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**GOTHIC WORLD**  
**BETWEEN REALITY AND MYTH**

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## **DEDICATION**

*To my angels, my mother and my grandma, who really supports me along the journey.*

*To my brother and little Sister.*

*To my soulmates, Fatima and Manel.*

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## **ABSTRACT**

Any distinctive subculture has its own world that must be explained, and the Gothic Subculture is one of these worlds that need to be clarified to the public. For this reason, this extended essay tries to describe the Gothic Subculture by going back in time to the Germanic tribe that held power on the Roman Empire around the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Then, it followed the Goth's emergence first as a majestic style of architecture, later as a genre of dark literature, and as the recently spread subculture. This work additionally focused on how the non-Goths perceived the Goths according to their dark coloured look. Some of these perspectives are heavily based on a set of collected ideas about Goths where for sure most of them are either wrong or generalised from a small minority of people who shares the same dark fashion. These perspectives led to some verbal and physical aggressive acts against Goths which caused later the murder of the young Gothic girl because of the way she looks, and at the same time made some Goths afraid and changing their lifestyle before setting the new policy by Greater Manchester Police (henceforth GMP) to protect their freedom of being who they choose to be.

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## **List of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

**BBC:** British Broadcasting Corporation

**Dr:** Doctor

**EBM:** Electronic Body Music

**Emo:** Emotional

**GMP:** Greater Manchester Police

**Ms:** Miss

**QC:** Queen's Counselor

**Trad:** Traditional

**TV:** Television

**USA:** United States of America

**VNV:** Victory Not Vengeance

### GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The British society, by the late 1970s, had witnessed a sudden huge change that soon after was shifted to the world. This change was mainly due to the appearance of the new genre of music that soon influenced its fans. Later, this kind of music's bands and followers adopted an unusual look; this paved the way to the appearance of a separate entity known as the Gothic Subculture. This subculture, as with any other culture, has its own characteristics which may be viewed as an unusual for non-gothic people.

For this purpose, this research work tries to define the Gothic Subculture and to present non-gothic persons' attitudes towards this subculture. To this end, two research questions guiding this dissertation are the following:

- 1- What is meant by the Gothic subculture?
- 2- What are non-Gothics' attitudes towards Gothic Subculture, and thus, Goths?

Based on the prior studies, and the researcher's personal experiences, the following hypotheses were established to answer these research questions:

- 1- The gothic subculture is a mainly characterized by the dark and morbid atmosphere.
- 2- The unusual look of Goths makes the non-Goths have some prejudices against them.

This extended essay is divided into two chapters. The first chapter attempts to define the term Gothic in literature, as architecture and as a subculture. Then, it presents the origins of Gothic Subculture and outlines its history as well as its characteristics. Besides, it clarifies the Gothic religion and beliefs. The main objective of the second chapter is to describe the twenty-three different Gothic types. It also explains the common stereotypes related to a minority of Goths but generalized to the rest of gothic people. In addition, it talks about the aggressive acts against Goths both emotionally and physically, and the new policy that tries to protect them from such hate crimes.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **ORIGINS AND LIFESTYLE OF THE GOTHIC SUBCULTURE**

- 1.1. Introduction
- 1.2. Definition of Gothic
  - 1.2.1. Gothic Architecture
  - 1.2.2. Gothic Literature
  - 1.2.3. Gothic Subculture
- 1.3. Origins of the term "Goth"
- 1.4. History of Gothic Subculture
- 1.5. Characteristics of Gothic Subculture
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  - 1.5.5. Music Interest
- 1.6. Gothic Religions and Beliefs
- 1.7. Conclusion



**1.1. Introduction**

By the late 1970s, exactly in 1979, the world witnessed a huge and instant change in the British society and soon after was shifted to the globe. This change was clearly noticed by the music people played and the way they were dressing. People started showing their fascination to dark aspects like finding beauty in dead roses or the tendency toward the dark and heavy music. Furthermore, in the late 70s and early 80s this change became a new subculture characterised by the unusual appearance of its followers who were called Goths. Therefore, this chapter will first establish a definition for the term Gothic along with its origins. Then, it will delineate briefly the history of Gothic Subculture, its characteristics, and religions and beliefs.

**1.2. Definition of Gothic**

The first use of this term was to describe the 12<sup>th</sup> century Germanic tribe the Visigoth Tribe and its language, which was considered as barbaric and uncivilised tribe.

The term Gothic is generally used to describe anything related to darkness and mystery. This word can be related to the medieval art as a style of architecture characterised by the use of pointed arch, ribbed vault and the high roofs. It is also referred to a style of literature (romance) characterised by gloomy scenes, mystery and violent events. This term later in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century designated a kind of music which is now known as Goth Rock. However, the main point of this research paper is to explain that, to be a Goth, is to be a member of a subculture with black dressings, pale face makeup and dark dyed-hair.

This section of the work focuses on presenting the different uses of the word Gothic as:

**1.2.1. Gothic Architecture**

“Gothic” style came to be applied to a certain architectural style after the Germanic tribe held power in Europe between the collapse of the Roman Empire, and the establishment of the Holy Roman Empire.

It is a type of architecture that was developed from the *Romanesque architecture* and was succeeded by *Renaissance* architecture. Originating in the 12<sup>th</sup> centuries France and spreading throughout Europe between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. This Gothic architecture was known during that period as *Opus Francigenum* (France work).

Before the Gothic architecture, building skills were limited and functional. Castles then were made by stone, and were cold and dark. Yet, Gothic style came and transformed the buildings beautifully with its high vaultings into majestic places, airy and light.

The Gothic architecture represented huge steps away from the old designs. The basic elements of the Gothic style are the pointed arch that was borrowed from the Islamic architecture which was well spread in Spain at that century.

The main characteristics of Gothic architecture are the height. New building techniques such the flying buttresses allowed the architects to build taller walls and towers. The flying buttresses were designed to be a practical decorative support. Also, the old buildings used to have tiny windows since the wall did not support wide open windows for air and light, however, this new style solves that problem and designed light and large windows made by glass that turned the buildings into airy, bright and majestic places.

Since the original gothic style was developed to bring sunshine into people's life, Gothic architecture transformed castles, churches and Cathedrals of the whole of Europe into inspiring places of piety and worship, as a result of their impressive gothic design.

