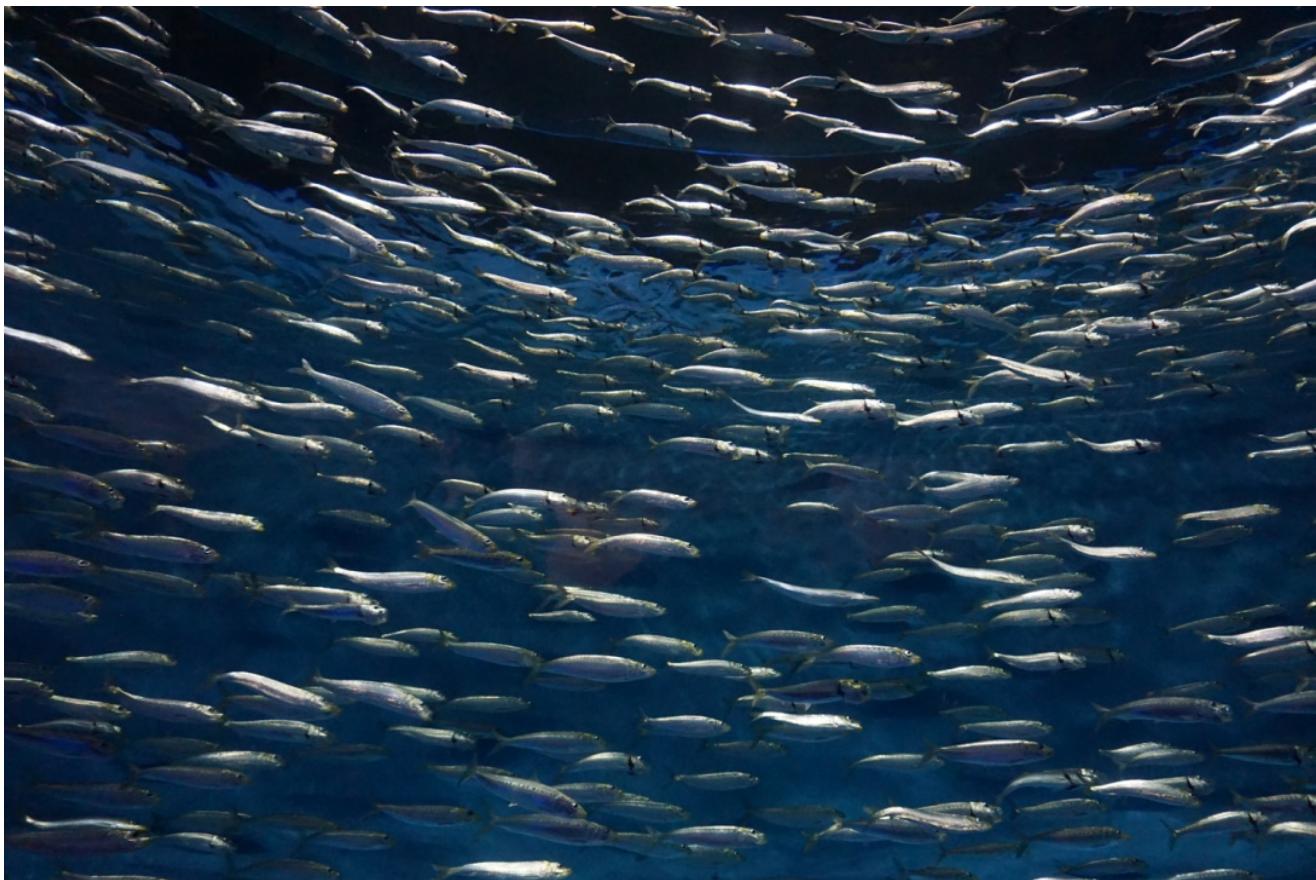

twenty-six



Simply ciphered classic shorts

Will Fitzgerald

National Novel Generation Month, 2016

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Introduction

I have always been fascinated with ciphers. As a software professional, I supposed I am meant to be good at them. But I am not, particularly. But I enjoy thinking about them; I retain a child-like wonder about them.

This, my entry in the National Novel Generation Month challenge by Darius Kazemi, uses a simple substitution cipher to encrypt twenty-six famous short stories, some of which are still under copyright. I suppose this is some kind of commentary on copyright--to publish them using a simple encryption scheme. But mostly I was interested to see how easy it might be to “read” a familiar story in an encrypted form.

For those unfamiliar with simple substitution ciphers, the idea is to replace each letter of the alphabet with a different, random, letter of the alphabet. If the “key” is $a \rightarrow b, b \rightarrow c, c \rightarrow d, d \rightarrow e, e \rightarrow f$, etc, then the encryption of “The cat sat on the mat.” is “Uif dbu tbu po uif nbu.” For English, there are $!26$, or 148 septillion 362 sextillion 637 quintillion 348 quadrillion 470 trillion 135 billion 821 million 287 thousand 825 different possible keys (at least, if letters are not allowed to encrypt themselves).

Despite this huge number, it is usually easy to break a simple substitution cipher based on letter frequencies and word patterns. Looking at the example above, noticing that “uif” appears twice is a hint that the original was “the.”

My original plan was to present several short stories, each with a different key. So, my first task was to look for stories that I loved that might be fun to encode. As I did so, though, I decided it would be even more fun to play with the kinds of encodings I used, perhaps even making it possible to read the story without laboriously deciphering it. In fact, this idea came to me when working with the Sherlock Holmes story, *The Adventure of the Dancing Men*, which is itself a story (spoiler alert!) about a substitution cipher. What if I used the code in *Dancing Men* to encode the story *Dancing Men*? What if I used the different heart symbols to encode the vowels of *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Poe, and use the emoji for cask for his *Cask of Amontillado*? Surely, Jackson’s *The Lottery* ought to use numbers for encoding. Only Flannery O’Connor’s story *Revelation* is hidden behind a full substitution cipher.

I hope you’ll enjoy this work. As always, I am grateful to Darius Kazemi for the very idea of National Novel Generation Month. Some simple cipher code can be found in my NaNoGenMo-2016 repository at GitHub (<https://github.com/willf/NaNoGenMo-2016>).

Chapter One

The Tell-Tale Heart

Edgar Allan Poe

The Tell-Tale Heart is a classic Poe story, first published in 1843. The text used here is from Project Gutenberg. The cipher is between the five vowels and various Unicode heart emojis.

