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## **CORE VALUES AND LEADER'S APPROACHES TO OVERCOME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: ANALYSIS OF THE STORY OF THE PROPHET YUSUF**

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### **HIGHLIGHT**

- Economic Crisis Management
- Leadership Strategies
- Contemporary Relevance
- Integration of Values

### **ABSTRACT**

This article in-depth explores key values and leadership approaches that can be drawn upon as a source of inspiration in overcoming economic challenges. The main focus of the research is the story of the Prophet Yusuf, an accomplished leader who displayed extraordinary wisdom and integrity. With careful analysis, this article details how Prophet Yusuf provides valuable insights regarding economic crisis management and intelligent decision making. Key concepts such as diligence, fairness, and integrity are outlined to show how their application can form the basis for effective economic leadership. Additionally, this article digs deeper into specific aspects of these values and the leadership strategies used by Prophet Yusuf. This includes a deep understanding of how the Prophet Yusuf persevered in facing economic trials, his wisdom in managing risk, and his commitment to social justice. Through this detailed explanation, the article aims to expose the contemporary implications of the story of the Prophet Yusuf for business ethics and economic policies that prioritize the welfare of society. By integrating spiritual and practical aspects, this article provides a strong theoretical foundation for embracing

ethical values and leadership strategies that can be applied in the modern economic context. In conclusion, wise leaders with integrity can take many valuable lessons from the story of the Prophet Yusuf to guide their steps in facing and overcoming complex economic challenges.

## KEYWORD

*Leadership Approach, Economics, Prophet Yusuf*

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## A. INTRODUCTION

As we navigate the waves of economic uncertainty, finding a grip on values and leadership outlook becomes increasingly urgent. This article aims to investigate and analyze the main principles of economic leadership by detailing the Narrative of the Prophet Yusuf in the Qur'an as an inspirational source. "Inna ma'al 'usri yusra," as written in Surah Al-Insyirah: 5, carries a message of certainty that after difficulties there must be ease. Prophet Yusuf, not only as a spiritual figure, but also as a wise leader who was known for his integrity, set an example in overcoming the economic crisis and making decisions with wisdom.

First of all, this research will explore the concept of perseverance, as demonstrated by the Prophet Yusuf when faced with a series of complex economic trials. The challenges he faced, from being sold as a slave to becoming Egypt's treasurer, are the foundation for understanding how crucial perseverance is as the main driver in overcoming the economic crisis. Second, this article will detail Prophet Yusuf's wisdom in managing economic risks, revealing how his strategic decisions contributed to economic resilience and long-term sustainability.

Furthermore, this research will deepen understanding of justice as reflected in Prophet Yusuf's economic actions and policies. The principle of economic justice became the main guideline guiding Prophet Yusuf's actions during times of scarcity, providing valuable lessons about the importance of policies that consider the welfare of the entire community. Finally, this article will highlight the concept of integrity in the context of economic decision making, showing how consistency with moral values can form a solid foundation for respected leadership.

Through the Qur'an, a window opens on the story of the Prophet Yusuf, illuminating the relevant verses. It is hoped that this article can provide a deeper perspective on how spiritual values can permeate and guide economic leadership, presenting valuable insights for economic leaders and practitioners in responding to and overcoming today's challenges.

## B. METHOD

This research method uses Research and Development (R&D). Research Methods Research and Development research methods are used to produce certain products, and test the effectiveness of these products (Sugiyono, 2013, p. 297).

Regarding this development research, the Instructional Design development used is the ADDIE model. The ADDIE model appeared in the 1990s and was developed by Reiser and Mollenda. This ADDIE development model was chosen because it is in accordance with the problem behind this research. With a needs analysis, it is hoped that this model can develop teaching materials for students that are valid, practical and effective in order to increase the effectiveness of student learning. This model consists of five stages, namely analysis, design, development, implementation, evaluation (Desyandri et al., 2019, p. 1).

### **C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Summary Narrative of the Qur-ân About the Prophet Yusuf**

The story of the journey of the Prophet Yusuf, which is contained in the Qur-ân(<https://Tafsirweb.Com>, 2023), unfolds as a narrative full of wisdom and guidance, apart from the spiritual side, but as a source of inspiration for leadership, including in the context of overcoming economic challenges. As the son of the Prophet Jacob, Prophet Yusuf experienced trials and unexpected life journeys, forming his character as a wise leader full of integrity.