Many castles and cathedrals adopted some of the characteristics of Gothic architecture such as tall designs, the use of Flying buttress, pointed arch, vaulted ceilings, light and airy interior, and the emphasis upon decorative style and the ornate. Among the famous Gothic cathedrals we find:

- Notre Dame de Paris, Paris, France.
- Florence Cathedral, Florence, Italy.

- Cologne Cathedral, Cologne, Germany.
- Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury, Kent, England.

### 1.2.2. Gothic Literature

The term Gothic Literature or Gothic fiction refers to a style of writing raised in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and characterised by elements of death, gloom and atmosphere of mystery. This mode of literature combines fiction and horror with Romanticism. *Esther Lombardi* (Classic Literature Guide) describes the genre as "*characterised by supernaturalism, melodrama, and sensationalism*". Horace Welpole was the first English author to use the term Gothic in his fiction *The Castle of Otranto* "*A Gothic Story*" in 1764. All the characteristics of the gothic genre were applied in Welpole's novel.

This Gothic fiction has different characteristics related to darkness, horror and picturesque scenery. A gothic story is mainly occurring around an ancient mansion that hides a terrible secret; the setting is often pictured as a gloomy large house with closed windows, cracks, and has secret passages near grave yards. Gothic writers have also used some supernatural elements such the appearance of monsters, ghosts, vampires and zombies with some touches of romance. Most of gothic stories present a cursed character (or the protagonist him/herself) or there is prophesy about him/her. Also, this type of literature emphasizes on the psychological portraits that examines some feelings such guilt and fear which lead to a serious mental disorder.

These elements were also included in plays by William Shakespeare, such as *Hamlet* (c. 1600–01), and *Macbeth* (1606), which feature supernatural elements, demons, and apparitions.

Edgar Allan Poe, as well as Ann Radcliffe, William Godwin, and his daughter, Mary Shelley, and many other writers, are the Romantic writers most closely associated with the Gothic tradition. Furthermore, great Romantic poets such Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron and Samuel Taylor Coleridge also contributed to the Gothic tradition in literature.

### 1.2.3. Gothic Subculture

Gothic subculture is among the most interesting subcultures. It is a contemporary subculture that was first started in England during the Gothic Rock scene in the late 1970s when the Band *Bauhaus* released "*Bella Lugosi's dead*".

According to Oxford dictionary, to be a Goth is to be a member of a subculture favouring black clothing, pale faces with dark makeup and heavy Goth music.

The first generation of the gothic movement emerged mostly in the UK around the late 1970s and early 1980s separate from the Punk movement. The members of this subculture are influenced by fashion, music and mythology from the pre-medieval eras and by different cultures from all around the world.

The followers of the main-stream of this subculture were fascinated by the supernatural and dark aesthetics. Thus, they wear black clothing, dark and unnatural makeup and hair colour. They also like capes, pointy shoes, silver, and paint their finger nails with black. These characteristics apply to both men and women.

The Gothic Subculture is divided into three generations and into many types. The First generation is the main-stream which emerged in the late 1970s. The second generation emerged in the late 1980s, and it generally became less interested in participating in the gothic scenes. The third generation was formed in the late 1990s, and portrayed the future progression of Goths.

### 1.3. Origins of the term "Goth"

From the Late Latin "Gothicus", Greek "Gothoi" and Old English "Gothisc", the name "Gothic" originally comes from a Germanic tribe which originated in Southern Scandinavia. They were one of the many Germanic tribes that overthrew the Roman Empire between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries, and according to the Gothic historian *Jordanes* from the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century, Goths originated in what is now southern Sweden, but their king *Berig* led them to the southern shore of the

Baltic Sea. They finally separated into two groups, the *Visigoths* (the West Goths) and *Ostrogoths* (the East Goths) around the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

The word Gothic can also refer to the Goths' extinct language which belongs to the East Germanic branch of Indo-European language family. Also, the Romans used to call the Germanic tribe "Goths" with same meaning as "barbarous, rude, and uncivilized people".

#### **1.4. History of Gothic Subculture**

The gothic subculture began in England as one component of the punk rock scene, when the band *Bauhaus* released their song "*Bella Lugosi's Dead*". This song was meant to be a joke. Yet, younger fans of the band latched onto the mysterious lyrics, and soon, the song became the inspiration for what is now called "*Goth Rock*". Bands such *Siouxsie*, *The Banshees*, and *The Damned*, all joined in the scene alongside with the *Bauhaus* and The Sisters of Mercy, then the movement faded and started spreading in the early 80s.

Goth survived by creating its own subculture, as new generations of Goth bands emerged, reviving the Goth movement as a distinct subculture. The movement was first established in a night club in London, England, named *The Batcave* in the early 1980s where *Bauhaus's* first single "*Bella Lugosi's Dead*" was released. This subculture soon spread in California U.S.A, Germany, China and all around the globe.

In 1979, *Joy Division's* manager *Tony Wilson*, use of the term Gothic for the first time in an interview for the BBC TV program to describe the band as Gothic comparing to pop mainstream. Then this term was applied to new bands such *Bauhaus* that their first single was considered as the first Gothic Rock record.

The Goth Subculture of the 1980s was inspired by varieties of sources, some of its followers were inspired by the ancient Visigoth Tribes, and, however, the others were influenced by the contemporary one. Classic romantic, Gothic and horror literature played a significant role throughout the evolution of the Gothic Subculture. The contemporary Gothic was attracted by the Gothic music, and mostly by Gothic literature which combines Romance with dark elements.

Gothic fiction such as *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and *Dracula* by Bran Stoker influenced Cinema and turned them into movies. Gothic films are linked directly to the literary gothic of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Film makers often adapting the original novels, for example: Wilhelm Plumpe Murnau's *Nosferatu* (Germany, 1922), Tod Browning's *Dracula* and James Whale's *Frankenstein* (US, 1931), and many others. In the 1960s, television series such as *Adam's Family* and *The Munsters* used a new genre of gothic which presented a gothic lifestyle in a camp comedy. Later in 1976, the American gothic fiction writer Ann Rice provided an American literary influence on the gothic scene by re-imagining the vampire. The characters in her *The Vampire Chronicles* were shown as self-tormentors who struggle with alienation and loneliness. These chronicles assumed gothic attitude but it was not created to represent the Gothic Subculture. The beauty of this fiction attracts many gothic readers who made Rice works popular.

