!!! **ATTENTION** !!!

This is a message to all intelligent lifeforms in the galaxy. We are seeking candidates to assist in our scientific endeavors. Solve this puzzle to establish a basic level of intellect. To initiate press the ‘5’ key.

Greetings and congratulations on making it this far in the transmission. My name is Epsilon from the planet Threa. In attempts to expand our knowledge as a planet, we’ve decided to look outside our atmosphere for a species suitable for scientific collaboration. However, we need those willing to take risks in the pursuit of truth. Complete this next puzzle to establish a level of courage. To begin, press the key of the first character of this paragraph.

$f y6u’v# m>d# $t th$- f>r $n th# tr>n-m$--$6n, th#n $t >]]#>r- y6ur -]#c$#- $- > ]r$m# c>nd$d>t# t6 c6::>b6r>t# w$th. W$th > v>-t >m6unt 6f t#chn6:6g$c>: r#-#>rch >nd d>t>, w# n##d th6-# c>]>b:# 6f qu$ck :#>rn$ng >nd >d>]t>b$:$ty. -uch $m]6rt>nt $nf6rm>t$6n c>n :#>d t6 gr#>t#r #ff$c$#ncy $n -]>c# tr>v#: >nd >::6w n#w c$v$:$z>t$6n- t6 -]r#>d >cr6-- th# g>:>xy. >:: th>t $- n##d#d $- 6n# f$n>: t>-k t6 #-t>b:$-h > :#v#: 6f d#d$c>t$6n >nd th# c66rd$n>t#- t6 6ur g>:>xy w$:: b# g$v#n. -t>rt th# f$n>: t>-k by ]r#--$ng th# ]r6duct 6f (-$n(iR)+c6-(RY))^Ri)\*b\*(Y^-iY).