

[psi]

S3o23l9n7, t8e n21r19e p18e19s5d t8e m5a19u18i14g t1p5 23i20h h5r
t8u13b a7a9n19t t8e h5e12, h5l4 20h5 15t8e18 5n4 1g1i14s20 20h5 2a3k o6
20h5 20i14y k14e5 9n h5r n15r13a12 18o21t9n5, a14d t8e14 19t18e20c8e4 9t u16 20o
t8e h5a4.

“6o18t25-14i14e c5n20i13e20e18s.”

T8e e24h1u19t5d m15t8e18 12a25 23e1k12y i14 2e4, w1t3h9n7 1s t8e
o2s20e20r9c9a14 16l1c5d t8e b1b25 15n t8e s3a12e. 8e18 6e5l9n7 15f h1p16i14e19s
e18a19e4 1l12 20h5 16a9n f18o13 8e18 6a3e.

“T8r5e k9l15s, 5i7h20 8u14d18e4 1n4 6i6t25 7r1m19,” 13u18m21r5d t8e
n21r19e, 5n20e18i14g t8e d1t1 9n t8e b9r20h r5g9s20e18.

“8a22e y15u p9c11e4 15u20 1 14a13e?”

T8e n21r19e d9d14'20 14o20i3e t8a20 20h5 13o20h5r h1d j21s20 4o26e4 15f6.

“5r15s!” s1i4 20h5 13a14 2y t8e b5d.

“Y15u'r5 20h5 6a20h5r?”

“25e19.”

15r m1y2e n15t, 20h5 14u18s5 20h15u7h20 20o h5r19e12f a14d e14t5r5d t8e
c8i12d's n1m5.

E22e18 19i14c5 19h5'4 6i18s20 19t1r20e4 1s19i19t9n7 1t b9r20h19 6o21r20e5n y5a18s
a7o, 14o m1n h1d e22e18 4o21b20e4 8i19 15w14 6a20h5r8o15d. 15n3e i14
1 23h9l5 15n5 13a4e a j15k5 15n t8e s21b10e3t, 2u20 14o2o4y a3t21a12l25
4o21b20e4 6o18 18e1l. 1s i6 20h5y d9d14'20 11n15w t8a20 5v5r25 19e22e14t8 3h9l4
23a19n't f1t8e18e4 2y t8e m1n l9s20e4 15n t8e b9r20h c5r20i6i3a20e.

19h5'4 8e1r4 18u13o18s t8a20 20h5i18 8o19p9t1l h1d b5e14 3o12l5c20i14g
g5n15m5 19e17u5n3e19 15f t8e e14t9r5 16o16u12a20i15n f15r s5v5r1l y5a18s. 1t
t8e b5g9n14i14g, 20h5 7o1l w1s t15 16r5v5n20 20h5 19p18e1d o6 8e18e4i20a18y
d9s5a19e19, b21t h5r c15l12e1g21e19 9n t8e r5c15r4s d5p1r20m5n20 1l19o
s5c18e20l25 16r15d21c5d g5n5t9c p18o6i12e19 2a19e4 15n g5n5t9c c8a14g5s.
20h5s5 16r15f9l5s c15u12d e1s9l25 7n1w a23a25 1t t8e r15o20s o6 5v5n v5r25
15l4 1n4 18e19p5c20a2l5 6a13i12y t18e5s.

20h5 14u18s5 12o15k5d a20 20h5 3a12e14d1r a14d r5a12i26e4 9t w1s F18i4a25
1n4 20h1t s8e w1s14'20 15n c1l12 20h1t w5e11e14d.

“D1t5 15f b9r20h . . . J21l25 19e22e14t8,” 19h5 19a9d i14 1 19o13e23h1t b5t20e18
13o15d, 19l1m13i14g t8e f9l5 4r1w5r s8u20, w8i3h m1d5 5r15s s3r21n3h
h9s n5c11 4o23n a19 20h15u7h h5 23a14t5d t15 16u12l h9s h5a4 9n20o h9s
b15d25.

“20h5 13o20h5r a14d b1b25 23i12l s20a25 9n t8e h15s16i20a12 6o18 20h18e5 13o18e
d1y19 6o18 15b19e18v1t9o14 . . . 25o21 3a14 3o13e p9c11 20h5m u16 15n M15n4a25.
l s21g7e19t y15u m1k5 7o15d u19e o6 20h9s w5e11e14d. 25o21 14e22e18 11n15w
j21s20 8o23 13a14y s12e5p12e19s n9g8t19 1r5 1h5a4 15f y15u.”

“9t's n15t t8e f9r19t t9m5. O21r o12d5r s15n's n1m5 9s A18e19,” 19a9d t8e
m1n p18o21d12y.

“A18e19 1n4 5r15s! 8o23 14i3e,” s1i4 20h5 14u18s5, f5i7n9n7 5n20h21s9a19m.
2u20 23h1t s8e r5a12l25 20h15u7h20 23a19: T8e19e t23o h1v5 18e1l12y f1l12e14 15n
t8e9r h5a4s, 19t18a9g8t d15w14 6r15m M20. O12y13p21s i20s5l6! S8e w1s14'20 1b12e
t15 8a22e c8i12d18e14 8e18s5l6 1n4 19o s8e'd n5v5r r5a12l25 21n4e18s20o15d
p18o21d p1r5n20h15o4.

E18o19' a18r9v1l w1s a b9g d5a12 6o18 20h5 5i7h20-25e1r-o12d A18e19. H5'4
23a14t5d a b18o20h5r m15r5 20h1n a14y20h9n7, a14d h5 21s21a12l25 7o20 23h1t



[psi]