By the time, different artists have been influenced by the Gothic Subculture. Painters and photographers also based on mystic and romantic motifs in their works. Their art varies from erotic artwork to romantic images of vampires and ghosts, preferring dark colours. This new kind of gothic art was invented by painters like John Everett Millais and John Ruskin at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 1.5. Characteristics of Gothic Subculture

Each subculture has to identify itself so that it can prove its existence and differentiate itself from other cultures. The Gothic Subculture is one of those subcultures whose followers try to introduce themselves to the world by wearing special clothes with special music interests.

#### 1.5.1. Clothes

Polhemus (1994: 97) describes Goth fashion as a ***“Profusion of black velvets, lace, fishnets and leather tinged with scarlet or purple, accessorized with tightly laced corsets, gloves, precarious stilettos and silver jewellery depicting religious or occult themes”***.

Goths' followers value the visual aesthetics; thus, gothic fashion is generally known by mysterious and conspicuous dark. Gothic people characteristics mostly include black or dark coloured clothing made of velvet, leather or fishnet materials. Gothic styles are often a combination of Punk fashion, Victorian and Elizabethan, and sometimes they took from Heavy metal and Emo fashion.

Some classic gothic women wear long black dresses, long shirts and miniskirts, fishnet tights, and crushed velvet dress. They also like wearing tight leggings or stirrup pants usually made of vinyl or crushed velvet. Along the same line, men wear torn T-shirts, combat boots, band tees, dark trousers, bondage pants and studded belts. Moreover, it is commonly seen that Goths introduce their pride by wearing poet's shirts, dog leash with spikes, opera length gloves, satin or latex, band T-shirts, and black vinyl raincoat-looking jacket. Even their shoes are represented as pointy toed shoes, buckle boots, high heels, or combat boots. It is not necessary that Goths wear black all the time, dark colours like navy blue, deep red and dark purple are also popular but less common.

### **1.5.2. Accessories**

For the accessories, Goths jewelleries were inspired from the Gothic era in the 14<sup>th</sup> c where was the use of jewellery a way of expressing ones' rank in the social system. For this reason, people wore many rings at a time, as well as many chains and brooches. Gothic jewellery designs of the era included imagery such as crosses and fleurs-de-lis, and some others featured items of darker subject matter, such as coffins and skulls.

Goths generally love silver jewelleries most. However, other Goths wear jewelleries that are also made of different jewel stones like ruby, emerald and amethyst. These accessories are represented in Christian symbols like crosses or Egyptian symbols such Ankh, the eye of Ra and the eye of Horus which symbolise the everlasting life.

Gothic jewellery simply looks bolder and more dramatic; some examples of popular pieces are slave bracelets, poison rings and chokers. Jewellery used by the members of this subculture are silver skulls, crosses and coffins, black or crimson

roses rings, dark coloured chokers, Onyx Skull Hair Tie, black diamonds, Skull Watch and Spike Epaulette.

Body modifications such as piercings have always been popular with alternative subcultures, and Goths are no different. The first thing one can see on Goths faces are lip piercings such lip rings, lip barbell, Ball Labret Stud and many other styles. Also, they wear ear and nose piercings. Both men and women use gothic items as face accessories. Such bat's nose rings, silver crosses or white gold dragon earrings, and so on. Tongue piercing is the 4<sup>th</sup> most popular piercing, and more popular among guys along with dimple piercing or cheek piercings. If a cheek piercing has been done appropriately by a reputable person who has adequate experience, it can actually create an illusion that a person has dimples.

Concerning the body piercing, it can be done in several places on the body. The most popular option is two rows of the piercings down the back, and even around the neck or throat.

### **1.5.3. Makeup**

Typical gothic fashion includes a pale complexion with dyed black hair, black lips, dark eyeliner and dark fingernail polish.

To start with, both Gothic men and women either pale their skins or use white tannings, because, they believe in the Victorian aesthetic that says pale skin is a sign of nobility. Yet, some other Goths believe that tanning causes skin cancer, or simply because Goths want a sort of undead look. Moreover, their lipsticks and glosses are dark, from black coloured lip to blue and in between colours. Goths are well known by wearing thick dark eyeliner, smooth and sharp. Some Goths design different eye makeup's shapes with eyeliners, not necessary with black, other colours like purple, green, blue, even red and white can be great lining for the eyes. Moving to nail polish, black nail polish is a bold and popular nail colour for Goths; however, there are a lot of other colours used by Goths such crimson, dark purple, silvery grey. Yet, it comes to the art of nails designing to make them seem gothic or simple. There are lots of nail designs for Goths; one of the most popular themes is

Halloween designs, where they paint spider webs, coffins or vampire teeth and chains on the fingernails.

#### **1.5.4. Hairstyling**

Gothic hairstyles are very unique styles that are not very common in public. Gothic hairstyles were largely inspired from Gothic rock bands such *Robert Smith* of the Cure and *Siouxsie Sioux*, dark black dyed-hair; however, due to the impact of punk in the 1990s, Goths tend to dye their hair in dark blue, red, purple and different other colours even light pink and white. One of the common gothic hairstyle is to grow the hair naturally without cutting or trimming. Some of the other Goth hairstyles are created by using hair extensions and making a puff on the head. Yet, the most common choice of gothic is the messy and thick hair for a backcombing style. Some Gothic girls seek for a ghost bride look with long messy hair; others seek for silk and straight hair, and some Goths look for new and Crazy Hairstyle like shaving a part of the head and growing the rest, or mix lot of unnatural colours.

For men, they generally adapt a style of a Victorian aristocratic vampire. A Gothic manly look is based on a dramatic, fantasy, romantic and futurism look. The most suitable gothic hairstyle is either long or medium cut. Men Goths also have their Gothic backcombing hairstyles. The most popular haircuts are the Rapunzel hairstyles, the Vivid hairstyles and the Combo hairstyles, the only two differences between them are the colour of the hair and the volume. Other Goths prefer to grow their hair, dye it in dark black or dark blue, and either straight it to the front or style it upwards.