Tr♥♥!—n♥rvy♥s—v♥ry, v♥ry dr♥dfollly n♥rvy♥s & h̄d b♥n &nd ēm; b♥t why w̄ll ȳ♥ s̄y th̄t & ēm m̄d? Th̄ d̄s♥s♥ h̄d sh̄rp♥n♥d my s̄ns♥s—n̄t d̄str̄y♥d —n̄t d̄ll♥d th̄m. Eb̄v♥ ell w̄s th̄ s̄ns♥ ȳf h̄v̄ng ēc̄t♥. & h̄v̄rd ell th̄ngs &n th̄ h̄v̄n &nd &n th̄ ērth. & h̄v̄rd m̄ny th̄ngs &n h̄ll. H̄w, th̄ n, ēm & m̄d? H̄erk̄n! ēnd ībs♥rv♥ h̄w h̄lth̄ly—h̄w c̄lmly & c̄n t̄ll ȳ♥ th̄ wh̄l♥ st̄ry.

at &s &mp̄ssabl♥ t̄ s̄y h̄w f̄rst th̄ ad̄s & nt̄r̄d my br̄an; b̄t ȳnc♥ c̄nc♥ av̄d, at h̄v̄nt̄d m̄d d̄y &nd n̄ght. ȳbj̄ct th̄r̄ w̄s n̄n. P̄ss̄n th̄r̄ w̄s n̄n. & l̄v̄d th̄ ȳld m̄n. H̄ h̄d n̄v̄r wr̄nḡd m̄. H̄ h̄d n̄v̄r ḡv̄n m̄ &ns̄lt. F̄ȳr has ḡld & h̄d nȳ d̄s̄r̄. & thank at w̄s has ȳs, at w̄s th̄s! H̄ h̄d th̄ ȳs ȳf & v̄lt̄r̄—& p̄el♥ bl̄v̄ ȳs, w̄th & f̄alm ȳv̄r at. Wh̄n v̄r r at f̄ll p̄ȳn m̄, my bl̄ȳd r̄n c̄ld; &nd s̄y by d̄gr̄s—v̄ry gr̄d̄lly—& m̄d̄p my m̄nd t̄ ȳt̄k̄ th̄ laf̄ ȳf th̄ ȳld m̄n, &nd th̄s r̄d mys̄lf ȳf th̄ ȳs f̄ȳr v̄r.

N̄w th̄s &s th̄ p̄ȳt̄. Ȳ♥♥ f̄ancy m̄ m̄d. M̄dm̄n kn̄w n̄th̄ng. B̄t ȳ♥♥ sh̄y♥ld h̄v̄ s̄n m̄. Ȳ♥♥ sh̄y♥ld h̄v̄ s̄n h̄w w̄s&ly & pr̄c̄d̄d̄—w̄th wh̄t c̄v̄t̄—w̄th wh̄t f̄ȳr̄s̄ḡht—w̄th wh̄t d̄ss̄m̄l̄t̄—w̄nt t̄ w̄rk! & w̄s n̄v̄r k̄nd̄r t̄ th̄ ȳld m̄n th̄n d̄r̄ng th̄ wh̄l♥ w̄s&k b̄f̄ȳr̄ & k̄ll̄d h̄m. &nd &v̄ry n̄ght, Eb̄v̄t m̄dn̄ght, & t̄rn̄d th̄ l̄tch ȳf has d̄ȳr̄ &nd ȳp̄n̄d at—ȳh s̄y ḡntly! &nd th̄n, wh̄n & h̄d m̄d̄ & n̄p̄n̄ng s̄ff̄c̄nt f̄ȳr my h̄d, & p̄t &n d̄rk l̄nt̄rn, ell cl̄ȳs̄d, cl̄ȳs̄d, th̄t n̄t̄ l̄ght sh̄ȳn♥ ȳt̄, &nd th̄n & thr̄st &n my h̄d. ȳh, ȳ♥♥ w̄ȳld h̄v̄ l̄gh̄d t̄ s̄s̄ h̄w c̄nn̄ngly & thr̄st

at an! a m^gv^d at sl^gwly—v^ry, v^ry sl^gwly, s^f th^t a m^aght n^gt d^ast^rb th^r yld
m^on's sl^op. at t^gy^k m^o n h^gr t^g pl^ce my wh^gl^o h^oed w^athan th^r y^pn^ang
s^f f^r th^t a c^gl^d s^op h^am^os h^o l^gy p^gn^os b^od. H^g! w^gl^d a m^odm^on h^ov^r b
h^oon s^f w^as^o s^oth^a? End th^rn, wh^rn my h^oed w^as w^oll aⁿ th^r r^gy^m, a^ond^ad th
h^o l^ont^orn c^ota^gsly—y^h, s^f c^ota^gsly—c^ota^gsly (f^gr th^r h^ong^os cr^oek^od)—
a^ond^ad at j^ost s^f m^och th^t a s^ong^o than r^gy f^oll p^gn^o th^r v^olt^r r^o y^o. End
th^as a d^ad f^gr s^ov^on l^gng na^ghts—v^ry na^ght j^ost a^t m^odn^aght—b^ot a^o fy^ond th^r
y^o v^o Elw^oys cl^gs^od; End s^f at w^as a^omp^gss^obl^o t^g d^o th^r w^grk; f^gr at w^as n^gt th^r
yld m^on wh^g v^ox^od m^o, b^ot h^as v^oal y^o. End v^ry m^grn^ang, wh^rn th^r d^oy
br^gk^o, a^o w^ont b^gldly a^ont^g th^r ch^omb^or, End sp^gk^o c^gl^reg^gy^osly t^g h^am, c^oll^ang
h^am by n^om^o aⁿ h^oo^rty t^gn^o, End a^onq^oa^ong h^gw h^o h^os p^oss^od th^r na^ght.
S^f y^g s^op h^o w^gl^d h^ov^r b^oon v^ry pr^gff^ond yld m^on, a^ond^od, t^g s^osp^oct
th^t v^ry na^ght, j^ost a^t tw^olv^o, a^o ly^gk^od aⁿ p^gn^o h^am wh^ol^o h^o sl^opt.