h5 23i19h5d f15r. 6r15m h9s f9r19t b18e1t8 8e'd b5e14 1c3u19t15m5d t15
8a22i14g t8e e14t9r5 8o21s5 18e22o12v5 1r15u14d h9m.
8i19 6a20h5r o6t5n t15o11 8i13 20o w15r11, c1r18y9n7 8i13 15n h9s
s8o21l4e18s, 1n4 20h5y'd s20r15l12 1r15u14d t8e c15n19t18u3t9o14 19i20e19
23a20c8i14g t8e c18a14e19, m1c8i14e19, a14d w15r11e18s. 8e n5v5r r1n o21t
o6 17u5s20i15n19 1n4 8i19 6a20h5r w15u12d p1t9e14t12y e24p12a9n e22e18y20h9n7
8e w1s i14t5r5s20e4 9n.
1l12 20h5 14e9g8b15r19 1n4 1l12 20h5 23o18k5r19, d9r5c20o18s, 1n4 16r15m9n5n20
12o3a12s k14e23 1r5s. 2u20 23h5n h5 19t1r20e4 23i19h9n7 6o18 1 2r15t8e18,
h9s p1r5n20s d9d14'20 18e1l12y t1k5 8i13 19e18i15u19l25 2e3a21s5 8e w1s a b9g
e14o21g8 8a14d6u12 1s i20 23a19.
B21t t8e b15y w1s14'20 21s5d t15 14o20 7e20t9n7 23h1t h5 23a14t5d, 19o o14e
d1y h5 4e3i4e4 20o t1k5 13a20t5r19 9n20o h9s o23n h1n4s.
9n t8o19e d1y19, m15t8e18s u19u1l12y l5f20 20h5i18 2a2i5s i14 20h5i18 19t18o12l5r19
9n f18o14t o6 20h5 19t15r5 23h9l5 4o9n7 20h5i18 4a9l25 19h15p16i14g. 19o o14e d1y
1r5s h1d a l15o11 1t t8e b1b9e19 9n f18o14t o6 20h5 4i19p12a25 23i14d15w a14d
d18a7g5d h15m5 1 19t18o12l5r w9t8 19o13e15n5 5l19e's b1b25. H5 9n20r15d21c5d
h9s b18o20h5r t15 8i19 1s20o14i19h5d p1r5n20s a14d a2s15l21t5l25 18e6u19e4 20o
t1k5 8i13 2a3k.
23h5n t8e25 6o21n4 20h5 4i19t18a21g8t m15t8e18, w8o'd a12r5a4y c1l12e4
20h5 16o12i3e i14 20h5 13e1n20i13e, 3e18t1i14 20h1t h5r b1b25 8a4 2e5n s20o12e14
2y g25p19i5s, 1r5s w1s s20i12l f9r13l25 3l9n7i14g t15 20h5 19t18o12l5r.
1n4 14o23 1r5s h1d f9n1l12y l9v5d t15 19e5 20h5 4a25 8i19 6a20h5r w5n20
20o t8e m1t5r14i20y h15s16i20a12 20o p9c11 21p h9s m15t8e18 1n4 20h5 2a2y. 20o
p1s19 20h5 20i13e, 8e t15o11 1n a16p12e a14d w5n20 20o a n5a18b25 16a18k.
2y t8e o12d a17u1r9u13 8e r1n i14t15 1 19o12d9e18 23h15'4 3a21g8t a r1t
s14a11e i14 20h5 21n13o23n g18a19s. 1r5s c15u12d s5e t8a20 20h5 19n1k5 23a19
4o3i12e a14d n15t v5n15m15u19, s15 8e o6f5r5d t15 20r1d5 9t f15r t8e a16p12e.
20h5y s23a16p5d a14d A18e19 20o15k i20 8o13e w9t8 8i13.
H5 3a18e6u12l25 19e20 9t o14 20h5 6l15o18 9n h9s b5d18o15m a14d w5n20 20o t8e
k9t3h5n t15 7e20 9t s15m5t8i14g t15 4r9n11. W8e14 8e c1m5 2a3k w9t8
1 2o23l o6 13i12k, 8e s1w t8e s14a11e's t1i12 4i19a16p5a18i14g u14d5r t8e
b5d. 8e l15o11e4 6o18 9t f15r a w8i12e, 2u20 20h5 19n1k5 8a4 4i19a16p5a18e4
23i20h15u20 1 20r1c5.
S15o14 8i19 16a18e14t19 3a13e h15m5 23i20h t8e b1b25 1n4 8e f15r7o20 1l12
1b15u20 20h5 19n1k5. A18e19 23e14t t15 20h5 19t18o12l5r, 23h9c8 8a4 15n3e b5e14
8i19, a14d t15o11 1 3u18i15u19 12o15k a20 8i19 2r15t8e18.
H5 23a19 1 2i20 4i19a16p15i14t5d. 8e'd e24p5c20e4 1 3o13p1n9o14,
m1y2e s13a12l5r t8a14 8e w1s, 2u20 19t9l12 7o15d f15r h1n7i14g o21t a14d
p12a25i14g t15g5t8e18. l14s20e1d h5 7o20 20h9s h5l16l5s19 3r5a20u18e t8a20 4i4n't
w1l11, t1l11, o18 5v5n h1v5 20e5t8 20o k14o3k o21t.
1r5s s15o14 14o20i3e4 20h1t t8e e14t9r5 8o21s5 23a19 18e22o12v9n7 1r15u14d
t8i19 12i20t12e n5w3o13e18. G18a14d13a a14d M15m p18a3t9c1l12y c15m16e20e4
20o b5 20h5 15n5 23h15 8e12d h9m t8e m15s20. A18e19 23a19 1l18e1d25 20o15 20a12l
a14d h5a22y t15 2e h5l4 9n t8e9r l1p19, b21t h5 23a19n't a23a18e o6 20h1t
h9m19e12f. 15n12y h9s f1t8e18 23o21l4 19t9l12 16u20 8i13 15n h9s s8o5 15n3e i14
1 23h9l5, b21t e22e14 20h1t h15r19e25 23o18e o21t t15o q21i3k12y.
S21d4e14l25 9t s5e13e4 20o h9m t8a20 14o2o4y w1s p1y9n7 1t20e14t9o14



[psi]

20o h9m a14y13o18e. 8e w1s l5f20 15n h9s o23n i14 20h5 23o18l4 15f a4u12t19
6o18 20h5 6i18s20 20i13e i14 8i19 12i6e, 1n4 20h9s d9s20u18b5d h9m g18e1t12y. 8e
s21s16e3t5d t8a20 20h9s h1d t15 4o w9t8 8i19 2r15t8e18 2e3a21s5 5v5r25t8i14g
h1d b5e14 4i6f5r5n20 2e6o18e h5 3a13e.

15n5 4a25 8e n15t9c5d t8a20 5r15s h1d b21r16e4. G18a14d16a, 23h15'4
2e5n i13m5r19e4 9n h9s r5a4i14g, 16u20 4o23n h9s n5w19p1p5r a14d w5n20
20o t8e c18a4l5. A18e19 3o21l4n't r5m5m2e18 20h1t h5'4 5v5r b5e14 1b12e
t15 4i19t18a3t h9s g18a14d6a20h5r f18o13 18e1d9n7. A14d a12l t8i19 7o15d-f15r-
14o20h9n7 8a4 20o d15 23a19 2u18p a14d G18a14d16a w1s u16 9n a f12a19h.
8e w9s8e4 5v5r25t8i14g w15u12d g15 2a3k t15 20h5 23a25 9t u19e4 20o b5.
B5c1u19e h5 23a19 20h5 15n5 20h1t h1d w1n20e4 1 2r15t8e18 9n t8e f9r19t
p12a3e, 8e a12s15 8a4 20h5 18i7h20 20o g5t r9d o6 20h9s n21i19a14c5.
H5 16r5s5n20e4 1 14e23 16l1n t15 8i19 16a18e14t19: E18o19 3o21l4 19i13p12y b5
18e16l1c5d b25 1 4o7.

B21t b5c1u19e t8i19 4i4n't h1p16e14 5i20h5r, 8e s15o14 19t1r20e4 8a20i14g
E18o19 6r15m t8e b15t20o13 15f h9s h5a18t.

8e s20a18t5d p9c11i14g o14 8i19 2r15t8e18, a12t8o21g8 14o20 18e1l12y
n15t9c5a2l25 . . . 8e'd s5c18e20l25 16u12l h9s n15s5, p9n3h h9m, 15r p18e19s
h9s c1p o22e18 8i19 5y5s. 15f c15u18s5 8e h1d t15 2e c1r5f21l s15 14o2o4y
w15u12d c1t3h h9m d15i14g i20.

H5 11e16t a g15o4 12o15k15u20 15n h9s b18o20h5r a14d s12o23l25 4e22e12o16e4
8i19 16o23e18s o6 15b19e18v1t9o14. H5 11e16t p5r6e3t9n7 8i19 16l1n f15r h15w
t15 4e19t18o25 20h9s l9t20l5 5n5m25. E22e14 20h5 20o25s h5 14o23 23a14t5d w5r5
3o14n5c20e4 23i20h t8i19. l14s20e1d o6 3a18s a14d c15l15r5d p5n3i12s h5 14o23
23a14t5d g21n19, r9f12e19, a14d t1n11s. 8e w1n20e4 20h9n7s t8a20 6l5w u16 9n
t8e a9r a14d c15u12d r1n4o13l25 12a14d i14 5r15s' 3r9b. 20h9n7s t8a20 3o21l4
5x16l15d5 15r c15m2u19t w5r5 18i7h20 1t t8e t15p o6 8i19 12i19t. 2u20 15f c15u18s5
8e d9d14'20 7e20 20h15s5.

B21t t8e m15r5 1r5s t18i5d t15 8a18m h9s b18o20h5r, 20h5 13o18e a20t5n20i15n
E18o19 18e3e9v5d, 1n4 8e j21s20 3o21l4n't u14d5r19t1n4 20h1t. 5r15s c18i5d s15
13u3h t8a20 8i19 6a13i12y t8o21g8t t8e18e w1s s15m5t8i14g w18o14g w9t8
h9m. 20h5y s1w v1r9o21s p5d9a20r9c9a14s, 23o14d5r9n7 23h25 1l12 20h5s5
20e1r19?

N15w A18e19 19u4d5n12y b5c1m5 21n21s21a12l25 15b5d9e14t a14d d15c9l5.

H5 8o16e4 8i19 16a18e14t19 23o21l4 6i7u18e o21t t8a20 8a22i14g a s5c15n4
3h9l4 8a4 2e5n a m9s20a11e a14d w15u12d s15o14 7e20 18i4 15f h9m.

13o13 1n4 4a4 14e22e18 19u19p5c20e4 20h1t t8e a20t5n20i22e b18o20h5r w1s
t15 2l1m5. T8e25 20h15u7h20 20h1t t8e9r s5c15n4-2o18n w1s s5n19i20i22e a14d
s16o9l5d, 1n4 4i4n't w15r18y t15o m21c8 1b15u20 9t.