These hairstyles are the most common ones among the Gothic Subculture, still, each individual has their own hairstyle which represents their gothic pride and personality.

#### **1.5.5. Music Interest**

Gothic Music or Gothic Rock is a subgenre of post punk-rock that was formed in the late 1970s. Proto-gothic bands such as Siouxsie and the Banshees, Joy Division, the cure and Bauhaus's were the outbreak of this genre, which later lead

to the creation of the gothic subculture. Taking a wide array of influences from these bands, many others created new brands of gothic music that appeal to the dark side of death, love and religion. Gothic Rock typically deals with dark themes' lyrics and heavy music. According to Simon Reynolds the music journalist, standard musical fixtures of gothic rock include *"scything guitar patterns, high-pitched basslines that often usurped the melodic role [and] beats that were either hypnotically dirge-like or 'tribal' [African polyrhythmic]"* Reynolds, Simon (2005). "Chapter 22: 'Dark Things: Goth and the Return of Rock'"

Gothic Rock lyrics were taken from the literary Romanticism, religious symbolism and mysticism. Goth lyrics describe feelings such despair, loss, loneliness, and anger, yet, Goth bands do not express those feelings violently. Some lyrics related to death, horror and sins, and some others focus on social and political issues more than personal pains. Likewise, the music itself reflects these feelings and themes, by using instruments such as Punk Guitar like *Joy Division*, or orchestral arrangements from *Dead Can Dance*. Also, using guitar and drums like *Bauhaus*. The earliest Goth music was guitar based and originally called *Death Rock*, yet, it has a wild variety of styles and sounds. It can range from the Gregorian chant and the massive pipe organ to the modern guitar-based rock, to classical orchestrations, baroque strings, and mid-eastern music.

### **1.6. Gothic Religions and Beliefs**

The Gothic Subculture is often associated with Satanism by non-Goths; however, it depends on each Goth to choose their religions. Some Goths are Christians, some are Jews, and others are even Muslims, some other Goths are atheistic or have other minority faiths.

Goths are not anti-religions; they are not users of black magic or worshippers of devil. Yet, Goth itself is not a religion, the Gothic lifestyle has no religion unless the follower chooses for it.

A Gothic band named Christian Death in an interview in 1992 claimed that:

*A lot of people have said that we are anti-Christian or Satanic because of what we sing about and what we've named the band.... No practitioner of a religion has the right to judge someone else, because religions themselves decree that only God can render judgment. So it's very hypocritical to judge others...*

(Blount, 1992)

Due to the characteristics of black fashion of Goths, the names of gothic bands and the songs they sing, Goths are most of the time religiously misunderstood. Lots of people believe that all Goths are Satanists, witches and occult; yet, the Goth Subculture contains a great diversity of seculars and religious as well. Some Goths try to separate between their gothic characters and religions, thus, they adhere to atheism or agnosticism. Some other Goths (minority) practice Wicca and the occult witchcraft and beliefs.

Satanism, Wicca and Occult religion, or they are rather known as witchcraft, have lots of differences starting from the most important thing which is the worshipped Gods by the followers of each religion to the practice. Each of these three religions has its own God to follow and its own practices. Satanism was created in the 12<sup>th</sup> century against Christianity and church. Satanists worship the devil (Satan) and believe in black magical spells to control evil forces in order to produce unnatural effects in the world. Wicca is a peaceful religion that is also known as pagan witchcraft that knows the unknown. Many Goths are attracted to Wicca because of its peaceful nature, and interested in many Wiccan aspects such the cycles of the moon and the celebration of Halloween which is known as the witches' New Year. Another religion that is followed by Goths is the Occult religion, or as the previous ones, the Occult witchcraft. The beliefs of the Occult are based on beliefs founded in European witchcraft or paganism, Satanism, and the Afro-Christian Voodoo.

Since the Gothic Subculture became a worldwide subculture, Goths do not follow any particular religion, they would follow any religion they choose. Goths can be Christians, Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Jews and Hinduism, or even Muslims (especially Muslims in Asia).

### **1.7. Conclusion**

This chapter introduced the world of Goths, and shed some light on the term “Gothic” from its first appearance as the Visigoth tribe till the contemporary subculture. It further explained that the Gothic Subculture is neither a religion nor a belief system, but a subculture that was born out of the Punk Movement to express some people fascination toward dark items.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **TYPES, STEREOTYPES AND HATE CRIMES**

#### 2.1. Introduction

#### 2.2. Gothic Types

##### 2.2.1. Trad Goth

##### 2.2.2. Technology Lovers Goths

###### 2.2.2.1. Cyber Goths

###### 2.2.2. 2. Steampunk

##### 2.2.3. Fiction Lovers Goths

###### 2.2.3.1. Vampire Goths

###### 2.2.3.2. Fairy Goths

###### 2.2.3. 3. J-Goths

##### 2.2.4. Heavy Dark Goths

###### 2.2.4.1. Romantic Goths

###### 2.2.4.2. Mopey Goths

##### 2.2.5. Happy Goths

###### 2.2.5.1. Hippie Goths

###### 2.2.5.2. Perky Goths

###### 2.2.5.3. Geek Goths

##### 2.2.6. Night Clubs' Goths

###### 2.2.6.1. Gothabilly

###### 2.2.6.2. Cabaret Goths

###### 2.2.6.3. Tribal Goths

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**2.1. Introduction**

From the Visigoth tribe, the magnificent works of arts in both literature and architecture, to the contemporary world wild subculture, it can be said that the Gothic Subculture passed through too many obstacles and difficulties; however, it fought back and defended its ideologies and kept itself alive. This chapter will tackle one of the most stereotyped cultures due to its variety of types, where one would find one Goth type that take all people's attentions over the other types. Then, some of the aggressive and violent acts against Goths by the other people will be briefly presented.

**2.2. Gothic Types**

The Gothic subculture is divided into many types, and each type has its own way to present itself separately from the main gothic type. There are slight differences between these types which are noticed in the way of dressing, or the changes from the traditional style to the technological advance.

**2.2. Gothic Types**

The Gothic subculture is divided into many types, and each type has its own way to present itself separately from the main gothic type. There are slight differences between these types which are noticed in the way of dressing, or the changes from the traditional style to the technological advance. This extended essay presents these types and divided them according to the similarities of goths' interests.