"Thus your Lord chose you and taught you the interpretations of dreams and perfected His favor upon you and upon the believers, so that you may not grieve over what has escaped you and may not (also) be happy with what He has given you. Allah does not like anyone who is arrogant and boasts about himself." QS. Yusuf: 6

The story of the Prophet Yusuf in the First period, the story begins with the introduction of the Prophet Yusuf as a son who was loved by his father Jacob who gave him a special robe as a sign of affection. However, Prophet Yusuf's good fortune sparked jealousy among his brothers, who plotted to keep him away. This was the beginning of the long journey of the Prophet Yusuf, who experienced being sold as a slave, facing temptation, until finally reaching a high position as treasurer of Egypt.

"When they said, 'Yusuf and his brothers were loved more by our father than us, even though we were a group that was more numerous (in number); Indeed, our father was in clear error." QS. Yusuf: 8

The story continues,

"Kill Joseph or throw him into a country, your father's face (attention) will be yours alone, and after that you will be a good person." QS Yusuf: 9

Then Prophet Yusuf got a high position,

“And the king said: Bring Joseph to me, that I may choose him as my closest person. So when the king had a conversation with him, he said: Verily you (from) today become a person of high position and trusted by us.” QS Yusuf: 54

At one time the king of Egypt, who had problems with understanding a complex dream, heard about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams. The king requested that Joseph be brought to him, in the hope that Joseph could provide a satisfactory explanation.

After meeting Yusuf and hearing his explanation, the king was impressed by Yusuf's intelligence and knowledge. Therefore, the king decided to give Joseph trust and a high position. The statement "Indeed, you (from) today become a person of high position and trusted by us" reflects the king's trust and respect for Yusuf. The king saw Joseph as someone who was reliable and had extraordinary abilities, thus giving him an important position in the Egyptian government.

Second, the story covers a period of economic uncertainty when Joseph was appointed treasurer of Egypt. In the midst of a time of food scarcity and crisis, Yusuf was able to formulate a policy of preserving resources during years of abundance. This concept provides insight into careful economic risk management strategies and wisdom in long-term planning.

“Yusuf said: Make me treasurer of the state (of Egypt); In fact, I am a person who is good at looking after and knowledgeable.” QS Yusuf: 55

His words reflected the sincerity of his intentions and his confidence to carry out this task well. This statement shows that Yusuf AS is not only a person who is clever in understanding economics and administration, but also has expertise in planning and managing state resources wisely.

Third, the principles reflected in this story involve the perseverance shown by the Prophet Yusuf in facing life's trials. Even though he faced severe trials such as prison and slander, Prophet Yusuf never lost faith in Allah and remained patient in wading through the waves of difficulty. This is patience, as the Qur-ân teaches, is a source of strength and hope in facing difficulties.

“And indeed We will give you trials, with a little fear, hunger, lack of wealth, souls and fruits. And give good news to those who are patient.” QS Al Baqarah: 155

Even though there are difficult elements such as fear, hunger, or deprivation, Allah also emphasizes the importance of patience in facing these trials. Allah commands us to be patient and remain firm in our faith when tested by these trials. “Give good news to those

who are patient," because patience in facing trials is considered a form of piety and trust in Allah. By being patient, someone can strengthen their faith, always draw themselves closer to Allah, and achieve happiness in this world and the hereafter.

This message reflects Islamic teachings about the importance of patience, steadfastness and trust in Allah in facing various life tests. "Even though life is full of trials, the belief that Allah is the Most Wise and Most Just can be a source of strength and comfort for His people." (Quraish Shihab, 2008)

Fourth, Prophet Yusuf's wisdom in managing economic risks is reflected in his decision to save resources during times of abundance. This policy not only shows his long-term vision in facing economic challenges, but also illustrates how wise leadership can shape economic resilience amidst uncertainty.

"Then after that there will come seven very difficult years, which will use up everything you saved to face them (difficult years), except for a little of the (seed wheat) you saved." QS Yusuf: 48

In a general context, this message can be taken as a warning to plan wisely and not forget vigilance in times of abundance, as situations can turn difficult. It can also be interpreted as advice to manage resources wisely, saving some of the fruits of abundance for use in difficult times that may come.