•pÿn th• h•ghth n•ght • w•s mÿr• th•n s•lly c•t•g•s •n p•n•ng th• dÿr.
• w•tch's m•n•t• h•nd mÿv•s mÿr• q•ckly th•n d•d m•n•. N•v•r b•f•r• th•t
n•ght h•d • f•lt th• xt•nt yf my ywn p•w•rs—yf my s•g•c•ty. • c•v•ld sc•rc•ly
c•nt•n my f•ll•ngs yf tr•mph. Tÿ th•nk th•t th•r• • w•s, yp•n•ng th• dÿr,
l•ttl• by l•ttl•, •nd h• n•t v•n tÿ dr•m yf my s•cr•t d•ll•ds y•r thy•ghts. •
f•arly ch•ckl•d Et th• ad•; •nd p•rh•ps h• h•rd m•; fÿr h• mÿv•d yn th• b
•d s•dd•nly, •s af st•rl•d. Nÿw yÿ m•y th•nk th•t • dr•w b•ck—b•t nÿ. H•s
rÿm w•s •s bl•ck •s patch w•th th• th•ck d•rkness, (fÿr th• sh•tt•rs w•r• clÿs•
fest•n•d, thrÿgh f•er yf rÿbb•rs,) •nd sÿ • kn•w th•t h• c•v•ld n•t s•s th• y•p•
n•ng yf th• dÿr, •nd • k•pt p•sh•ng at yn st•ed•ly, st•ed•ly.

• h̄d my h̄d •n, •nd w̄'s b̄t t̄ p̄n th̄ l̄nt̄rn, wh̄n my th̄mb sl̄pp̄d
•p̄n th̄ t̄n f̄st̄n̄ng, •nd th̄ yld m̄n spr̄ng •p •n b̄d, crȳng b̄t—“Wh̄'s th̄
•r̄?”

• k•pt q•at• stall end s•ad n•th•ng. F•r • whyl• h•vr • dad n•t myv• m•scl•,
End •n th• m•nt•m• dad n•t h•r h•m l• d•wn. H• w•s stall s•tt•ng •p
•n th• b•d l•st•n•ng;—j•st •s • h•v• d•n•, na•ght •ft•r na•ght, h•rk•n•ng t•y
th• d•eth w•tch•s •n th• well.

Pr^os^on^tly a h^{er}d & sl^aght gr^yen, And a kn^w at w^es th^o gr^yen y^f m^grt^{el} t^{rr}y^r. At w^es n^yt & gr^yen y^f p^on^t r^h gr^alf—y^h, n^y!—At w^es th^o l^yw st^afl^d s^yvnd th^t cr^as^ss fr^ym th^o b^ytt^ym y^f th^o s^yl wh^on y^vrch^{rg} d w^ath^t w^o. A kn^w th^o s^ynd w^oll. M^ony a na^ght, jst Et m^adn^aght, wh^on ell th^o w^yrl^d sl^{pt}, At h^os w^oll d^op fr^ym my y^wn b^ys^ym, d^op^on^ang, w^ath^t ts dr^odf^ol ch^y, th^o t^{rr}y^rs th^t d^astr^ct^d m^o. A s^y a kn^w at w^oll. A kn^w wh^t th^o y^{ld} m^on f^{lt}, And p^at^aod h^am, Elth^ygh a ch^{ck}kl^d Et h^{er}t. A kn^w th^t h^o h^{ed} b^oon ly^ang w^{ek} v^or s^anc^o th^o fa^{rst} sl^aght n^yts^o, wh^on h^o h^{ed} t^{rn}od a n th^o b^od. Ha^s f^oers h^{ed} b^o o n v^or s^anc^o gr^yw^ang p^yn h^am. H^o h^{ed} b^oon try^ang t^y f^{ancy} th^om c^es^ol^oss, b^ot c^yld n^yt. H^o h^{ed} b^oon s^yang t^y h^ams^olf—“At a s n^yth^ang b^ot th^o w^and a n th^o cha^mny—At a s y^{nl}y & my^ss^o cry^sang th^o fly^yr,” y^r “At a s m^or^oly & crack o^t wh^ach h^os m^od^o & s^angl^o ch^{rp}.” Y^os, h^o h^{ed} b^oon try^ang t^y c^ymf^yrt h^ams^olf w^ath^t th^os^o s^opp^ys^ot^yns: b^ot h^o h^{ed} fy^ynd ell a n v^oaⁿ. Ell a n v^oaⁿ; b^oc^es^o D o^oth, a n oppr^yching h^am h^{ed} st^{el}k^d w^ath^t h^os bl^eck sh^{ed}y^w b^of^yr^o h^am, And v^ol^yp^od th^o v^ac^om. End At w^es th^o m^gvnf^ol a n fl^onc^o y^f th^o v^{np}rc^o v^o d sh^{ed}y^w th^t c^es^od h^am t^y f^ool—Elth^ygh h^o n^oatho^r s^yw n^yr h^ord—t^y f^ool th^o pr^os^onc^o y^f my h^ord w^ath^t n th^o r^yym.

Wh^on a h^{ed} w^oat^d & ly^{ng} t^am^o, v^ory p^ot^antly, w^ath^yh^ot h^ora^{ng} h^am la^o d^ywn, a r^os^ylv^d t^y y^pon^t l^attl^o—v^ory, v^ory l^attl^o cr^ov^ac^o a n th^o l^ont^orn. S^y a y^pon^d a t—y^y c^onn^yt a m^og^on^t h^yw st^o Elth^oly, st^o Elth^oly—l^ont^ol, Et l^ongth^t s^ampl^o d^om r^oy, l^ok^o th^o thr^oed y^f th^o sp^ad^or, sh^yt fr^ym y^ot th^o cr^ov^ac^o End f^oll f^oll v^yn th^o v^olt^or^o v^oy^o.

At w^es y^pon—w^od^o, w^od^o y^pon—End a gr^ow f^ora^ys^os a g^oz^od v^yn a t. A s^yw a t w^ath^t p^orf^oct d^ast^anctn^oss—ell a d^oll bl^oo, w^ath^t h^od^oy^os v^oal y^vo^r a t th^t ch^all^od th^o v^ory m^orr^yw a n my b^yn^os; b^ot a c^yld s^oo n^yth^ang ols^o y^f th^o y^{ld} m^on's f^oc^o y^r p^ors^yn: y^r a h^{ed} d^ar^oct^d th^o r^oy^os a f by a nst^ant, pr^oc^as^oly v^yn th^o d^omn^od sp^yt.

End h^ov^o a n^yt t^yld y^y th^t wh^t y^y m^ost^ok^o f^yr m^odn^oss a s b^ot y^vo^r-c^ot^on^o ss y^f th^o s^ons^o?—n^yw, a s^yy, th^or^o c^om^o t^y my v^oers a l^yw, d^oll, q^oack s^ynd, s^och^t s^o w^ach m^ok^os wh^on v^ol^yp^od a n c^ytt^yn. A kn^w th^t s^ynd w^oll, t^yy.

at w^es th^ob^ot^ong y^f th^o y^fld m^en's h^ort. at a^{ncr}^os^d my f^ory, s^e th^ob^ot^ong y^f dr^om st^am^let^os th^o syld^aor a^{nty} c^yl^reg^o.