**2.2.1. Trad Goth**

Traditional Goths (henceforth Trad Goths) were the first goths who appeared with the Goth music scene of Bauhaus and the Sisters of Mercy. This type of Goths follows the original Goths and values the traditional scene from its earliest appearance when it evolved from the Punk. Their fashions based heavily on the original look which is composed of ripped fishnets and leather clothes and boots. They love their huge black hair and pale skin with dark heavy make-up from the 1980s. Trad Goths are well recognised by their respect to the original Goth bands

like the Bauhaus, Sixixouse and the Banshees and all the bands that used to play at that time. However, Trad Goths believe that nowadays Goth is rather dead.

### **2.2.2. Technology Lovers Goths**

#### **2.2.2.1. Cyber Goth**

Unlike Trad Goths and Romantic Goths, Cyber Goths love Future and technology, bright colours and dance music. Their tendency towards technology is clearly seen in their clothing. Their fashion combines Goth fashion and an inspiration from science fiction style such as wearing gas masks, aviator-style goggles and some body modification. Cyber goths prefer matching bright neon-colours like red, pink neon-green and blue with black instead of a complete dark outfit. Concerning their make-up, they love to draw patterns such as cats and skulls with eyeliner on their eyes to be more detailed. Cyber Goths are extravagant when it comes to their hair look. They use lots of pieces like hair extensions which would be made of real hair or plastic tubing, belts, rubbed or foam strips. The kind of music that Cyber Goths listen to is totally different. This type is more energetic, electronic and dance music of bands such *Rammstein* and *VNV Nation*. It is believed that this music was evolved from the Industrial music; yet, with deep and morbid lyrics.

#### **2.2.2.2. Steampunk Goth**

Steampunk is a nice combination of the refined elegance of the Victorian Goth and the futuristic look of the Cyber Goths, i.e., the invented look of the Cyber Goths in the Victorian era. Steampunk is mainly a science fiction of the past where one may simply find a steam powered robot or any complex contraption made of wood. The emergence of this imaginary Victorian technology was due to the Victorian writers who inspired the genre. Writers such as Edgar Allen Poe and Mary Shelley with their literature were the main link between the Victorian era and the Goth culture which led to the creation of this genre. The Steampunk Goth fashion is highly creative in terms of leather boots and jackets, top hats, large dresses, gloves and big skirts decorated with wires, cooper and bronze items, cog jewellerys and a sometimes a futuristic Victorian gun. Girls would be elegantly

appearing with simple smokey eyes like a Romantic or a Victorian Goth. This genre has no a specific music interests, yet, it involved typical Victorian Goth music like Rasputina and musicians such as Emilie Autumn.

### **2.2.3. Fiction Lovers Goths**

#### **2.2.3.1. Vampire Goth**

*“Vampire Goths are essentially romantic Goths with fangs”* (“Goth Types Wiki”, n.d.), that what popular dark Cabaret musicians would claim. The Vampire Goths like the dark aesthetics, darker fashion, brooding atmosphere and paleness just like any other Gothic type except that they add the fangs. These Goths share a lot of similarities with the Romantic Goths in fashion. They enjoy dark and luxurious fabrics, lacy and satin items, flowy dresses and more aristocratic and elegant cloths. As for their make-up, they might have more detailed eye patterns than a Romantic Goth or a simple soft eye make-up would be just right. Jewellery and accessories are also in common with the Romantic Goths, the only differences are the small fangs and the contact lenses. Vampire Goths are real fans of Ann Rice and White Wolf rule books, and they enjoy watching Dracula movies (for so many times). A large number of Goths and Goth-related bands have done a “Vampire song”.

#### **2.2.3.2. Fairy Goth**

Fairy Goth is one of the most enjoyable gothic types. These goths have a love for fairies over the vampires and the werewolves or witches, and they are typically drawn to the mysterious world of fairies, fantasy and folktales. Since this type blends Romantic Goth elements with Hippie Goth and a slight touch of New Romantic, they enjoy wearing flowing garments, long robes and wands to remind them of a magikal land. Their hair is generally flowing and light coloured for both genders, with circlets crown, and a pale face with smokey eyes to give that inhuman and magikal look. The key jewellery looks like an enchanted emblem or stone without forgetting the wings and the glitter as a final touch. Music is basically gathers ethereal and slow atmospheric melodies adding some mystery, and morbid traits of Goths to create a beautiful enjoyable type.

**2.2.3.3. J-Goth**

Japanese Goth, or rather called Gothic Lolita, is a Gothic type in Japan. A Gothic Lolita would wear just like the Lolita style, but with some gothic aspects like blending the anime Lolita style with black coloured dresses and gothic accessories. Gothic Lolita fashion is characterised by a darker make-up and clothing, red lipstick and smokey eyes. This style was inspired from the western gothic movement, a combination of Victorian fashion, Alice in the Wonderland fashion and a French maid. J-Goths tend to enter the Gothic Subculture via different roots; yet, they created their own rendition and were spread through Japan's own music scene called Visual Kei. The music genre of these bands can take the form of Heavy Metal, Punk and Glam rock and mixed them all into a unique original genre. All male characters of such band tend to appear as feminine as possible through their make-up and hairstyling.

**2.2.4. Heavy Dark Goths****2.2.4.1. Romantic Goth**

Romantic Goths focus on the dark side of nature, and they would find the beauty in dead roses and graveyards under the moonlight rather than the sun. They are real fans of the mysterious Gothic world created by the Victorian Literature. These Goths are deep thinkers, creative, dreamy, and typically emotional; they usually love the drama of romance and sorrow. The Romantic prefers softer music of bands such as Dark Sanctuary and the broody mood. They also listen to some classical music of Bach or Wagner.

The Romantic Goths may wear also dark colours like dark blue, green, and deep red or other colours. They wear lacy dresses and suits, black or silver jewellery with deep coloured stones and a little softer make-up with very pale skin and dark lips. Their hair would be long, either straight or waved to look more dramatic and elegant.