22i15l5t19 23e18e b12o15m9n7 20h1t S21n4a25 23h5n t8e f1m9l25 23e14t f15r
a w1l11 9n t8e c9t25 16a18k. 9t w1s f21l12 15f c5n20u18y-o12d t18e5s f18o13
1l12 15v5r t8e w15r12d, 23i20h w9d5 3r15w14s a14d m1g14i6i3e14t t18u14k19.

E1c8 8a4 1 14a13e l1b5l. 20h5 16a20h19, s20r5w14 23i20h w8i20e g18a22e12,
w15u14d a18o21n4 20h5 8e4g5s a14d f12o23e18b5d19. P5o16l5 15f20e14 18a14 9n20o
a3q21a9n20a14c5s t8e18e a14d s20o16p5d f15r a c8a20. A18e19' p1r5n20s a12s15
5n4e4 21p i14 3o14v5r19a20i15n w9t8 19o13e15n5.

A18e19 23a19 16u19h9n7 20h5 19t18o12l5r a18o21n4 1n4 11i3k9n7 16e2b12e19 9n20o
t8e g18a19s o21t o6 2o18e4o13. H5 7r1d21a12l25 13o22e4 1w1y f18o13 8i19



[psi]

16a18e14t19 1n4 8e1d5d o6f t15w1r4s t8e p15n4.

B21t h9s f1t8e18 14o20i3e4 8i13 1n4 3a12l5d h9m b1c11. S15 1r5s' 16l1n

f5l12 20h18o21g8, a14d E18o19 18e13a9n5d h9g8 1n4 4r25.

S15o14 1f20e18 20h1t, 8e n15t9c5d a p1i18 15f s23a14s o14 20h5 15t8e18 19i4e

o6 20h5 16o14d. 1l12 20h5 16e15p12e w5r5 7i22i14g t8e13 1 23i4e b5r20h. 20h5

13a12e w15u12d s16r5a4 8i19 23i14g19 1n4 19e9z5 20h5 16a19s5r19b25 2y t8e9r

p1n20 12e7s o18 19k9r20s w9t8 8i19 2i12l.

1r5s n15w t21r14e4 20h5 19t18o12l5r t15w1r4s t8e s23a14s. 8e a16p18o1c8e4

20h5m s12o23l25, s20e16 2y s20e16.

W8a20 20h5 19t15r11 8a19 2r15u7h20, t8e s23a14 23i12l t1k5 1w1y! 8e s1i4 20o

h9m19e12f, 19w5r22i14g t8e s20r15l12e18 22i15l5n20l25 2a3k a14d f15r20h i14 15r4e18 20o

p18o22o11e t8e s23a14.

B21t t8e b9r4s l5f20 20h5 19h15r5 1n4 19w1m t15w1r4s t8e m9d4l5 15f

t8e p15n4. A18e19' p12a14 8a4 6a9l5d o14c5 1g1i14.

19t5a13i14g w9t8 1n7e18 2e3a21s5 20h5 19w1n19 8a4 20h23a18t5d h9s

p12a14s, 8e s5i26e4 20h5 19t18o12l5r f9e18c5l25. F18o23n9n7 19o i14t5n19e12y t8a20

20w15 19l1n20i14g l9n5s a16p5a18e4 15n h9s f15r5h5a4, h5 16l21n7e4 20o23a18d19

20h5 19t15n5 19t5p19.

A c12o21d o6 4u19t s23i18l5d b5h9n4 20h5 19t18o12l5r a19 9f s15m5 9n22i19i2l5

8a14d w5r5 20r25i14g t15 20a11e t8e h1n4l5. B21t r9g8t b5f15r5 20h5 5n4

15f t8e p1v5d f15o20p1t8, h5 1b18u16t12y h1l20e4 1n4 15v5r20u18n5d t8e

s20r15l12e18 19o t8a20 9t19 23h5e12s s16u14 9n t8e a9r.

5r15s a14d a12l t8e o20h5r s20r15l12e18 3o14t5n20s f12e23 9n20o t8e a9r. 20h5

3u19h9o14 20h1t f12e23 15u20 23i20h h9m w1s t8e f9r19t t15 12a14d o14 20h5 19t5p19.

E18o19 18o12l5d o6f i14t15 20h5 7r1s19 23i20h i20, m9r1c21l15u19l25 19u18v9v9n7

23i20h15u20 5v5n a s3r1t3h.

5r15s m1n1g5d t15 19u18v9v5 8i19 5a18l25 3h9l4h15o4 13o19t12y t8a14k19

20o h9s n1n14y E12o9s5. S8e'd c15m5 20o t8e f1m9l25 12o14g a7o b5c1u19e

h5r w9d15w5d m15t8e18 8a4n't b5e14 1b12e t15 19u16p15r20 8e18 2y h5r19e12f.

1l20h15u7h s20i12l a c8i12d h5r19e12f a20 20h5 20i13e, 19h5'4 12o15k5d a6t5r E18o19'

m15t8e18.

E12o9s5 23a19 1 2o14y w15m1n o6 13e4i21m h5i7h20, w8o w1l11e4

23i20h a l9f5l15n7 12i13p d21e t15 1n i14j21r25 20o h5r r9g8t a14k12e. 8e18

12a18g5, l9g8t b12u5 5y5s s16a18k12e4 13i19c8i5v15u19l25 1n4 8e18 3h5e11s

r5t1i14e4 1 25o21t8f21l b12u19h. 19h5 23a19 20h5 13o19t t18u19t23o18t8y, 11i14d-

8e1r20e4, a14d h15n5s20 3r5a20u18e i14 20h5 23o18l4. A12t8o21g8 19h5 8a4

14e9t8e18 6a13i12y n15r a l15t o6 13o14e25, s8e n5v5r l1c11e4 1n25t8i14g. 19h5

23a19 21n16r5t5n20i15u19 1n4 8a16p25.

E12o9s5 14e22e18 3o13p12a9n5d a14d w1s n5v5r d9s3o14t5n20. S8e

n5v5r g15s19i16e4 1b15u20 1n25o14e a14d n15b15d25 8a4 5v5r s5e14 8e18 3r25.

E22e18y15n5 12o22e4 8e18 1n4 3o14s9d5r5d h5r m15r5 1n i14d9s16e14s1b12e

m5m2e18 15f t8e f1m9l25 20h1n a m1i4 1n4 14a14n25.

T8e25 20o15k h5r a12o14g w8e18e22e18 20h5y w5n20 1n4, w8e14 20h5y

m15v5d t15 20h5i18 8o21s5 15n t8e b5a3h f15r t8e s21m13e18, s8e s12e16t

i14 20h5 3h9l4r5n's r15o13, w8i3h w1s g18e1t f21n f15r t8e t23o b15y19.

H5r s20o18i5s w5r5 6u14n25 1n4 20h5 20w15 2r15t8e18s w15u12d o6t5n l1u7h

8y19t5r9c11l12y l9s20e14i14g t15 8e18 20e12l s20o18i5s a2o21t h5r y15u20h, 1m15n7

23h9c8 20h5 13o19t a13u19i14g w5r5 20h15s5 3o14n5c20e4 23i20h t8e9r m15t8e18.



[psi]

E12o9s5 23a19 20h5 15n12y o14e t8a20 19a23 20h18o21g8 1r5s' 6r1t18i3i4a12
16l1n19, b21t s8e n5v5r t15l4 15n h9m. 1n4 19o s8e g1i14e4 8i19 20r21s20.
S8e s16e14t a l15t o6 20i13e w9t8 20h5 2o25s, 11e5p9n7 1 3l15s5 5y5 15n
E18o19. S8e w15r11e4 22e18y h1r4 20o h5l16 2r9n7 20h5 2r15t8e18s c12o19e18 1n4
19o13e20i13e19 19h5 5v5n s21c3e5d5d.
19h5 11n5w t8a20 1r5s w1s s5e11i14g t8e a20t5n20i15n h5'4 12o19t w8e14
8i19 2r15t8e18 23a19 2o18n.