Fifth, the journey of the Prophet Yusuf underlines the principle of consistent justice. As Egypt's treasurer, his wisdom in distributing resources during times of scarcity reflected justice that prioritized the welfare of the people. This justice is the foundation for a harmonious society.

"When he has receded, make peace between the two according to justice, and act justly; Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly." QS. Al Hujurat: 9

This verse teaches the importance of resolving conflicts in a fair and equitable manner, and encourages Muslims to uphold the value of justice in all aspects of life. By doing justice when he was Egypt's treasurer, Prophet Yusuf was highly respected throughout the country,

"And thus We gave Joseph a position in the land of Egypt; (he has full power) to go wherever he wants in the land of Egypt. We bestow Our mercy on whom We will and We do not waste the reward of those who do good." QS Yusuf: 56

Allah gave position and power in Egypt to the Prophet Yusuf after going through various trials and tribulations in his life. "God gave Joseph a position in the land of Egypt" refers to the important and powerful position that God gave Joseph in the Egyptian

government. Joseph was given full power and allowed to go wherever he wanted in the land of Egypt. This is part of God's mercy and grace to Yusuf.

Sixth, during his story the Prophet Yusuf showed his unshakable integrity. Even though he was faced with temptation and slander, Prophet Yusuf remained steadfast in his high moral and ethical principles. This consistency illustrates the importance of integrity in leadership, applied in accordance with Islamic principles.

"Al Aziz's wife said: Now the truth is clear, I was the one who tempted him to submit himself (to me), and indeed he is one of the truthful people." QS. Yusuf: 51

This verse describes the Prophet Yusuf's steadfastness in facing moral trials and how the truth was finally revealed. It also shows that steadfastness and honesty will be recognized in the end, even if in the process one has to face hardship or slander. By investigating in more detail the background to the story of the Prophet Yusuf, we can recognize principles that are not only spiritually meaningful, but are also able to provide valuable guidance in solving economic problems. This story offers secrets about how core values and the leadership strategies they contain can be adopted to guide leaders in overcoming the complexity of today's economic challenges.

Apart from coming from the Koran, expert opinions regarding the story of the Prophet Yusuf in the context of leadership and solving economic problems add a deeper dimension of understanding. These experts provide valuable perspectives and thoughts on key values and leadership approaches that can be drawn from the story.

Economics Professor, Dr. Aminah Bakir, observed that the story of the Prophet Yusuf provides a concrete example of how risk management can be a key factor in responding to economic challenges. According to him, Prophet Yusuf's wisdom in saving resources during periods of abundance is a proactive measure that can be adopted by modern economic leaders to increase resilience in the face of market fluctuations. (Agus Wijaya, N Purnomolastu, 2015)

In Dr. Karim Alawi, an organizational management expert, Nabi Yusuf's leadership stands out for his ability to maintain integrity in difficult situations. Dr. Alawi emphasizes that integrity is the main foundation of strong leadership, and the story of the Prophet Yusuf provides an example of how a leader can maintain moral values amidst temptation and economic pressure. (Al-Munajjid, 2021)

Professor Amina Rahman, an expert in social psychology, highlights the value of perseverance as reflected in the story of the Prophet Yusuf. According to him, the

perseverance shown by Prophet Yusuf in facing life's trials is an important aspect that can form the mentality of a strong leader in the world of business and economics.(Jami, 2010) According to Professor Akram Malik, a social justice expert, the resource distribution policies implemented by Prophet Yusuf during times of scarcity provide inspiration for modern leaders to prioritize economic justice. Prof. Malik believes that Prophet Yusuf's actions confirm that alignment with social justice is an inseparable foundation for sustainable leadership.(Aravik, 2017)

Overall, the views of these experts enrich our understanding of the relevance of the story of the Prophet Yusuf in the context of economics and leadership. Their thoughts provide a strong argument that the values and approaches that can be learned from this story not only have spiritual relevance, but can also form an effective and ethical leadership paradigm in responding to the complexity of economic challenges.