**2.2.4.2. Mopey Goths**

Mopey Goths are the source where the dark gothic stereotype came from. They are the most common ones who dive into dark and gloomy aspects more than

all the other types they will most likely to paint their rooms in black and let no light goes in. For these goths, they believe that a real Goth must not appear to be happy; hence, one may find them all day long at their rooms alone writing sad and angst poetry full of doom and gloom or writing diaries complaining their lives, or in the most isolated corners at their schools or in clubs avoiding people. Concerning music interests, they tend to listen to as dark and torture-ridden as their souls. Generally, Mopey Goths are simply moody teenagers who are still building their personalities. Yet, they will soon see the lighter side of their subculture and would even change this type to a more suitable one following their principles.

### **2.2.5. Happy Goths**

#### **2.2.5.1. Hippie Goth**

Hippies in general are nature-loving and animal friendly. They are quite often vegetarians and animal rights activists, and Hippie Goths are so as well. Yet, the difference between Hippies and Hippie Goths is the prevalence of black and occult symbols, following paganism or Wicca or misc. Furthermore, this type is more morbid and dark than regular Hippie lifestyle. Hippie Goths usually wear long black or dark coloured dresses, long skirts with flowy shirts and large glasses. They often wear some Occult symbols and keep a long natural hair for both men and women. Hippie Goths enjoy pagan rock and dark folk like *Faith and the Muse*, and some of psychedelic-inspiration of the 1980s Goth band such *Tones on Tail*.

#### **2.2.5.2. Perky Goths**

Perky Goths definitely know how to have good times as they are cheerful, playful and friendly, and they see the Gothic lifestyle primarily as a way to have fun. Unlike the other Gothic types, these goths eliminate the dark and gloomy gothic stereotypes and go for bright colours and are ready to dance crazily to upbeat music. Some Perky Goths may wear black or dark colours clothing but still lively and far away from the death and gloomy aspects. There are no music interests for them, but the upbeat and dance music genre like the one of the Cyber Goths genre. The main idea about Perky Goths is that they do not take themselves seriously and they only try to enjoy their lives and be happy.

### 2.2.5.3. Geek Goth

Some people see all Goths as geeks, since they devote too much time dressing up, reading old Literature and collecting obscure music. Yet, Geek Goths are geekier than other types. The main interest of Geeks is to collect geekiness of video games and some fictional characters from comic books, anime and anything related to science fiction or fictional literature and roleplaying them, such as being a character from *The Lord of The Rings* (fictional film) in real life. These Goths do not focus on how they dress; a simple band tee, or a T-shirt with a game character and black pants would be enough for them. They like to show a geek look by wearing any neckless or chokers, and sometimes by wearing glasses. As for makeup, they only wear black eyeliner, and tend to dye their hair with unnatural colours along with piercings.

### 2.2.6. Night Clubs Goths

#### 2.2.6.1. Gothabilly

The Gothabilly is a bizarre mixture that combines different scenes, and a rare exotic breed of Goth with electric tastes in music and wardrobe. This type was inspired by throwing Goth traits onto the Rockabilly and Psychobilly scenes which came together to create the Gothabilly. Musically, it plays on retro Rock n'roll, kitsch aesthetics with dark morbid tendency, forming the Goth rock by blending blues and country at the same time. Like the Death-rockers who also shares them the love of horror, and dark humour. As far as fashion is concerned, it includes fringe bangs, long tresses with regular or victory curls, pencil skirts and dresses in a variety of colours besides the black, heels and fishnets are also very common within women. As for men, they tend to show more masculine feel to their outfits by wearing ripped shirts, leather jackets and some black denim with tattoos of course. The Gothabilly cloths and accessories include cards, cherries, leopard prints, zombies and polka-dots.

#### 2.2.6.2. Cabaret Goth

The Cabaret Goths portray the extravagant world of cabarets with a typical mixture between sexy dresses, the classy and elegant dresses. Cabaret and burlesque

are natural partners for Goth since corsets, and black suits have been Goth staple for years. This type of style includes corsets, fishnet, feather and a mermaid style dresses with black heels and black jewelled chokers. Makeup can be heavier with smokey, bold coloured and sharply defined cat's eye eyeliner and a bold red lip. Yet, a Cabaret Goth fashion is not only for women, men can also enjoy the style, they often resemble a peculiar cross between Dracula and Charli Chaplin style with keeping their own classy style, with generally a small bowl hat and suits with a bowtie. This look is typified by the *Dresden Dolls*, and many other bands like *Siouxsie and the Banshees*, and *Voltaire*. Although the previous bands had played with the cabaret theme, still there is no specific music genre for this type.

#### **2.2.6.3. Tribal Goth**

When Belly dancing became popular in the USA, a new type of Goths was formed, and came to be known as the Goth Belly dancers or commonly labeled as the Tribal Goth. This type blends traditional belly dance cloths and accessories with gothic modifications; it simply includes a black belly dancing garb covered with more gothy items like lace to give a morbid look. As for the accessories, stone, bone, shell or wood pendants and sandals are common. Dreads, long and messy hair with dark smokey makeup would be the perfect look for Tribal Goths. Music preference depends on what music fits the dance.

#### **2.2.6.4. Fetish Goth**

Being fetish and kinky is a major character in the Gothic Subculture in general; however, Fetish Goths have a wider range of sexy bondage-related to cloths and more leather and fishnet themed cloths. They prefer lot of body modifications such as tattoos and body piercings. According to these Goths, they only enjoy to be dressed in the fetish theme, not to be touched or harassed. Speaking of music genre, Fetish Goths have no real preferential genre that suits all them. Yet, it is noticeable that 1980s *New Wave* like *Depeche Mode* and *Industrial* bands such as *Throbbing Gristle* tend to be more fetish than others.

**2.2.7. Corp Goth**

Moving to a serious life, and when Goths of all types started growing up, they must find a good job in an office. In this case, these goths must corporate to make a balance between their “gothiness” and the cloths that conform to the dress code at work, and the result is the creation of the “corporate” or “Corp Goths”. These workers could successfully balance between their gothic fashion and work necessities, like linking of the dark suits to velvet, hats, brocades and silver jewelleries in the shape of spiders, ankhs and crosses. Furthermore, one may find some odd desk accessories like skull-shaped pencil holder. The Corp Goth look became popular through all types of goths, even with Cyber and Fetish Goth styles.

