which are **traditional weavings**.

We use the *tais* for ceremonies like weddings and funerals. They are a very important part of our lives.



Every Saturday we all go to the market. The whole village is there, and we catch up with everyone and find out all of the important news from the other villages.

I love **going to the market** and seeing all of the yummy food there. Sometimes my dad takes vegetables and swaps them with other people's vegetables. I love our village. I hope one day you can come and visit us!



English

market

fields

buffalo

house

cooking

older sister

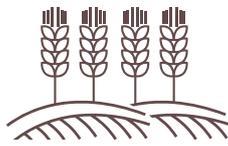
older brother

Tetun

merkadu



to'os



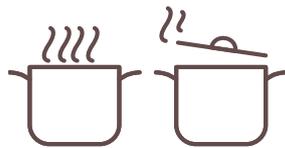
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