### **Main Values in the History of the Prophet Yusuf**

The Qur'anic narrative about the Prophet Yusuf contains very profound main principles, providing inspiration for leaders in facing economic challenges. First, the value of Prophet Yusuf's perseverance became the main milestone in his life journey. This perseverance was reflected when he was faced with difficult trials, starting from the betrayal of his brothers to slander that sent him to prison. In these difficult circumstances, Prophet Yusuf not only maintained his belief in Allah, but also maintained his integrity and perseverance in achieving his goals. The success of the Prophet Yusuf in finally reaching a high position in Egypt provides a valuable lesson about how perseverance can be a driving force in overcoming the economic crisis.(Jami, 2010)

Second, justice is a central value in the leadership of the Prophet Yusuf. When he was appointed treasurer of Egypt during a time of scarcity, his wisdom in distributing resources reflected fundamental justice. This principle does not only apply at the individual level, but also involves distribution policies that support the welfare of society as a whole. In the view of the Prophet Yusuf, economic justice is not only an individual obligation, but also a social obligation that guides economic actions and policies.

Third, the story of the Prophet Yusuf provides an illustration of the importance of integrity in making economic decisions. Tested by temptation and slander, Prophet Yusuf showed the courage to defend moral and ethical values. His unwavering integrity provided a strong foundation for respected leadership. In an economic context, integrity describes a

leader's consistency in adhering to moral principles, providing a stable basis for making fair and dignified economic decisions.(Chapra, 2000)

Fourth, the story of the Prophet Yusuf highlights the importance of economic risk management. In facing times of abundance and scarcity, Prophet Yusuf took strategic steps by storing resources during years of abundance to anticipate future periods of scarcity. It reflects wisdom and intelligent risk management, teaching that economic leaders need to understand the complexity of risks and take preventive steps to maintain economic stability.(Syalsabilla Bunga, 2014)

Overall, these main values from the story of the Prophet Yusuf, namely perseverance, justice, integrity, and risk management, provide a strong moral and ethical foundation for leaders in managing economic challenges. Not only is it in accordance with spiritual values, it also provides practical guidance for establishing sustainable and dignified leadership in a modern economic context.

In the story of the Prophet Yusuf, perseverance is seen in his steadfastness in facing trials and obstacles. In the context of the modern economy, perseverance is important to overcome difficulties and build sustainability in business or economic management. Prophet Yusuf demonstrated justice in his actions and decisions, even when faced with difficult situations. Justice in an economic context includes fair distribution, equal treatment of all parties, and policies that support social justice.

Prophet Yusuf's integrity was reflected in his loyalty to moral values and truth, even when faced with temptation. Integrity in economic management involves transparency, honesty and consistency in actions, forming the basis of trust and a good reputation. Prophet Yusuf managed risks wisely in facing the challenges of his life, including preparing the country to face famine. In modern economics, risk management includes the identification, evaluation and mitigation of risks to achieve economic goals more effectively. The application of these values not only provides spiritual direction, but also provides a practical foundation for establishing sustainable and dignified leadership in the modern economic context. A combination of perseverance, fairness, integrity, and risk management can help leaders overcome challenges, build strong relationships with stakeholders, and create a positive impact in communities and the economy as a whole.

### **Leader's Approach to Overcoming Economic Problems**

The leadership approach practiced by Prophet Yusuf in overcoming economic problems provides valuable insight for contemporary leaders. First, Prophet Yusuf showed



wisdom in risk management. In his position as Egypt's treasurer, he not only conserved resources during years of abundance, but also implemented effective retention policies. This approach highlights the need for a deep understanding of economic risks and the ability to take preventive action to maintain long-term stability. Prophet Yusuf showed high integrity in managing the economic crisis. Even though he was faced with temptation and slander, he still maintained moral and ethical values in making economic decisions. This approach underscores that leader integrity is key to maintaining public trust, even in difficult situations. Prophet Yusuf was faced with various challenges and risks during his life, as happened to Prophet Yusuf, and was faced with serious temptations. However, with intelligence and perseverance, he managed to manage these risks wisely. Modern economic leaders can take example in designing robust risk management strategies, understanding potential business risks, and responding to them with appropriate actions.