**2.2.8. Nostalgic Goths****2.2.8.1. Medieval Goth**

Medieval Goths were named so because of their particular interest in the medieval atmosphere. They would dress in garbs of that era, and tend to enjoy at Renaissance fairs or re-enactment society events. Undoubtedly, these Goths have an enormous sense of history, and they are most of the time found either in museums, castles, churches or ancient monuments, they even read the names and dates on the gravestones when visiting cemeteries. For their marriages, it is always medieval-themed weddings and they live in semi-historical houses filled with gargoyles and pre-Raphaelite prints. As for music, Medieval Goths’ interests include classical and Gregorian chants combined with folk, ethereal and Medieval Baebs.

**2.2.8.2. Victorian Goth**

The major influence of these Goths is the Victorian Gothic literature of Edgar Allen Poe and Bram Stoker precisely, and some others. Victorian Goths are very fond of the Victorian and the Edwardian era as well; thus, they to live in a similar atmosphere like wearing Victorian Fashions like corsets, lace and frock coats with pale faces of course. Ball dresses and mourning grabs are very familiar within this type. They also indulge in activities that were popular in the Victorian high society such as tea parties, theatre and some masquerade parties. As for music,

a true Victorian Gothic genre includes opera and classical inspiration bands like the Rasputina.

### **2.2.9. Baby Bats**

Baby Bats, Spooky Kids or Mall-Goths are the names used by old goths to call the pre-teens or early-teens gothic kids. Baby Bats get into this Subculture usually to annoy their parents in a hand and against the system, and to feel unique in another hand. Most of the time, Baby Bats are under 18 and are living with their parents, and because they are not old and rich enough, they cannot afford the suitable Goth wardrobe, and not being wise enough to wear the right amount of make-up. They usually prefer Metal music like *Marilyn Manson* and *Korn*. They try also to wear cloths reflecting Metal fashion, and believing the stereotypes of Mall-Goth and pretend to be depressed.

### **2.2.10. Goths' Cousins**

#### **2.2.10.1. Rivet-head**

The Rivet-head, or Industrial, often consider themselves as a different subculture out of the Gothic Subculture though there are lot of similarities between both subcultures in terms of fashion (without the neon-colours) and music interest. Like Cyber, the Rivet-head also like a futurism appearance but more monochrome and has a military influence. On the other hand, a lot of science fiction movies such as the Matrix have inspired the look from the Rivet-head (specially the trench-coats). According to this type of Goths, the typical Industrial bands are *Nine Inch Nails*, *Ministry* and *Rammstein*; however, the modern Rivet-head would listen to dark wave bands which resemble to a heavier form of EBM like Wumpscut and Skinny Puppy.

#### **2.2.10.2. Metal-head**

The Metal-head and the Gothic subculture are considered as two separate entities, for having many differences in origins, and some disparities in cloths. In the other hand, both subculture, or as they are called “cousins” have the same tendency to wear black and the love of darkness and mystery. Additionally, both sides would be found listening to the same music genre such as the *Gothic* or *Doom*

genre, and bands like *Nightwish* which sounds more Gothic than the original bands and give a nice bridge between both. Alongside with these genre, and by the name of Metal-heads, they love all types of metal, be it black metal, symphonic metal, glam metal or heavy metal. They also like harder rock or shock rock which can be hardcore enough for them. Metal-head Goths do not wear lot of make-up like goths do, and both men and women have long hair. Leather jackets and black pants with chains bullet accessories, chains and leather chockers are common within this type of goths.

#### **2.2.10.3. Emo-Goth**

The first appearance of the word Emo was to describe 21<sup>st</sup> century youth fashion which is a mixture of different styles including Punk, Retro and Goth. Emotional Goth (henceforth Emo-Goth) can be identified by their dyed black fluffy or sleek hair, black nail varnish, dark eye make-up, and the love of some cute accessories such as pink skulls, bats and coffin accessories. They blend all these elements with other “typical” Emo elements, such as Converse, horn-rimmed glasses, star patterns, and accents of bright color (very often pink). Their styles often combine between modern Emo and Trad Goths with occasional studded bracelets and belts. The Emos are very fond of children cartoons and old computer games; thus, one would expect them to be ultra-moody and sensitives.

#### **2.2.10.4. Death-rocker**

Death-rockers are considered as the missing link between the Goths and the Punks. Goths of this type appear to share some similarities with the Gothic Subculture in the musical tastes like Trad Goths, and want the darker spin on Punk style. These people see that Goth is still alive and twitching in a suitably zombified form, unlike Trad Goths who believe that Goth is dead. They are widely recognised by their famous hairstyle “the death-hawk” which is in the form of an upwards black-dyed hair in the centre of the head, with some shaved hair in both sides, where it is sometimes coloured. Speaking of fashion, Death-rockers’ fashion is almost identical to the typical Punk fashions with more blackness, layers of ripped fishnets, and band logos, along with darker make-up in paler faces. Many Death-

rockers like to listen to 1980s Goth Rock Classics bands such as: *Christian Death*, *specimen* and other Trad Goths' bands. They also enjoy any other kind of music that is characterised by madness, zombies, bats and death. These people are also characterised by their love for the old, cheesier horror movies. Far from these aspects, Death-rockers have a good sense of humour which made some people believe that they are not a part of the Gothic Subculture.

### **2.3. Common Goths Stereotypes**

The Gothic Subculture has always been one of the most stereotyped subcultures. Most of these wrong ideas were created due to the gothic look which is similar with Satanists and witches' look to a certain point. Gothic tendency towards darkness and macabre led the world to describe Goths mainly as Satanists, vampires, self-harming and jobless. These are the most famous stereotypes about Goths; yet, some of these ideas could be applied to some individuals but certainly not all Goths; thus, this section will put forth an in-depth discussion of the aforementioned stereotypical Goths and introduce what a true Goth is.

First of all, gothic are not Satanists. Since blackness is always associated with Satanism, Goths are frequently believed to be Satanists and witches. This idea was created due to the same black dressing of Satanists; one may find some Goths who are Satanists or Cult participants, and some Satanists who are Goths too but not all. In this respect, Gothic Subculture is not a religion, or a belief system, it is simply a movement and a subculture that its followers are characterised by their love towards black aspects, creepy items and supernatural events. In fact, Goths would choose any religion such as Christianity, Buddhism, Hindu, Islam, or any religious believes they like to embrace.