B^ot^ov^on y^ot^o r^ofr^on^od^ond k^opt stall. a^{sc}rc^oly br^oth^od. a^hold th^o l^ont^orn m^gta^gnl^oss. a^{tr}a^{od} h^gw st^oed^oly a^cyld m^ent^on th^o r^oy^op^oyn th^o v^o. M^ont^om^o th^o h^ollash t^ott^oy^o y^f th^o h^ort a^{ncr}^os^d. at gr^ow q^ock^or^ond q^ock^or^o, nd l^gld^or^ond l^gld^or^o v^ory aⁿst^ont. Th^o y^fld m^en's t^orr^or m^ost h^ov^ob^oon v^oxtr^om^o! at gr^ow l^gld^or^o, a^sey, l^gld^or^o v^ory m^gm^ont!—d^g y^g m^ork m^ow^oll a^hev^o t^gld y^g th^ot^o em n^orv^os: s^g a^{em}. End n^gw^o et th^o d^oed h^gvr^oy^f th^o n^ght, em^od th^o dr^odf^ol s^ol^onc^o y^f th^ot^o y^fld h^gvs^o, s^g str^ong^o n^gts^o s^e th^os^oxc^ot^od m^o t^g nc^ont^oll^obl^o t^orr^or. Y^ot, f^gyr s^gm^o m^on^ot^os l^gng^or^o r^ofr^on^od^ond st^gyd stall. B^ot^oth^o b^ot^ong gr^ow l^gld^or^o, l^gld^or^o! athg^oht th^o h^ort m^ost b^orst. End n^gw^o n^ow^o enx^ooty s^ol^oz^od m^o—th^o s^gnd w^gld b^o h^ord by^o n^oaghb^oy^or! Th^o y^fld m^en's h^gvr^o h^od c^gm^o! W^oth^o l^gld y^oll, a^{thr}ow^o y^opn th^o l^ont^orn^ond l^oep^od^ont^o th^o r^gym. H^o shr^ok^od^o y^gnc^o—y^gnc^o y^gonly. aⁿ eⁿ aⁿst^ont^o a^{dr}egg^od h^om^o t^g th^o fl^gyr, End p^oll^od th^o h^ovy b^od^o y^gvr^o h^om. athon sm^ol^od g^oaly, t^g f^ond th^o d^ood^o s^g fer^o d^gn^o. B^ot, f^gyr m^ony m^on^ot^os, th^o h^ort b^oet^o y^gn w^oth^o m^offl^od s^gnd. Th^os, h^gw^ov^or, d^od n^gt v^ox m^o; at w^gld n^gt b^o h^ord thr^ogh th^o well. Et l^ongth^o at c^oes^od. Th^o y^fld m^en w^es d^oed. a^rom^gv^od th^o b^od^ond^o x^om^on^od th^o c^grps^o. Y^os, h^ow^es st^gn^o, st^gn^o d^oed. a^{pl}e^oc^od my h^ond^o p^ogn th^o h^ort^ond h^old^o at th^or^o m^ony m^on^ot^os. Th^or^o w^es n^gp^ols^ota^gn. H^ow^es st^gn^o d^oed. Has^o s^oy^ow^gld tr^gbl^om^o n^gm^gr^o.

a^f stall y^g thank m^om^od, y^g w^oll thank s^g n^g l^gng^or wh^on a^dscr^ob^o th^o w^os^o pr^oc^ot^ons a^t t^gyk f^gyr th^o c^gnc^oelm^ont y^f th^o b^gdy. Th^o n^ght w^on^od, End a^wrk^od h^ost^oly, b^ot^o n^osal^onc^o. F^orst y^f ell^o a^dsm^omb^or^od th^o c^grps^o. a^cot^o y^fff th^o h^oed^ond th^o rms^ond th^o l^ogs.

athon t^gyk^o p^o thr^o pl^onk^o fr^om th^o fly^ong y^f th^o ch^omb^or^o, End d^op^oys^oat^o ell^o b^otw^oon th^o sc^ont^ongs. athon r^opl^oc^od th^o b^gards s^g cl^ov^orly, s^g conn^ongly, th^ot^o n^g h^om^on^o y^o—n^gt^o v^on h^os—c^gld h^ov^o d^ot^oct^od^o ny th^ow^ong. Th^or^o w^es n^gth^ong t^g w^osh^o y^ot^o—n^g st^oan^o y^f ny k^ond^o—n^g bl^gyd^osp^oft wh^o v^or. a^hed b^oon t^g y^o w^ory f^gyr th^ot. a^t b^o h^od c^ought ell^o—h^o! h^o!

Wh♥n • h♥d m♥d • n♥nd y♥f th♥s♥ l♥b♥rs, •t w♥s f♥Vr y♥cl♥ck—st•ll d♥rk •s
m♥dn♥ght. •s th♥ b♥ll s♥y♥nd♥d th♥ h♥Vr, th♥r♥ c♥m♥ • kn♥ck•ng •t th♥ str♥rt
d♥y♥r. •w♥nt d♥y♥wn t♥y y♥p•n •t w♥th • la♥ght h♥rt,—f♥r wh♥t h♥d • ny♥w t♥y f♥er? Th
•r♥ •nt♥r♥d thr♥ m♥n, wh♥y •ntr♥y•d•c•d th♥ms♥lv♥s, w♥th p•rf•ct s♥v•a•ty,
•s y♥ff•c•rs y♥f th♥ p•yl•c•. • shr•a•k h♥d b•u•n h♥rd by • n♥agh•b•Vr d•r•ng th♥
n•ght; s•sp•c•gn y♥f f•yl• pl•ey h♥d b•u•n e•ry•s•d; •nf•rm•t•gn h♥d b•u•n l•dg•d
•t th♥ p•yl•c• y♥ff•c•, •nd th♥y (th♥ y♥ff•c•rs) h♥d b•u•n d•p•t•d t♥y s•rch th♥
pr•m•s•s.

• sm•l•d,—f•r wh•t h•d • t• f•r? • b•d• th• g•ntl•m•n w•lc•m•. Th• shr•k,
k, • s•d, w•s my y•wn •n • dr•m. Th• y•ld m•n, • m•nt•y•nd, w•s b•bs•nt •n th
• c•ntry. • t•y k my v•sa•t•rs ell y•v•r th• h•ys•. • b•d• th•m s•rch—s•rch w
•ll. • l•d th•m, Et l•ngth, t• h•s ch•mb•r. • sh•w•d th•m h•s tr•s•r•s, s•c•r
•, v•nd•st•rb•d. •n th• v•nth•s•sm y•f my c•nf•d•nc•, • br•ght ch•ars •nt•
• r•ym, End d•s•r•d th•m h•r• t• r•st fr•ym th•ar f•t•g•s, wh•l• • mys•lf,
•n th• w•ld v•d•ct•y y•f my p•rf•ct tr•mph, pl•c•d my y•wn s•et v•p y•n th• v•ry
sp•t b•n•th wh•ch r•p•ys•d th• c•rps• y•f th• v•ct•m.