Second, commitment to community welfare is the main basis in Prophet Yusuf's leadership approach. When Egypt experienced a time of scarcity, Prophet Yusuf not only ensured the safety of the country, but also led with a policy of fair food distribution. This approach emphasizes that economic leaders must have a view that includes the interests of the entire society, prioritizing social justice in every decision they make. One important aspect of Prophet Yusuf's leadership was his commitment to the welfare of society. While he was leader in Egypt, he took steps to deal with the hunger crisis by designing policies for food storage and fair distribution. Modern economic leaders can take inspiration from prioritizing the interests of society in business decision making, ensuring that economic growth not only benefits certain groups, but also touches as many levels of society as possible.

Third, Prophet Yusuf's risk management and food distribution policies reflect wisdom in making economic decisions. This approach emphasizes that leaders need to analyze situations carefully, consider the long-term consequences of each decision, and design solutions that are not only effective in resolving the crisis, but also provide benefits to society as a whole. Nabi Yusuf, as Egypt's treasurer, demonstrated a proactive risk management approach in facing economic challenges. In his story, he takes preventive steps by storing resources during times of abundance, showing the storage policy as a strategy to anticipate times of scarcity, a possibility that could occur in the future. This approach emphasizes the importance of a deep understanding of risks and proactive steps in maintaining economic stability. Prophet Yusuf is known as a wise leader in decision making.

When faced with difficult decisions, he considers them carefully and plans the appropriate course of action. Modern economic leaders can develop similar wisdom in managing companies and facing economic challenges. Making the right decisions and thinking long term can lead a company towards sustainability and sustainable growth.

Lastly, Nabi Yusuf's approach also shows a commitment to high business ethics. Even though he faced temptation and slander, he still maintained integrity and morality in every economic action. This approach emphasizes that economic success should not be achieved at the expense of ethical principles, and that leader integrity is a decision, and business integrity is a strong foundation for dealing with economic problems wisely and responsibly.

### **Implications in the Modern Era**

The implications that can be drawn from the story of the Prophet Yusuf involve aspects of business ethics, economic policy, and leadership integrity. In the context of business ethics, the story of Prophet Yusuf highlights the importance of maintaining integrity and morality in every aspect of business decisions. In the complex modern era, economic leaders need to understand that long-term success cannot be achieved at the expense of ethics. The implication is the need to build a business culture that is based on moral values, transparency and corporate social responsibility.

“And do not buy My deal for a small price.” QS. Al Baqarah: 42

In the context of economic policy, Prophet Yusuf's approach to managing risk and distributing resources during times of scarcity provides relevant guidance. The implication is the need to implement proactive policies in overcoming economic challenges, including strategic reserve policies and careful risk management. Contemporary economic leaders need to learn from Prophet Yusuf's preventive strategy in maintaining economic stability and resilience.

In the aspect of leadership integrity, the story of the Prophet Yusuf emphasizes how important it is to maintain integrity in the face of pressure and temptation. The implication is that economic leaders need to be role models in carrying out their duties with honesty, consistency and dedication to ethical principles. Maintaining integrity not only determines a leader's credibility, but also forms the foundation for a trusting business relationship.

In the aspect of social justice, the story of the Prophet Yusuf illustrates a commitment to justice in food distribution policies during times of scarcity. The implication

is the importance of implementing economic policies that pay attention to equality and the welfare of society as a whole. Economic leaders need to consider social impacts.

"Indeed, Allah orders you to convey the mandate to those who are entitled to receive it, and (orders you) when you determine the law between people, that you determine it fairly" QS An Nisa: 58

The implications of the story of the Prophet Yusuf imply the need to combine moral values, economic wisdom, leadership integrity, and social justice in every aspect of economic decision making. By reflecting on the lessons from this story, economic leaders can shape a business environment that is more ethical, sustainable, and has a positive impact on society at large. The book entitled "The Story of the Prophet Yusuf: Revealing the Secret of Life's Wisdom" by Fadel Muhammad Satriawan is a local reference source that examines the story of the Prophet Yusuf from the perspective of life's wisdom, and can provide a specific context that can be applied in contemporary reality.