Moving to the most awkward Gothic stereotype, some people think that Goths believe themselves to be vampires. Though Goths love Ann Rice's vampire books and some of them like to dress like vampires, they certainly do not behave like them; they do not bite people's necks and suck their bloods. Those Goths who like to dress like vampires are a small minority called Vampires Goths, and as it was previously mentioned, they only like to dress as these creatures just like

everyone in Halloween; the only difference is that some Goths wear that every day. Yet, there is a very small portion of the Goth Subculture who claims that they are true vampires, but they are often referred to the Vampyre Subculture.

Furthermore, Goths are wrongly stereotyped as being harmful, angry and antisocial with non-Goths. Most of Goths indeed have a well-developed sense of humour and enjoy a good laugh. They are also physically well-adjusted people but just have a different set of cultural and social beliefs. As all human beings, the Goths have the ability to both feel emotional pain and hurt themselves. On top of that, only a rebellious minority of Goths or teenage groups support taking drugs, but definitely not all.

It is also widely known that only the Goths have lots of tattoos and piercings over their bodies; yet, ravers, bikers and other people who are not Goths wear them too. Besides, it is believed that Goths have a uniform and tend to dress alike so that they can recognise themselves, but this is not necessarily so.

Concerning their jobs, the stereotyped Goths are either jobless, or working in fast-food and telemarketing. It is believed that Goths cannot have good jobs because they cannot be dressed in a way that would fit in an office. By choosing gothic teenagers as a sample, Dr. Hodkinson (quoted in Tickle, 2011), states that ***“I even gave people scenarios where they couldn’t wear certain things. I expected them to say that they would have to leave (their job), but they would have to seriously consider it”***. Accordingly, he explains that Goths may have better career options, and he was surprised by how much participants in his study were willing to adapt their look to fit in at work.

The Gothic subculture is extremely misunderstood and buried by the media, and the stereotypical Goths became very trendy. These stereotypes are caused by being ignorant about the subculture; thus, before judging any culture, one must learn about their beliefs and ideologies, and even the differences between the types of the same culture to avoid the misunderstanding because sometimes one type drive all the attention over the others.

## 2.4. Hate Crimes against Goths

Hate crimes are sets of violent acts either verbal or physical against a given culture from different race, religion or a group of people with an unusual appearance.

A personal experience by the music journalist Simon Price who rather calls himself a recovering Goth reveals that he used to be regularly subjected to public humiliation and verbally abused with an edge of physical menace just for dressing in black. Price was also frequently subjected by the Parisian Gendarmes who forced him to empty his shoulder bag in a public place on the assumption of hiding drugs or arms.

All types of Goths were exposed to such harsh experiences, and teenage Goths are by no means an exception. This group of teenagers had been hit, kicked, pushed downstairs and even got shoved into lockers and called names such as “wierdo” and screaming “happy Halloween” on them inside their own schools. They also got through by eggs and smashed pumpkins while walking to their homes or even on their windows. This physical and emotional discrimination led some teens (baby bats) to certain negative behaviours like committing suicide or at least attempting, and isolating themselves.

Hate crimes against those people with different appearances who are now known as alternatives, had no values before the death of Ms. Lancaster and her boyfriend Maltby who were attacked in a park in Bacup, Lancashire, on April, 24, 2007 and badly beaten, kicked and stamped by two drunken teens. While Mr. Maltby made a partial recovery from his injuries, Sophie slipped into coma and died later in the hospital. After this tragedy, Sophie’s mother Sylvia and family set up a charity, and named it the *Sophie Lancaster Foundation* and promised to change attitudes in society towards people who may have a different lifestyle or appearance. In corporations with this foundation, GMP is the first police force to record offences against members of Gothic Subculture as hate crimes. This new policy recognises the specific crime of assaulting someone not for what they have done, but for who they are.

From April 2013 Greater Manchester Police has recorded Gothic Subculture related hate crime. In 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2013, BBC News reported in an interview with the Assistant Chief Constable Shewan that he said “*Any crime motivated by hate is an insidious and evil crime*”, and added “*people who wish to express their alternative subculture identity freely should not tolerate hate crimes, something that many people have to endure on a daily basis*” (“Hate Crime”, 2013).

While sentencing Lancaster’s killers, Judge Russell QC argues “*this was a hate crime against these completely harmless people targeted because their appearance was different to yours*” (“Hate Crime”, 2013). In addition to the police forces and the courts, McComb, editor of *Bizarre* magazine, told *The Independent* “*It’s fantastic news. It seems ridiculous to me someone would attack someone purely because of the way they look or how they dress. But sadly it’s not a rarity*” (Taylor *et al.*, 2013).

## 2.5. Conclusion

The present chapter tackled the most important problems that are facing the Goths, from the wrong gathered ideas about them, to the violent acts against the Goths for the way they appear. It also cited all the Goth types and explained them with showing some slight differences between them.

### GENERAL CONCLUSION

Although the Gothic Subculture is visually one of the famous subcultures in the world, non-Goths have only few ideas about the Goths; most of these ideas, however, are unfortunately wrong. For this reason, the present extended essay aimed at introducing the Gothic world to the reader starting with the first appearance of the Goths in the 5<sup>th</sup> century till the contemporary Gothic Subculture.

The first chapter presented the ancient Goths who were the Germanic tribe called the Visigoth tribe which overthrew the Roman Empire around the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Then, it explained that new style of architecture of the 12<sup>th</sup> century with its majestic characteristic. It also highlighted the emergence of the Dark Romanticism, or rather called the Gothic Literature while citing its combination between the dark elements of nature and Romanticism. By the end, this chapter determined that Goths are neither anti-religious nor devil worshippers.

As for the second chapter, it mainly focused on what came after the creation of the subculture. It brought to the fore the derived Gothic types listed chronologically from the traditional one to the recent created type. Along with these types, the chapter shed some light on the most common stereotypes and misconceptions vis-à-vis Goths in order to reveal as clear as crystal the real life of these people. It moreover tackled the problem of the aggressive reactions against Goths by some outsiders which led to record such acts as hate crimes by police forces.

All in all, it is hoped from this extended essay that people can understand the essence of the Gothic Subculture.

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