5r15s w1s u14f1m9l9a18 23i20h h1t18e4 1n4 10e1l15u19y. 8e n5i20h5r
p5r3e9v5d n15r u14d5r19t15o4 20h5s5 20w15 5m15t9o14s. 8e g18e23 21p i14
8i19 2o21r7e15i19 23o18l4 1n4 20h5 25e1r19 16a19s5d a19 9f t8e25 23e18e d1y19. H5
18e3e9v5d a19 13u3h l15v5 1s a b15y c15u12d p15s19i2l25 23a14t, 2u20 14o20 20h5
11i14d h5 23a14t5d t8e m15s20. H9s b18o20h5r's l15v5.

H5 23o18s8i16p5d A18e19 12i11e a g15d; 20o h9m, 1r5s w1s a w9s5
5l4e18 23h15 11n5w e22e18y s5c18e20. H5 19a23 8i13 1s h9s p18o20e3t15r a14d
g21i4e t8r15u7h l9f5. H5 2e12i5v5d t8a20 20h5 15u20e18 23o18l4 23a19 6u12l o6
4a14g5r19, b21t h5 3o21l4n't c15m16r5h5n4 20h1t e22i12 3o21l4 1l19o a18i19e
f18o13 1 16e18s15n h5 20r21s20e4.

D1y a6t5r d1y, 8e t18i5d t15 6i14d f1v15r i14 8i19 2r15t8e18'19 5y5s,
1t20r1c20 8i19 1t20e14t9o14, a14d w9n h9s a6f5c20i15n, 2u20 1l12 20o n15 1v1i12.
H5 15f20e14 18e20r5a20e4 9n20o h9s i13a7i14a20i15n a14d i14v5n20e4 19t15r9e19 9n
w8i3h h9s b18o20h5r l15v5d a14d a4m9r5d h9m. 5r15s' 9n22e14t5d w15r12d
s15o14 2e3a13e s15 18e1l9s20i3 20h1t h5 3o21l4 5s3a16e t15 9t a14d f9n4
3o13f15r20 23h5n5v5r h5 6e12t d15w14.

O14l25 7r1n4m1 23a19 1w1r5 15f h9s v9v9d i13a7i14a20i15n. 5v5r25
13o18n9n7, E18o19 3o21l4 8a18d12y w1i20 20o k14o3k o14 8e18 4o15r a14d
s14u7g12e u16 9n h5r w1r13 2e4. S8e t15l4 8i13 19t15r9e19 1b15u20 12i6e
t8a20 15f20e14 8e12d a h9d4e14 13o18a12. H5 5n10o25e4 12i19t5n9n7 20o h5r a14d
i13a7i14e4 8e18 19t15r9e19 1s v9v9d12y a19 9f h5 8i13s5l6 23e18e t8e18e i14 20h5
13i4d12e o6 20h5 1c20i15n.

H5 19o13e20i13e19 20h15u7h20 1b15u20 1 19e3r5t p12a14 8e c15u12d u19e t15
7e20 20h18o21g8 1r5s' 9r15n a18m15r, 1n4 15n5 4a25 8e f9g21r5d i20 15u20. H5
18e1l9z5d t8a20 8e c15u12d g5t h9s b18o20h5r's a20t5n20i15n b25 1t20a3k9n7
8i13.

T8i19 18e22e12a20i15n o6 3o21r19e m5a14t a d5c12a18a20i15n o6 23a18.
T8e e24p5r9e14c5d a14d m21c8 20a12l5r A18e19 5n10o25e4 8i19 19u16e18i15r9t25
1n4 4e13o14s20r1t5d h9s d15m9n1n3e o22e18 8i19 12i20t12e b18o20h5r w9t8
7r5a20 7u19t15. T8e f9r19t b1t20l5s e14d5d i7n15m9n9o21s12y f15r E18o19 . . .
2u20 20h5 23a18 8a4 15n12y j21s20 2e7u14.

A12l h5l12 2r15k5 12o15s5 9n t8e h15u19e a14d t8e p1r5n20s w5r5
4e19p5r1t5. T8e25 10u19t c15u12d14'20 21n4e18s20a14d h15w t8e b18o20h5r19 3o21l4
16o19s9b12y h1t5 5a3h o20h5r s15 13u3h. 20h5y w5r5 18a9s9n7 20h5 20w15 1s
w5l12 1s t8e25 3o21l4 1n4 4e4i3a20e4 1l12 15f t8e9r t9m5 1n4 12o22e t15
2o20h o6 20h5m, 2u20 20h5 2o25s w5r5 14o14e20h5l5s19 3o13p12e20e12y d9f6e18e14t
f18o13 5a3h o20h5r a14d a14y20h9n7 2u20 1f6e3t9o14a20e. 9t d9d14'20 5v5n
o3c21r t15 20h5i18 16a18e14t19 20h1t E18o19 8a4 25e20 1n15t8e18 20e1c8e18 9n l9f5.
W8a20 15n E1r20h d9d w5 4o w18o14g? 20h5y a19k5d t8e13s5l22e19 15v5r



[psi]

a14d o22e18.

T8e m15t8e18 1n4 6a20h5r o6f5r5d t8e b15y19 1 12o22i14g e24a13p12e
o6 13u20u1l u14d5r19t1n4i14g, 2u20 19t9l12 20h5i18 19o14s w5r5 5n5m9e19, a19
20h15u7h p15s19e19s5d b25 4e13o14s.

23h5n5v5r t8e25 23e18e a12o14e, 1r5s w15u12d m5r3i12e19s12y b5a20 8i19
2r15t8e18. B21t E18o19 23o21l4 16a25 9t b1c11 9n k9n4.

E18o19 2e7a14 20o i14c18e1s9n7l25 3a12l i14 15u20s9d5 8e12p t15 15f6s5t h9s
w5a11n5s19 . . . 23h5n h9s p1r5n20s c1m5 8o13e, 8e'd p21t o14 19u3h
a14 1c20 20h1t e22e14 20h5 3i20y t8e1t5r w15u12d h1v5 2e5n p18o21d t15 20a11e
h9m o14. A14d A18e19 23a19 15f20e14 16u14i19h5d e22e14 6o18 20h9n7s h5 8a4n't
a3t21a12l25 4o14e i14 20h5 6i18s20 16l1c5.

T8i19 9s h15w t8e t21r2u12e14t d1y19 15f E18o19' c8i12d8o15d u14f15l4e4,
a14d m15s20 12i11e12y t8e s20a20e o6 23a18 23o21l4 8a22e l1s20e4 6o18 17u9t5 1
23h9l5 12o14g5r i6 1 4o7 8a4n't c15m5 9n20o t8e h15u19e o14e d1y.

1r5s h1d a12w1y19 23a14t5d o14e. 20h9s w1s o14e o6 20h5 18a18e u14f21l6i12l5d
23i19h5s t8e t23o b18o20h5r19 19h1r5d. 13o13 23o21l4 8a22e g9v5n i14 1b15u20
1 4o7, b21t D1d w15u12d14'20 8e1r o6 9t. 8e l15v5d a14i13a12s, 2u20 8e
k14e23 20h5y r5q21i18e4 1 12o20 15f c1r5 1n4 18e19p15n19i2i12i20y. 8e w1s a6r1i4
20h5 2o25s w15u12d l15s5 9n20e18e19t i14 9t a19 17u9c11l25 1s t8e25 4i4 23i20h t8e9r
t15y19.

A18e19 8a4 12o14g s9n3e l15s20 6a9t8 9n b5i14g a2l5 20o p5r19u1d5
8i19 6a20h5r t15 2u25 1 4o7. E18o19, o14 20h5 15t8e18 8a14d, 23h15 15f20e14
13a14i16u12a20i22e12y s5t h9s f1t8e18 1n4 2r15t8e18 1g1i14s20 5a3h o20h5r,
2e12i5v5d t8a20 14o20h9n7 23a19 18e1l12y c15m16l5t5l25 21n1t20a9n1b12e w9t8
20h5i18 6a20h5r.