Th♥ yffe•c♥rs w♥r♥ s•t•sf•d. My m•nn•r h•d c•nv•nc•d th•m. & w•s
s•ng•l•rly &t ♥•s•. Th•y s•t, &nd wh•l• & nsw•r•d ch•r•ly, th•y ch•tt•d yf
f•m•l•r th•ngs. B•t, ♥r• lyng, & f•lt mys•lf g•tt•ng p•l• &nd w•sh•d th•m g•n
•. My h•d &ch•d, &nd & f•nc•d & r•ng•ng &n my ♥•rs: b•t st•ll th•y s•t &nd
st•ll ch•tt•d. Th• r•ng•ng b•c•m• myr• d•st•nct: -at c•nt•n•d &nd b•c•m•
myr• d•st•nct: & talk•d myr• fr•lly t•y g•t r•d yf th• f•ll•ng: b•t &at c•nt•n•
d &nd g•n•d d•f•n•t•n•ss-•nt•al, &t l•ngth, & fy•nd th•t th• ny•s• w•s ny•
w•th•n my ♥•rs.

Ny d'y'bt a n'y w gr'w v'ry p'el';—b't a t'lk'd m'y'r fl'v'ntly, End w'ath h'ght
n'd v'y'c. Y't th' s'y'nd a ncr'e's'd—End wh'et c'y'ld a d'y? a t w'e's e l'y'w, d'll,
q'ck s'y'nd—m'ch s'ch e s'y'nd e's e w'ch m'k's wh'n n'v'l'y'p'd a n c'y'tt'jn. a
g'sp'd f'y'r br'v'eth—End y't th' y'ff'c'rs h'v'rd a t n'y. a t'lk'd m'y'r q'ckly—
m'y'r v'h'm'ntly; b't th' n'y's st'c'daly a ncr'e's'd. a Er's End erg'v'd
Eb'y'bt tra'fl's, a n e h'gh k'y End w'ath v'a'y'l'ont g'st'c'l'e't'ys; b't th' n'y's st
v'daly a ncr'e's'd. Why w'y'ld th'y n'y b' g'y'n'? a p'c'v'd th' fl'g'r t' End fr'

w•th h•vy str•d•s, &s af xc•t•d t•f f•ry by th• ybs•rv•t•ns f th• m•n—b•t
th• n•s• st•d•ly •ncr•s•d. Sh G•d! wh•t c•ld • d•? • ff•m•d—• r•v•d—
sw•r•! • sw•ng th• ch•ar •p•n wh•ch • h•d b•n s•tt•ng, &nd gr•t•d •t •p•n
th• b•rds, b•t th• n•s• er•s• yv•r ell &nd c•nt•n•lly •ncr•s•d. •t gr•w
ly•d•r—ly•d•r—ly•d•r! &nd st•ll th• m•n ch•tt•d pl•es•ntly, &nd sm•l•d. W•s
•t p•ss•bl• th•y h•rd n•t? Elm•ghty G•d!—n•t, n•t! Th•y h•rd!—th•y s•sp•ct•
d!—th•y kn•w!—th•y w•r• m•k•ng & m•ck•ry yf my h•rr•r!-tha•s • th•ght, &nd
tha•s • tha•k. B•t nyth•ng w•s b•tt•r tha•n tha•s eg•ny! Nyth•ng w•s my•r• t•yl•
r•bl• th•n tha•s d•r•s•g•n! • c•ld b•r th•s• hyp•cra•c•l sm•l•s n• l•ng•r! • f
•lt tha•t • m•st scr•em y•r da•! &nd nyw—eg•an!—h•rk! ly•d•r! ly•d•r! ly•d•r!
ly•d•r!

“V•ll•ns!” • shr•k•d, “d•ss•mbl• n• my•r•! • Edm•t th• d•d!—t•r•p th•
pl•ns! h•r•, h•r•!—•t •s th• b•tt•ng yf ha•s ha•d•y•s h•rt!”

Chapter Two

The Cask of Amontillado

Edgar Allan Poe

The Cask of Amontillado, also by Edgar Allan Poe, was first published in 1846. The text used here is from Project Gutenberg. The cipher features a cask of thousands.

Th ⚡ th ⚡ usand injuri ⚡ s ⚡ f F ⚡ rtunat ⚡ I had b ⚡ rn ⚡ as I b ⚡ st c ⚡ uld; but wh ⚡ n h ⚡ v ⚡ ntur ⚡ d up ⚡ n insult, I v ⚡ w ⚡ d r ⚡ v ⚡ ng ⚡ . Y ⚡ u, wh ⚡ s ⚡ w ⚡ ll kn ⚡ w th ⚡ natur ⚡ f my s ⚡ ul, will n ⚡ t supp ⚡ s ⚡ , h ⚡ w ⚡ v ⚡ r, that I gav ⚡ utt ⚡ ranc ⚡ t ⚡ a thr ⚡ at. At l ⚡ ngth I w ⚡ uld b ⚡ av ⚡ ng ⚡ d; this was a p ⚡ int d ⚡ finitiv ⚡ ly s ⚡ ttl ⚡ d--but th ⚡ v ⚡ ry d ⚡ finitiv ⚡ n ⚡ ss with which it was r ⚡ s ⚡ lv ⚡ d, pr ⚡ clud ⚡ d th ⚡ id ⚡ a ⚡ f risk. I must n ⚡ t ⚡ nly punish, but punish with impunity. A wr ⚡ ng is unr ⚡ dr ⚡ ss ⚡ d wh ⚡ n r ⚡ tributi ⚡ n ⚡ v ⚡ rtak ⚡ s its r ⚡ dr ⚡ ss ⚡ r. It is ⚡ qually unr ⚡ dr ⚡ ss ⚡ d wh ⚡ n th ⚡ av ⚡ ng ⚡ r fails t ⚡ mak ⚡ hims ⚡ lf f ⚡ lt as such t ⚡ him wh ⚡ has d ⚡ n ⚡ th ⚡ wr ⚡ ng.