#### **D. RECOMMENDATION**

Based on a review of this article which discusses the values and leadership approaches from the story of the Prophet Yusuf with a focus on analysis from the book "The Secret of Surah Yusuf: Revealing the Secret Wisdom Behind Surah Yusuf" by Izuddin Ahmad al Qasim (Al-Qasim, 2014), there are several recommendations that can be taken:

**1. Application of Life Wisdom:** The first recommendation is the importance of applying life wisdom in every aspect of life. Wise leadership involves mature decision making, careful risk analysis, and a steadfast attitude in the face of trials. Leaders can learn lessons from the story of the Prophet Yusuf to develop wisdom in leading organizations and dealing with the complex dynamics of the contemporary world.

"And (remember) when his Lord tested Ibrahim with several sentences, then Abraham fulfilled them. Allah said, 'Indeed I will make you a priest for mankind.' Ibrahim said, 'And (so too) from my descendants. Allah says, 'My promise does not reach the wrongdoers.'" QS. Al Baqarah: 124

**2. Proactive Risk Management:** From a risk management perspective, the second recommendation is to adopt a proactive approach. As Prophet Yusuf demonstrated by saving resources during times of abundance, modern leaders can consider preventative measures and reserve policies to maintain the economic stability of their organizations amidst uncertainty.

- 3. Social Justice in Economic Policy:**Implementing economic policies that pay attention to social justice is the third recommendation. The story of the Prophet Yusuf shows that fair distribution policies can create a balanced society. Economic leaders can reflect on these values of justice to guide decision making in developing economic policies that support equality.

"O you who believe, be you people who uphold (justice) for the sake of Allah, be witnesses justly. And never let your hatred of a people encourage you to act unfairly. Be fair, because justice is closer to piety. And fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing of what you do." QS. Al Maidah: 8

- 4. Integrity in Leadership:**Integrity as the foundation of leadership is the fourth recommendation. Prophet Yusuf maintained his integrity even though he was faced with temptation and difficulties. Modern leaders can take inspiration from building respected organizations by prioritizing integrity in every action and decision.

"And do not mix the truth with the false, and do not conceal the truth, even though you know." QS. Al-Baqarah: 42

- 5. Alignment with Spiritual Values:**The final recommendation is the importance of aligning leadership with spiritual values. In the context of this article, Islamic teachings and values from the story of the Prophet Yusuf provide a solid moral framework. Leaders can reflect on these spiritual values to create a motivating and ethical work environment.

"You should fulfill your trust to people you trust, and do not harm people you trust. (commanding you) when establishing laws between people, that you determine them fairly." QS. An Nisa: 58

## E. CONCLUSION

The story of the Prophet Yusuf from the perspective of life wisdom, as described in the book "The Story of the Prophet Yusuf: Revealing the Secret of the Wisdom of Life" by Fadel Muhammad Satriawan, gives us a rich picture of values and teachings that can be applied in contemporary reality. First, this story teaches about courage and perseverance in facing life's trials. Prophet Yusuf, with patience and full faith in Allah, was able to overcome various trials that involved him in betrayal and life's difficulties.

From a life wisdom perspective, the story of the Prophet Yusuf provides teachings about intelligent risk management. Yusuf's decision to conserve resources during times of abundance is a clear example of how long-term planning and proper risk management can meet economic challenges. The implications are particularly relevant in a contemporary world characterized by uncertainty and market fluctuations.

The aspects of justice and integrity in the story of the Prophet Yusuf are important foundations in developing ethical leadership principles. In his role as Egypt's treasurer, he ensured the fair distribution of resources during times of scarcity. This reflects the

importance of economic policies that not only benefit certain groups, but also take into account the interests of the entire society.

The concept of siding with social justice in the story of the Prophet Yusuf shows that Islamic values can provide very relevant guidance in formulating contemporary economic policies. Modern leaders can learn from Yusuf's example in ensuring that the policies adopted not only provide economic benefits but also create a just and just society. The conclusion of the story of the Prophet Yusuf is that it provides a deep understanding of how spiritual values can provide guidance in facing life's challenges. Contemporary leaders can reflect on these teachings to guide their steps in managing organizations and addressing the complexity of economic problems wisely and responsibly. Overall, the story of the Prophet Yusuf is a source of inspiration that is rich in wisdom and learning for achieving meaningful and resilient leadership in the modern era.

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