12o14g-t5r13 14e7o20i1t9o14s b5g1n a14d E18o19 20i18e12e19s12y l9s20e4 1l12
20h5 18e1s15n19 19u16p15r20i14g h9s c1s5. A6t5r a f5w w5e11s, 8e m1n1g5d
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8e w1s a12l15w5d t15 3a18e f15r t8e p15o4l5 15w14e4 2y s15m5 6a13i12y
a3q21a9n20a14c5s f15r t23o w5e11s, 23h9l5 20h5y w5r5 1w1y o14 22a3a20i15n.
20h5 6a20h5r f9r13l25 2e12i5v5d t8a20 20h9s w15u12d b5 5n15u7h f15r h9s
s15n19 20o r5a12i26e w8a20 9t w1s l9k5 20o g5t u16 5a18l25 5v5r25 13o18n9n7
1n4 20a11e t8e d15g f15r a w1l11, c12e1n u16 1f20e18 9t, 6e5d i20, b1t8e a14d
g18o15m i20, a14d h1v5 1 8u14d18e4 13o18e t8i14g19 20o d15. B21t h5 23a19
23r15n7.

W1t3h9n7 23h1t w1s h1p16e14i14g i14 4i19b5l9e6, A18e19 18e1l9z5d
t8a20 5r15s h1d p12a3e4 20h5i18 6a20h5r o14 1 19l9p16e18y s12o16e. 8e a22a9l5d
h9m19e12f o6 20h5 15p16o18t21n9t25 1n4 15n5 4a25 2r15u7h20 8o13e a s13a12l
b12a3k b21n4l5.

T8e p21p16y, 15n12y a f5w w5e11s o12d, 18a14 20o t8e9r f1t8e18 6i18s20 1n4
19n21g7l5d i14t15 8i19 12a16 1s i6 8e k14e23 23h15 8e h1d t15 9m16r5s19. T8e
i3e s21r18o21n4i14g t8e9r f1t8e18'19 8e1r20 13e12t5d a14d h9s f9r13 "N15"
s8a20t5r5d l9k5 1 13i14g v1s5 8i20t9n7 1 19t15n5 6l15o18. T8i19 23a19 20h5
13o13e14t t8a20 21n5x16e3t5d12y b18o21g8t t8e t23o b18o20h5r19 3l15s5r, 1n4,
i6 20h5 16a18e14t19 8a4 11n15w14 20h1t t8i19 12i20t12e c18e1t21r5 23o21l4 2r9n7 1
20r21c5 20o t8e y5a18s-l15n7 23a18, t8e25'4 8a22e g12a4l25 1g18e5d t15 13u3h
m15r5 20h1n t8i19 16o15r p21p.

N5v5r h1d t8e b18o20h5r19 5x16e18i5n3e4 8a18m15n25 19u3h a19 20h1t



[psi]

b18o21g8t i14t15 20h5i18 12i22e19 2y t8i19 20r21c5. T8e25 20o15k e24e13p12a18y c1r5
15f t8e9r d15g. 1r5s' 12o14g-c8e18i19h5d d18e1m h1d f9n11i2y c15m5 20r21e
a14d t15 5r15s t8e d15g b5c1m5 1 19y13b15l o6 22i3t15r25. H5 11n5w h9s
b18o20h5r n15w s1w h9m i14 1 3o13p12e20e12y d9f6e18e14t l9g8t a14d h5
5n10o25e4 20h9s i13m5n19e12y. 2u20 1l12 20h9s s15o14 13a4e h9m a18r15g1n20.
E18o19 23a19 7r15w9n7 21p a14d b5c15m9n7 5v5r m15r5 3o14c5i20e4.
G18a3e d9s1p16e1r5d f18o13 8i19 2o25i19h f1c5, h21m9l9t25 5v1p15r1t5d
f18o13 8i19 20h15u7h20s, 1n4 8i19 23o18d19 2e3a13e a19 19h1r16 1s a r1z15r.
15f c15u18s5, t8i19 11i14d o6 2e8a22i15r m5t w9t8 19t18o14g d9s1p16r15v1l
f18o13 8i19 6a13i12y, 2u20 20h5 5x16e18i5n3e E18o19 8a4 7a9n5d o22e18 20h5
12o14g y5a18s o6 6i7h20i14g a m21c8 19t18o14g5r o16p15n5n20 8a4 13a4e h9m
s15 19t18o14g t8a20 14o a18r15w c15u12d p9e18c5 8i13.
H9s w9l12 19e5m5d i14f9n9t5 1n4 8e b5l9e22e4 8e c15u12d c15n17u5r
a14y15n5 20h1t g15t i14 8i19 23a25. A19 9f i20 23a19n't a12r5a4y e14o21g8 20h1t
h5 4i4n't b5l9e22e i14 1n25 7o4, i20 19e5m5d h5 2e7a14 20o b5l9e22e t8a20
8e h9m19e12f w1s a g15d. 14o o2s20a3l5 3o21l4 19t15p h9m, 8e r5f21s5d t15
2o23 2e6o18e a14y a21t8o18i20y, 1n4 9t s5e13e4 20h1t t8e18e w1s n15 6o18c5
20h1t c15u12d k5e16 8i13 6r15m a3h9e22i14g w8a20 8e w1n20e4. U14t9l o14e
d1y h5 23a19 3a21g8t u16 19h15r20 2y a s1d g9r12'19 2r15k5n h5a18t.
2y a c15i14c9d5n3e t8a20 23a19n't c15i14c9d5n20a12, S1r5n1 3a13e i14t15
5r15s' 12i6e.
8e d9d14'20 5v5n n15t9c5 8e18 23h5n h5 6i18s20 13e20 8e18. M1y2e t8i19
23a19 2e3a21s5 8e w1s s15 1b19o18b5d i14 8i19 15w14 20h15u7h20s a7a9n t8a20
8e d9d14'20 14o20i3e a14y15n5 1r15u14d h9m, 15r b5c1u19e s8e w1s w5a18i14g
s15 13u3h m1k5u16 20h1t h5 3o21l4 15n12y s5e a s20a7e s5t b5f15r5 8i13.
P5r8a16s t8i19 23a19 1l19o b5c1u19e o14c5 9n h9s d18e1m19 8e'd s5e14 20h5
5y5s, 1s d1r11 1s m25s20e18i15u19 14i7h20, b21t a12s15 1s b18i7h20 1s t8e s20a18r25
19k25, t8a20 8e'd f1l12 9n l15v5 23i20h o14e d1y.
23h5n E18o19 6i18s20 19p15k5 23i20h h5r, 8e w1s d18a23n i14 2y t8e
s9n3e18i20y o6 8e18 23o18d19, a14d w8e14 8e l15o11e4 9n20o h5r b12u5 5y5s h5
s1w a14 15c5a14 15f s1d14e19s i14 20h5m. 1 18e10e3t5d w15r12d h5 18e3o7n9z5d
f18o13 19o13e23h5r5 5l19e. 6o18 1 2r9e6 13o13e14t, 9t e22e14 19e5m5d t15 8i13
20h1t h5 12o15k5d i14t15 20h9s w15r12d e22e18y d1y.
8e a19k5d h5r o21t t8a20 19a13e e22e14i14g a14d e24p5r9e14c5d
s15m5t8i14g u14u19u1l. 2e6o18e h9s v5r25 5y5s, 19a18e14a's t9n25 2l5m9s8e19
6i18s20 4i19a16p5a18e4 6r15m h5r f1c5, t8e14 8e18 20w15 2i18t8m1r11s, 1n4
6i14a12l25 1l12 8e18 15t8e18 9m16e18f5c20i15n19. H5r t5e20h b5c1m5 1s w8i20e a19
19n15w a14d h5r l9p19 19w5l12e4 12i11e t8e f9r19t c8e18r9e19 9n t8e n5i7h2o18'19
7a18d5n. 20h5 7i18l c8a14g5d f18o13 15n5 13o13e14t t15 20h5 14e24t a19 9f s8e
w5r5 19l15w12y b5i14g c15v5r5d b25 1n i14v9s9b12e v5i12 9n a14g5l f15r13. H5r
l9g8t h1i18 1c17u9r5d a s9l11y s8e5n a14d h5r b15d25 1t20a9n5d t8e c21r22e19
15f a f15r5s20 14y13p8. l14 5r15s' 5y5s S1r5n1 20u18n5d i14t15 20h5 13o19t
p5r6e3t c18e1t21r5 9n t8e w15r12d t8a20 14i7h20.
H5 6e12l a19l5e16 23i20h a s13i12e o14 8i19 6a3e.
5r15s k14e23 20h1t t8e g18e1t5s20 23o18k19 15f a18t d5p9c20e4, d5s3r9b5d, 15r
l1m5n20e4 12o22e. 8e'd r5a4 1 12o20 1b15u20 8e18o5s w8o w5r5 4e19t18o25e4
2y l15v5 1n4 8a4 19e5n w15n4e18f21l m15n21m5n20s t8a20 16e15p12e h1d
e18e3t5d i14 13e13o18y o6 20h5i18 2e12o22e4s. 8e'd h5a18d t8a20 12o22e e22e14