It must b ⚡ und ⚡ rst ⚡ d, that n ⚡ ith ⚡ r by w ⚡ rd n ⚡ r d ⚡ d had I giv ⚡ n F ⚡ rtunat ⚡ caus ⚡ t ⚡ d ⚡ ubt my g ⚡ d will. I c ⚡ ntinu ⚡ d, as was my w ⚡ nt, t ⚡ smil ⚡ in his fac ⚡ , and h ⚡ did n ⚡ t p ⚡ rc ⚡ iv ⚡ that my smil ⚡ n ⚡ w was at th ⚡ th ⚡ ught ⚡ f his imm ⚡ lati ⚡ n.

H ⚡ had a w ⚡ ak p ⚡ int--this F ⚡ rtunat ⚡ --alth ⚡ ugh in ⚡ th ⚡ r r ⚡ gards h ⚡ was a man t ⚡ b ⚡ r ⚡ sp ⚡ ct ⚡ d and ⚡ v ⚡ n f ⚡ ar ⚡ d. H ⚡ prid ⚡ d hims ⚡ lf ⚡ n his c ⚡ nn ⚡ iss ⚡ urship in win ⚡ . F ⚡ w Italians hav ⚡ th ⚡ tru ⚡ virtu ⚡ s ⚡ spirit. F ⚡ r th ⚡ m ⚡ st part th ⚡ ir ⚡ nthusiasm is ad ⚡ pt ⚡ d t ⚡ suit th ⚡ tim ⚡ and ⚡ pp ⚡ rtunity--t ⚡ practis ⚡ imp ⚡ stor ⚡ up ⚡ n th ⚡ British and Austrian milli ⚡ nair ⚡ s. In painting and g ⚡ mmary, F ⚡ rtunat ⚡ , lik ⚡ his c ⚡ untrym ⚡ n, was a quack--but in th ⚡ matt ⚡ r

f ld win s h was sinc r . In this r sp ct I did n t diff r fr m him mat rially: I was skilful in th Italian vintag s mys lf, and b ught larg ly wh n v r I c uld.

It was ab ut dusk, n v ning during th supr m madn ss f th carnival s as n, that I nc unt r d my fri nd. H acc st d m with xc ssiv warmth, f r h had b n drinking much. Th man w r m tl y. H had n a tight-fitting parti-strip d dr ss, and his h ad was surm unt d by th c nical cap and b lls. I was s pl as d t s him, that I th ught I sh uld n v r hav d n wringing his hand.

I said t him--“My d ar F rtunat , y u ar luckily m t. H w r markably w ll y u ar l king t -day! But I hav r c iv d a pip f what pass s f r Am ntillad , and I hav my d ubts.”

“H w?” said h . “Am ntillad ? A pip ? Imp ssibl ! And in th middl f th carnival!”

“I hav my d ubts,” I r pli d; “and I was silly n ugh t pay th full Am ntillad pric with ut c nsulting y u in th matt r. Y u w r n tt b f und, and I was f arful f sing a bargain.”

“Am ntillad !”

“I hav my d ubts.”

“Am ntillad !”

“And I must satisfy th m.”

“Am ntillad !”

“As yu aru ngagd, I am n my way tLuchsi. If any nn has a critical turn, it is h. H will tll m--”

“Luchsi cannt tll Amntilladf m Shrry.”

“And yt sm fls will havit that his tastis a match fr yu rwn.”

“Cm, lt us g.”

“Whithr?”

“Tyur vaults.”

“My frind, n; I will nt imps upnyurgd natur. I prcivyu havan ngagmnt. Luchsi--”

“I havnngagmnt;--cm.”

“My frind, n. It is nt thngagmnt, but thsvrcld with which I prcivyu arafflictd. Thvaults arinsuffrably damp. Thyarncrustd with nitr.”

“Lt us g, nvrthlss. Thcld is mrly nthing. Amntillad! Yu havbn imps d upn. And as fr Luchsi, hcannt distinguish Shrry frm Amntillad.”

Thus spaking, Frtunatpssssd himslf f my arm. Puttingn a mask ublack silk, and drawing a rqulairclsly abut my prsn, I suffred him thurry mt my palazz.

Thrwrnattndants at hm; thy had abscndd tmakmrry in hnrf thtim. I had tld thm that I shuld nt rturn until thmrning, and had givn thmxplicitrdrsnttstir frm thhus. Thsrdrswrsufficint, I wll knw, tinsur.

th ir imm diat disapp aranc , n and all, as s n as my back was turn d.

It k fr m th ir sc nc s tw flamb aux, and giving n t F rtunat , b w d him thr ugh s v ral suit s f r ms t th archway that l d int th vaults. I pass d d wn a l ng and winding staireas , r qu sting him t b cauti us as h f ll w d. W cam at l ngth t th f t f th d sc nt, and st d t g th r n th damp gr und f th catac mbs f th M ntr s rs.

Th gait f my fri nd was unst ady, and th b lls up n his cap jingl d as h str d .

“Th pip ,” said h .

“It is farth r n,” said I; “but bs rv th whit w b-w rk which gl ams fr m th s cav rn walls.”

H turn d t wards m , and l k d int my y s with tw filmy rbs that distill d th rh um f int xicati n.

“Nitr ?” h ask d, at l ngth.

“Nitr ,” I r pli d. “H w l ng hav y u had that c ugh?”

“Ugh! ugh! ugh!--ugh! ugh! ugh!--ugh! ugh! ugh!--ugh! ugh! ugh!”

My p r fri nd f und it imp ssibl t r ply f r many minut s.

“It is n thing,” h said, at last.

“C m ,” I said, with d cisi n, “w will g back; y ur h alth is pr ci us. Y u ar rich, r sp ct d, admir d, b l v d; y u ar happy, as nc I was. Y u ar a man t b miss d. F r m it is n matt r. W will g

back; y u will b ill, and I cann t b r sp nsibl . B sid s, th r is
Luch si--"

" n ugh," h said; "th c ugh is a m r n thing; it will n t kill m . I shall
n t di f a c ugh."

"Tru --tru , I r pli d; "and, ind d, I had n int nti n f alarming y u
unn c ssarily--but y u sh uld us all pr p r cauti n. A draught f this M
d c will d f nd us fr m th damps."

H r I kn ck d ff th n ck f a b ttl which I dr w fr m a l ng r
w f its f ll ws that lay up n th m uld.

"Drink," I said, pr s nting him th win .

H rais d it t his lips with a l r. H paus d and n dd d t m
familiarly, whil his b lls jingl d.

"I drink," h said, "t th buri d that r p s ar und us."

"And I t y ur l ng lif ."

H again t k my arm, and w pr c d d.

"Th s vaults," h said, "ar xt nsiv ."

"Th M ntr s rs," I r pli d, "w r a gr at and num r us family."

"If rg t y ur arms."

"A hug human f t d' r, in a fi ld azur ; th f t crush s a s rp nt
rampant wh s fangs ar imb dd d in th h l."

"And th m tt ?"

"N m m impun lac ssit."

"G d!" h said.

Th win sparkl d in his y s and th b lls jingl d. My wn fancy gr w
warm with th M d c. W had pass d thr ugh walls f pil d b n s, with
casks and punch ns int rmingling, int th inm st r c ss s f th
catac mbs. I paus d again, and this tim I mad b ld t s iz F rtunat
by an arm ab v th lb w.

"Th nitr !" I said: "s , it incr as s. It hangs lik m ss up n th vaults.
W ar b l w th riv r's b d. Th dr ps f m istur trickl am ng
th b n s. C m , w will g back r it is t lat . Y ur c ugh--"

"It is n thing," h said; "l t us g n. But first, an th r draught f th M
d c."

I br k and r ach d him a flag n f D Grâv . H mpti d it at a br
ath. His y s flash d with a fi rc light. H laugh d and thr w th b ttl
upwards with a g sticulati n I did n t und rstand.

I l k d at him in surpris . H r p at d th m v m nt--a gr t
squ n .

"Y u d n t c mpr h nd?" h said.

"N t I," I r pli d.

"Th n y u ar n t f th br th rh d."

"H w?"

"Y u ar n t f th mas ns."

"Y s, y s," I said, "y s, y s."

“Yu? Impssibl! A masn?”

“A masn,” I rplid.

“A sign,” hsaid.

“It is this,” I answrd, prducing a trwl frm bnath thfldsf my rqulair.

“Yujst,” hxclaimd, rciling a fwpacs. “But ltus prccd tth Amntillad.”

“Bit s,” I said, rplacing thtl bnath thclak, and again ffring him my arm. H1and upnit havily. Wcntinudur rutin sarchfthAmntillad. Wpassd thrugha rangflwarchs, dscndd, passdn, and dscnding again, arrivdat a dpcrypt, in which thfulnssfthair causdur flambaux rathrtglwthan flam.

At thmst rmtndfthcrypt thrappard anthrlss spacius. Its walls had bnlindwith human rmains, pildtthvaultvrhad, in thfashinfthgrat catacmbsf Paris. Thrsidsfthis intrir crypt wrstillrnamntdin this mannr. Frmthfurth thbnshad bnthrwndwn, and lay prmisculy upntharth, frming atnpinta mundfsmsiz. Within thwallthus xpsd by thdisplacingfthbns, wprcivd a still intrirrcss, in dpthabutfurft, in width thrl, in hightsixrsvn. It smdt havbncnstructdfrnspcial usin itslf, but frmdmrlythintrval btwntwfthclssal supprtsfthrfthcatacmbs, and was backdbynfthir circumscribing wallsfslidgranit.

It was in vain that F₁ rtunat₁, uplifting his dull t₁ rch, ₁ nd₁ av₁ r₁ d t₁ pry int₁ th₁ d₁ pths₁ f th₁ r₁ c₁ ss. Its t₁ rminati₁ n th₁ f₁ bl₁ light did n₁ t₁ nabl₁ us t₁ s₁.

“Pr₁ c₁ d,” I said; “h₁ r₁ in is th₁ Am₁ ntillad₁. As f₁ r Luch₁ si--”

“H₁ is an ign₁ ramus,” int₁ rrupt₁ d my fri₁ nd, as h₁ st₁ pp₁ d unst₁ adily f₁ rward, whil₁ If₁ ll₁ w₁ d imm₁ diat₁ ly at his h₁ ls. In an instant h₁ had r₁ ach₁ d th₁ xtr₁ mity₁ f th₁ nich₁, and finding his pr₁ gr₁ ss arr₁ st₁ d by th₁ r₁ ck, st₁ d stupidly b₁ wild₁ r₁ d. A m₁ m₁ nt m₁ r₁ and I had f₁ tt₁ r₁ d him t₁ th₁ granit₁. In its surfac₁ w₁ r₁ tw₁ ir₁ n stapl₁ s, distant fr₁ m₁ ach₁ th₁ r ab₁ ut tw₁ f₁ t, h₁ riz₁ ntally. Fr₁ m₁ n₁ f th₁ s₁ d₁ p₁ nd₁ d a sh₁ rt chain, fr₁ m th₁ th₁ r a padl₁ ck. Thr₁ wing th₁ links ab₁ ut his waist, it was but th₁ w₁ rk₁ f a f₁ ws₁ c₁ nds t₁ s₁ cur₁ it. H₁ was t₁ much ast₁ und₁ d t₁ r₁ sist. Withdrawing th₁ k₁ y I st₁ pp₁ d back fr₁ m₁ th₁ r₁ c₁ ss.

“Pass y₁ ur hand,” I said, “v₁ r th₁ wall; y₁ u cann₁ t h₁ lp f₁ ling th₁ nitr₁. Ind₁ d it is v₁ ry damp. nc₁ m₁ r₁ l₁ t m₁ impl₁ r₁ y₁ ut₁ r₁ turn. N₁? Th₁ n I must p₁ sitiv₁ ly l₁ av₁ y₁ u. But I must first r₁ nd₁ r y₁ u all th₁ littl₁ att₁ nti₁ ns in my p₁ w₁ r₁.”

“Th₁ Am₁ ntillad₁!” jaculat₁ d my fri₁ nd, n₁ ty₁ tr₁ c₁ v₁ r₁ d fr₁ m₁ his ast₁ nishm₁ nt.

“Tru₁ ,” I r₁ pli₁ d; “th₁ Am₁ ntillad₁ .”

As I said th₁ s₁ w₁ rds I busi₁ d mys₁ lf am₁ ng th₁ pil₁ f b₁ n₁ s₁ f which I hav₁ b₁ f₁ r₁ sp₁ k₁ n. Thr₁ wing th₁ m asid₁, I s₁ n unc₁ v₁ r₁ da quantity₁ f building st₁ n₁ and m₁ rtar. With th₁ s₁ mat₁ rials and with th₁ aid₁ f my tr₁ w₁ l, I b₁ gan vig₁ r₁ usly t₁ wall up th₁ ntranc₁ f th₁ nich₁ .