[psi]

3a21s5d t8e c18u5l5s20 15f w1r19 20h1t h1d d5s20r15y5d e22e14 20h5 13o19t p15w5r6u12 11i14g4o13s.
21n20i12 20h1t v5r25 13o13e14t, 5r15s h1d c15n19i4e18e4 1l12 20h5s5
5f6o18t19 1n4 1l12 20h5 19u6f5r9n7 9n t8e n1m5 15f l15v5 20o b5 5x3e19s9v5
15v5r18e1c20i15n19 . . . 20h5 1b19u18d9t25 15f w5a11 9n4i22i4u1l19 1n4 18o13a14t9c
a18t9s20s, 23h15m h5'4 1l23a25s v9e23e4 1s p5c21l9a18. B21t n15w i20 23a19 1s
i6 8e'd c15m16l5t5l25 12o19t c15n20a3t w9t8 18e1l9t25; h5 23a19n't a23a18e o6
8i13s5l6 15r t8e w15r12d a18o21n4 8i13. H5 19u4d5n12y b5g1n s16e1k9n7
9n r8y13e, 16a9n20i14g, 1n4 23r9t9n7 16o5m19, a14d h5 12i22e4 15n12y f15r
t8o19e f5w m15m5n20s h5 3o21l4 19p5n4 9n h5r c15m16a14y. 9f h5 18a14k5d
t8e f5e12i14g19 15f h1p16i14e19s h5'4 11n15w14 21n20i12 20h5n o14 1 19c1l5 15f o14e
t15 20e14, t8e p15i14t5r w15u12d n15w s20o16 1t o14e h21n4r5d.
19a18e14a f5l20 20h5 19a13e w1y . . . b21t n15t t15w1r4s E18o19 . . . 8e18 6i18s20
12o22e w1s s20i12l i14 8e18 8e1r20. B18o11e14h5a18t5d a14d d9s1p16o9n20e4, s8e
23a19 19e5k9n7 3o13f15r20 1n4, a12t8o21g8 19h5 6o21g8t w9t8 1l12 8e18 13i7h20
20o e18a19e t8e p1s20 6r15m h5r m5m15r9e19, i20 23a19 19t9l12 20h5r5.
E18o19 23a19 16r5c9s5l25 23h1t S1r5n1 9m1g9n5d a p5r6e3t w15r12d
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2e3a21s5 8e18 13i14d s16o11e d9f6e18e14t12y t8a14 8e18 8e1r20, s8e o6t5n
c18i5d. 2u20 19h5 23a19 18e1l12y s9n3e18e . . . S8e t15l4 5r15s a2o21t h5r t18u5
6e5l9n7s a14d h5r p1i14. B21t E18o19 4i4n't w1n20 20o a23a11e14 6r15m h9s
d18e1m.
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8i13s5l6 9n p5r6u13e, 2u20 20h9s o14l25 9n3r5a19e4 8i19 19t5n3h, 1n4—
w8a20 23a19 20h5 19t18a14g5s20 15f a12l—t8e h1r4e18 8e t18i5d t15 2e a g18e1t
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2r5a20h a14d t8e d15c20o18s d9a7n15s5d h9m w9t8 1s20h13a.
15n12y w9l12 23a19 23h1t r5m1i14e4 15f h9s f15r13e18 4i22i14i20y.
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m5t t8e l15v5 15f h9s l9f5. F15r s5v5n m15n20h19 8e b5l9e22e4 8i19 15w14
12i5s.
2u20 15n5 4a25 19a18e14a a16p18o1c8e4 8i13 1n4 12o15k5d s20r1i7h20 9n20o



[psi]

h9s d1r11 19a4 5y5s, 9n w8i3h h15p5 19t9l12 7l9m13e18e4.

“25e19t5r4a25 9 18a14 9n20o h9m a7a9n . . . l c15u12d14'20 20a11e m25 5y5s o6f h9m. 9 20h15u7h20 20h1t l w1s s20r15n7e18, b21t t8e14 8e k9s19e4 13e a14d l s20a18t5d t15 3r25 . . .”

E18o19 19t1r20e4 6e5l9n7 12i11e h5 23a19 7o9n7 20o b12a3k o21t.

“. . . a14d t8e14 23e m1d5 12o22e, 1n4 4e5p i14s9d5 9 6e12t j21s20 12i11e b5f15r5.”

5r15s b18o11e i14t15 1 19u4d5n s23e1t a14d t8e t5a18s r21n14i14g

d15w14 8i19 3h5e11s m9x5d w9t8 4r15p19 15f p5r19p9r1t9o14. H5 20r9e4 20o c15m16o19e h9m19e12f, 2u20 3o21l4n't m15v5 8i19 10a23, l9p19, o18 20o14g21e t15 19a25 1n25t8i14g.

“l d9d14'20 23a14t t15 8u18t y15u. 2u20 25o21 4o14'20 4e19e18v5 20o b5 12i5d t15.”

5r15s l15o11e4 19a18e14a i14 20h5 5y5s a14d s16o11e i14 1n u14u19u1l12y

c1l13 22o9c5, a19 9f h5 23e18e14'20 20h5 15n5 19p5a11i14g a14d s15m5o14e e12s5 23a19 19p5a11i14g o14 8i19 2e8a12f.

“G15 2a3k t15 8i13 . . . 25o21 19t9l12 12o22e h9m a14d l'd r1t8e18 25o21 23e18e h1p16y w9t8 8i13 20h1n u14h1p16y w9t8 13e.”

H9s w15r4s w5r5 19o n15b12e a14d h9s h5a18t w1s s15 19a4 20h1t e22e14 1

18o3k b25 20h5 19i4e o6 20h5 18o1d w15u12d h1v5 20a11e14 16i20y o14 8i13 1t t8a20 13o13e14t. 9t s5e13e4 1s i6 20i13e h1d c15m5 20o a h1l20.

“1n4 25o21?” 1s11e4 19a18e14a a6t5r a l15n7 13o13e14t o6 19i12e14c5.

“4o14'20 23o18r25 1b15u20 13e, 9'12l b5 1l12 18i7h20. A12l t8a20 9'13 6e5l9n7

18i7h20 14o23 9s g18a20i20u4e f15r t8i19 21n6o18g5t20a2l5 5x16e18i5n3e,” h5 13a14a7e4 20o u20t5r f18o13 20h5 4e16t8s o6 8i19 19o18r15w.

20h5y s1i4 6a18e23e12l a14d h9s t5a18s b21r19t t8r15u7h t8e d1m o6 8i19

23i12l.



[psi]

Scowling, the nurse pressed the measuring tape with her thumb against the heel, held the other end against the back of the tiny knee in her normal routine, and then stretched it up to the head.

“Forty-nine centimeters.”

The exhausted mother lay weakly in bed, watching as the obstetrician placed the baby on the scale. Her feeling of happiness erased all the pain from her face.

“Three kilos, eight hundred and fifty grams,” murmured the nurse, entering the data in the birth register.

“Have you picked out a name?”

The nurse didn’t notice that the mother had just dozed off.

“Eros!” said the man by the bed.

“You’re the father?”

“Yes.”

Or maybe not, the nurse thought to herself and entered the child’s name.

Ever since she’d first started assisting at births fourteen years ago, no man had ever doubted his own fatherhood. Once in a while one made a joke on the subject, but nobody actually doubted for real. As if they didn’t know that every seventh child wasn’t fathered by the man listed on the birth certificate.

She’d heard rumors that their hospital had been collecting genome sequences of the entire population for several years. At the beginning, the goal was to prevent the spread of hereditary diseases, but her colleagues in the records department also secretly produced genetic profiles based on genetic changes. These profiles could easily gnaw away at the roots of even very old and respectable family trees.

The nurse looked at the calendar and realized it was Friday and that she wasn’t on call that weekend.

“Date of birth ... July seventh,” she said in a somewhat better mood, slamming the file drawer shut, which made Eros scrunch his neck down as though he wanted to pull his head into his body.

“The mother and baby will stay in the hospital for three more days for observation ... You can come pick them up on Monday. I suggest you make good use of this weekend. You never know just how many sleepless nights are ahead of you.”

“It’s not the first time. Our older son’s name is Ares,” said the man proudly.



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“Ares and Eros! How nice,” said the nurse, feigning enthusiasm. But what she really thought was: These two have really fallen on their heads, straight down from Mt. Olympus itself! She wasn’t able to have children herself and so she’d never really understood proud parenthood.

Eros’ arrival was a big deal for the eight-year-old Ares. He’d wanted a brother more than anything, and he usually got what he wished for. From his first breath he’d been accustomed to having the entire house revolve around him.

His father often took him to work, carrying him on his shoulders, and they’d stroll around the construction sites watching the cranes, machines, and workers. He never ran out of questions and his father would patiently explain everything he was interested in.

All the neighbors and all the workers, directors, and prominent locals knew Ares. But when he started wishing for a brother, his parents didn’t really take him seriously because he was a big enough handful as it was.

But the boy wasn’t used to not getting what he wanted, so one day he decided to take matters into his own hands.

In those days, mothers usually left their babies in their strollers in front of the store while doing their daily shopping. So one day Ares had a look at the babies in front of the display window and dragged home a stroller with someone else’s baby. He introduced his brother to his astonished parents and absolutely refused to take him back.

When they found the distraught mother, who’d already called the police in the meantime, certain that her baby had been stolen by gypsies, Ares was still firmly clinging to the stroller.

And now Ares had finally lived to see the day his father went to the maternity hospital to pick up his mother and the baby. To pass the time, he took an apple and went to a nearby park.

By the old aquarium he ran into a soldier who’d caught a rat snake in the unmown grass. Ares could see that the snake was docile and not venomous, so he offered to trade it for the apple. They swapped and Ares took it home with him.

He carefully set it on the floor in his bedroom and went to the kitchen to get it something to drink. When he came back with a bowl of milk, he saw the snake’s tail disappearing under the bed. He looked for it for a while, but the snake had disappeared without a trace.



[psi]

Soon his parents came home with the baby and he forgot all about the snake. Ares went to the stroller, which had once been his, and took a curious look at his brother.

He was a bit disappointed. He'd expected a companion, maybe smaller than he was, but still good for hanging out and playing together. Instead he got this helpless creature that didn't walk, talk, or even have teeth to knock out.

Ares soon noticed that the entire house was revolving around this little newcomer. Grandma and Mom practically competed to be the one who held him the most. Ares was already too tall and heavy to be held in their laps, but he wasn't aware of that himself. Only his father would still put him on his shoe once in a while, but even that horsey wore out too quickly.

Suddenly it seemed to him that nobody was paying attention to him anymore. He was left on his own in the world of adults for the first time in his life, and this disturbed him greatly. He suspected that this had to do with his brother because everything had been different before he came.

One day he noticed that Eros had burped. Grandpa, who'd been immersed in his reading, put down his newspaper and went to the cradle. Ares couldn't remember that he'd ever been able to distract his grandfather from reading. And all this good-for-nothing had to do was burp and Grandpa was up in a flash.

He wished everything would go back to the way it used to be. Because he was the one that had wanted a brother in the first place, he also had the right to get rid of this nuisance.

He presented a new plan to his parents: Eros could simply be replaced by a dog.

But because this didn't happen either, he soon started hating Eros from the bottom of his heart.

He started picking on his brother, although not really noticeably ... He'd secretly pull his nose, pinch him, or press his cap over his eyes. Of course he had to be careful so nobody would catch him doing it.

He kept a good lookout on his brother and slowly developed his powers of observation. He kept perfecting his plan for how to destroy this little enemy. Even the toys he now wanted were connected with this. Instead of cars and colored pencils he now wanted guns, rifles, and tanks. He wanted things that flew up in the air and could randomly land in Eros' crib. Things that could explode or combust were right at the top of his list. But of course



[psi]

he didn't get those.

But the more Ares tried to harm his brother, the more attention Eros received, and he just couldn't understand that. Eros cried so much that his family thought there was something wrong with him. They saw various pediatricians, wondering Why all these tears?

Now Ares suddenly became unusually obedient and docile.

He hoped his parents would figure out that having a second child had been a mistake and would soon get rid of him.

Mom and Dad never suspected that the attentive brother was to blame. They thought that their second-born was sensitive and spoiled, and didn't worry too much about it.

Violets were blooming that Sunday when the family went for a walk in the city park. It was full of century-old trees from all over the world, with wide crowns and magnificent trunks. Each had a name label. The paths, strewn with white gravel, wound around the hedges and flowerbeds. People often ran into acquaintances there and stopped for a chat. Ares' parents also ended up in conversation with someone.

Ares was pushing the stroller around and kicking pebbles into the grass out of boredom. He gradually moved away from his parents and headed off towards the pond.

But his father noticed him and called him back. So Ares' plan fell through, and Eros remained high and dry.

Soon after that, he noticed a pair of swans on the other side of the pond. All the people were giving them a wide berth. The male would spread his wings and seize the passersby by their pant legs or skirts with his bill.

Ares now turned the stroller towards the swans. He approached them slowly, step by step.

What the stork has brought, the swan will take away! he said to himself, swerving the stroller violently back and forth in order to provoke the swan.

But the birds left the shore and swam towards the middle of the pond. Ares' plan had failed once again.

Steaming with anger because the swans had thwarted his plans, he seized the stroller fiercely. Frowning so intensely that two slanting lines appeared on his forehead, he plunged towards the stone steps.

A cloud of dust swirled behind the stroller as if some invisible hand were trying to take the handle. But right before the end



[psi]

of the paved footpath, he abruptly halted and overturned the stroller so that its wheels spun in the air.

Eros and all the other stroller contents flew into the air. The cushion that flew out with him was the first to land on the steps. Eros rolled off into the grass with it, miraculously surviving without even a scratch.

Eros managed to survive his early childhood mostly thanks to his nanny Eloise. She'd come to the family long ago because her widowed mother hadn't been able to support her by herself. Although still a child herself at the time, she'd looked after Eros' mother.

Eloise was a bony woman of medium height, who walked with a lifelong limp due to an injury to her right ankle. Her large, light blue eyes sparkled mischievously and her cheeks retained a youthful blush. She was the most trustworthy, kind-hearted, and honest creature in the world. Although she had neither family nor a lot of money, she never lacked anything. She was unpretentious and happy.

Eloise never complained and was never discontent. She never gossiped about anyone and nobody had ever seen her cry. Everyone loved her and considered her more an indispensable member of the family than a maid and nanny.

They took her along wherever they went and, when they moved to their house on the beach for the summer, she slept in the children's room, which was great fun for the two boys. Her stories were funny and the two brothers would often laugh hysterically listening to her tell stories about her youth, among which the most amusing were those connected with their mother. Eloise was the only one that saw through Ares' fratricidal plans, but she never told on him. And so she gained his trust. She spent a lot of time with the boys, keeping a close eye on Eros. She worked very hard to help bring the brothers closer and sometimes she even succeeded.

She knew that Ares was seeking the attention he'd lost when his brother was born.

Eros was unfamiliar with hatred and jealousy. He neither perceived nor understood these two emotions. He grew up in his bourgeois world and the years passed as if they were days. He received as much love as a boy could possibly want, but not the kind he wanted the most. His brother's love.



[psi]

He worshipped Ares like a god; to him, Ares was a wise elder who knew every secret. He saw him as his protector and guide through life. He believed that the outer world was full of dangers, but he couldn't comprehend that evil could also arise from a person he trusted.

Day after day, he tried to find favor in his brother's eyes, attract his attention, and win his affection, but all to no avail. He often retreated into his imagination and invented stories in which his brother loved and admired him. Eros' invented world soon became so realistic that he could escape to it and find comfort whenever he felt down.

Only Grandma was aware of his vivid imagination. Every morning, Eros could hardly wait to knock on her door and snuggle up in her warm bed. She told him stories about life that often held a hidden moral. He enjoyed listening to her and imagined her stories as vividly as if he himself were there in the middle of the action.

He sometimes thought about a secret plan he could use to get through Ares' iron armor, and one day he figured it out. He realized that he could get his brother's attention by attacking him.

This revelation of course meant a declaration of war.

The experienced and much taller Ares enjoyed his superiority and demonstrated his dominance over his little brother with great gusto. The first battles ended ignominiously for Eros ... but the war had only just begun.

All hell broke loose in the house and the parents were desperate. They just couldn't understand how the brothers could possibly hate each other so much. They were raising the two as well as they could and dedicated all of their time and love to both of them, but the boys were nonetheless completely different from each other and anything but affectionate. It didn't even occur to their parents that Eros had yet another teacher in life. What on Earth did we do wrong? they asked themselves over and over.

The mother and father offered the boys a loving example of mutual understanding, but still their sons were enemies, as though possessed by demons.

Whenever they were alone, Ares would mercilessly beat his brother. But Eros would pay it back in kind.



[psi]

Eros began to increasingly call in outside help to offset his weakness ... When his parents came home, he'd put on such an act that even the city theater would have been proud to take him on. And Ares was often punished even for things he hadn't actually done in the first place.

This is how the turbulent days of Eros' childhood unfolded, and most likely the state of war would have lasted for quite a while longer if a dog hadn't come into the house one day.

Ares had always wanted one. This was one of the rare unfulfilled wishes the two brothers shared. Mom would have given in about a dog, but Dad wouldn't hear of it. He loved animals, but he knew they required a lot of care and responsibility. He was afraid the boys would lose interest in it as quickly as they did with their toys.

Ares had long since lost faith in being able to persuade his father to buy a dog. Eros, on the other hand, who often manipulatively set his father and brother against each other, believed that nothing was really completely unattainable with their father.

Long-term negotiations began and Eros tirelessly listed all the reasons supporting his case. After a few weeks, he managed to convince his father to have a "test" dog. This meant that he was allowed to care for the poodle owned by some family acquaintances for two weeks, while they were away on vacation. The father firmly believed that this would be enough for his sons to realize what it was like to get up early every morning and take the dog for a walk, clean up after it, feed it, bathe and groom it, and have a hundred more things to do. But he was wrong.

Watching what was happening in disbelief, Ares realized that Eros had placed their father on a slippery slope. He availed himself of the opportunity and one day brought home a small black bundle.

The puppy, only a few weeks old, ran to their father first and snuggled into his lap as if he knew who he had to impress. The ice surrounding their father's heart melted and his firm "No" shattered like a Ming vase hitting a stone floor. This was the moment that unexpectedly brought the two brothers closer, and, if the parents had known that this little creature would bring a truce to the years-long war, they'd have gladly agreed to much more than this poor pup.



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Never had the brothers experienced harmony such as that brought into their lives by this truce. They took exemplary care of their dog. Ares' long-cherished dream had finally come true and to Eros the dog became a symbol of victory. He knew his brother now saw him in a completely different light and he enjoyed this immensely. But all this soon made him arrogant. Eros was growing up and becoming ever more conceited. Grace disappeared from his boyish face, humility evaporated from his thoughts, and his words became as sharp as a razor. Of course, this kind of behavior met with strong disapproval from his family, but the experience Eros had gained over the long years of fighting a much stronger opponent had made him so strong that no arrow could pierce him.

His will seemed infinite and he believed he could conquer anyone that got in his way. As if it wasn't already enough that he didn't believe in any god, it seemed he began to believe that he himself was a god. No obstacle could stop him, he refused to bow before any authority, and it seemed that there was no force that could keep him from achieving what he wanted. Until one day he was caught up short by a sad girl's broken heart. By a coincidence that wasn't coincidental, Sarena came into Eros' life.

He didn't even notice her when he first met her. Maybe this was because he was so absorbed in his own thoughts again that he didn't notice anyone around him, or because she was wearing so much makeup that he could only see a stage set before him. Perhaps this was also because once in his dreams he'd seen the eyes, as dark as mysterious night, but also as bright as the starry sky, that he'd fall in love with one day.

When Eros first spoke with her, he was drawn in by the sincerity of her words, and when he looked into her blue eyes he saw an ocean of sadness in them. A rejected world he recognized from somewhere else. For a brief moment, it even seemed to him that he looked into this world every day.

He asked her out that same evening and experienced something unusual. Before his very eyes, Sarena's tiny blemishes first disappeared from her face, then her two birthmarks, and finally all her other imperfections. Her teeth became as white as snow and her lips swelled like the first cherries in the neighbor's garden. The girl changed from one moment to the next as if she were slowly being covered by an invisible veil in angel form. Her



[psi]

light hair acquired a silky sheen and her body attained the curves of a forest nymph. In Eros' eyes Sarena turned into the most perfect creature in the world that night.

He fell asleep with a smile on his face.

Eros knew that the greatest works of art depicted, described, or lamented love. He'd read a lot about heroes who were destroyed by love and had seen wonderful monuments that people had erected in memory of their beloveds. He'd heard that love even caused the cruelest of wars that had destroyed even the most powerful kingdoms.

Until that very moment, Eros had considered all these efforts and all the suffering in the name of love to be excessive overreactions ... the absurdity of weak individuals and romantic artists, whom he'd always viewed as peculiar. But now it was as if he'd completely lost contact with reality; he wasn't aware of himself or the world around him. He suddenly began speaking in rhyme, painting, and writing poems, and he lived only for those few moments he could spend in her company. If he ranked the feelings of happiness he'd known until then on a scale of one to ten, the pointer would now stop at one hundred.

Sarena felt the same way ... but not towards Eros ... Her first love was still in her heart. Brokenhearted and disappointed, she was seeking comfort and, although she fought with all her might to erase the past from her memories, it was still there.

Eros was precisely what Sarena imagined a perfect world would be like, but she didn't feel anything special towards him, nonetheless. She couldn't even comprehend this herself and, because her mind spoke differently than her heart, she often cried. But she was really sincere ... She told Eros about her true feelings and her pain. But Eros didn't want to awaken from his dream.

He tried with all his might to get close to her, but every step only took him further away from her. The feeling that he wasn't good enough for her gradually crept into his mind. But he didn't want to admit that to himself and continued to fight just as he'd once fought for his brother's affection.

He couldn't understand that the harder he tried to be funny, the more boring he became. The more he worked out in order to tone his body, the fatter he became, and the more he tried to impress her by showing off his familial wealth and power, the poorer and weaker he became.



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As if that weren't enough, he began wearing elegant clothes, but he only ended up looking more pathetic in them. He'd douse himself in perfume, but this only increased his stench, and—what was the strangest of all—the harder he tried to be a great lover, the smaller his penis became. Every night it got smaller and smaller, until it was nearly gone.

Eros was slowly but surely turning into a pitiful wreck. His shoulders drooped, the light went out of his eyes, and even his teeth became yellow and crooked. He was soon gasping for breath and the doctors diagnosed him with asthma.

Only will was what remained of his former divinity.

Seven months passed, during which Eros was convinced he'd met the love of his life. For seven months he believed his own lies.

But one day Sarena approached him and looked straight into his dark sad eyes, in which hope still glimmered.

"Yesterday I ran into him again ... I couldn't take my eyes off him. I thought that I was stronger, but then he kissed me and I started to cry ..."

Eros started feeling like he was going to black out.

"... and then we made love, and deep inside I felt just like before."

Eros broke into a sudden sweat and the tears running down his cheeks mixed with drops of perspiration. He tried to compose himself, but couldn't move his jaw, lips, or tongue to say anything.

"I didn't want to hurt you. But you don't deserve to be lied to."

Eros looked Sarena in the eyes and spoke in an unusually calm voice, as if he weren't the one speaking and someone else was speaking on his behalf.

"Go back to him ... You still love him and I'd rather you were happy with him than unhappy with me."

His words were so noble and his heart was so sad that even a rock by the side of the road would have taken pity on him at that moment. It seemed as if time had come to a halt.

"And you?" asked Sarena after a long moment of silence.

"Don't worry about me, I'll be all right. All that I'm feeling right now is gratitude for this unforgettable experience," he managed to utter from the depths of his sorrow.

They said farewell and his tears burst through the dam of his



[psi]

will.