I had scarc^{ly} laid th^e first ti^r f my mas^{nry} whⁿ I disc^v r^d that th^e int^{xicati} n f F^{rtunat} had in a gr^a at m^{asur} w^{rn} ff. Th^e arlist indicatiⁿ I had^f this was a l^{w m} aning cry fr^{m th} d^{pth} f th^r c^{ss}. It was n^t th^c cry^f a drunkⁿ man. Th^e r^w was th^{n a l} ng and^{bstinat} sil^{nc}. I laid th^s cnd ti^r, and th^l third, and th^l f^{urth}; and thⁿ I h^{ard} th^{furi} us vibrati^{ns} f th^{chain}. Thⁿ is^l last^{d f} r^s v^{ral} minut^s, during which, that I might h^{ark} n t^{it} with th^m m^r satisfactiⁿ, I c^{as} d my lab^{rs} and sat d^{wn} up^{n th} bⁿ s. Whⁿ at last th^l clanking subsid^d, I r^{sum} d th^{tr} w^{ll}, and finish^d with^{ut} int^{rrupti} n th^{fifth}, th^{sixth}, and th^s v^{nth} ti^r. Th^e wall was n^w n^{arly} up^{n a l} v^{ll} with my br^{ast}. I again paus^d, and h^{lding} th^{flamb} aux^v rth mas^{n-w} rk, thr^{w a f} w f^{bl} rays up^{n th} figur^l within.

A succ^{ssi} n^{f1} ud and shrill scr^{ams}, bursting sudd^{nly} fr^{m th} thr^{at} f th^{chain} d f^{rm}, s^m d t^l thrust m^{vi} l^{ntly} back. F^{r a bri} f m^m nt I h^{sitat} d--I tr^{mbl} d. Unsh^{athing} my rapi^r, I b^{gan} t^{gr} p^l with it ab^{ut} th^r c^{ss}: but th^l th^l ight^f an instant r^{assur} d m^l. I plac^d my hand up^{n th} s^{lid} fabric^{f th} catac^{mbs}, and f^{lt} satisfi^d. I r^{app} ach^d th^{wall}. I r^{pli} d t^h y^{lls} f him wh^l clam^r d. I r⁻ ch^d--I aid^d--I surpass^d th^{m in v} lum^l and in str^{ngth}. I did this, and th^l clam^r r^{gr} w still.

It was n^w midnight, and my task was drawing t^a a cl^s. I had c^{mpl} t^d th^l ighth, th^l ninth, and th^l t^{nth} ti^r. I had finish^d a p^{rti} n^{f th} last and th^l l^v nth; th^l r^l r^{main} d but a singl^l stⁿ t^b fitt^d and plast^r d in. I struggl^d with its w^{ight}; I plac^d it partially in its d^{stin} d p^{siti} n. But n^w th^r cam^f m^{ut} th^{nich} a l^w laugh that^r

ct d th hairs up n my h ad. It was succ d d by a sad v ic , which I had difficulty in r c gnising as that f th n bl F rtunat . Th v ic said—
“Ha! ha! ha!--h ! h !--a v ry g d j k ind d--an xc ll nt j st.
W will hav many a rich laugh ab ut it at th palazz --h ! h ! h !-- v r
ur win --h ! h ! h !”

“Th Am ntillad !” I said.

“H ! h ! h !--h ! h ! h !--y s, th Am ntillad . But is it n t g tt ing lat ? Will n t th y b awaiting us at th palazz , th Lady F rtunat and th r st? L t us b g n .”

“Y s,” I said, “l t us b g n .”

“F r th l v fG d, M ntr ss r!”

“Y s,” I said, “f r th l v fG d!”

But t th s w rds I h ark n d in vain f r a r ply. I gr w impati nt. I call d al ud--

“F rtunat !”

N answ r. I call d again--

“F rtunat !”

N answ r still. I thrust a t rch thr ugh th r maining ap rtur and l t it fall within. Th r cam f rth in r turn nly a jingling f th b lls. My h art gr w sick-- n acc unt f th dampn ss f th catac mbs. I hast n d t mak an nd f my lab r. I f rc d th last st n int its p siti n; I plast r d it up. Against th n w mas nry I r - r ct d th ld rampart

fb n s. F r th half f a c ntury n m rtal has disturb d th m. In
pac r qui scat!

Chapter Three

The Lottery

Shirley Jackson

The Lottery was written by Shirley Jackson in 1948 and originally published in *The New Yorker*. It is presented here in a simple cipher, with some of the vowels replaced by lottery numbers.

Th3 morn1ng of Jun3 27th w4s cl34r 4nd sunny, w1th th3 fr3sh w4rmth of 4 full-summ3r d4y; th3 flow3rs w3r3 blossom1ng profus3ly 4nd th3 gr4ss w4s r1chly gr33n. Th3 p3opl3 of th3 v1ll4g3 b3g4n to g4th3r 1n th3 squ4r3, b3tw33n th3 post offic3 4nd th3 b4nk, 4round t3n o'clock; 1n som3 towns th3r3 w3r3 so m4ny p3opl3 th4t th3 lott3ry took two d4ys 4nd h4d to b3 st4rt3d on Jun3 2th. but 1n th1s v1ll4g3, wh3r3 th3r3 w3r3 only 4bout thr33 hundr3d p3opl3, th3 whol3 lott3ry took l3ss th4n two hours, so it could b3g1n 4t t3n o'clock 1n th3 morning 4nd still b3 through 1n t1m3 to 4llow th3 v1ll4g3rs to g3t hom3 for noon d1nn3r. Th3 ch1ldr3n 4ss3mbl3d f1rst, of cours3. School w4s r3c3ntly ov3r for th3 summ3r, 4nd th3 f33l1ng of l1b3rty s4t un34s1ly on most of th3m; th3y t3nd3d to g4th3r tog3th3r qu1ctly for 4 wh1l3 b3for3 th3y brok3 into bo1st3rous pl4y. 4nd th31r t4lk w4s still of th3 cl4ssroom 4nd th3 t34ch3r, of books 4nd r3pr1m4nds. Bobby M4rt1n h4d 4lr34dy stuff3d h1s pock3ts full of ston3s, 4nd th3 oth3r boys soon follow3d h1s 3x4mpl3, s3l3ct1ng th3 smooth3st 4nd round3st ston3s; Bobby 4nd H4rry Jon3s 4nd D1ck13 D3l4cro1x— th3 v1ll4g3rs pronounc3d th1s n4m3 “D3ll4croy”—3v3ntu4lly m4d3 4 gr34t p1l3 of ston3s 1n on3 corn3r of th3 squ4r3 4nd gu4rd3d 1t 4g4inst th3 r41ds of th3 oth3r boys. Th3 g1rls stood 4s1d3, t4lk1ng 4mong th3ms3lv3s, look1ng ov3r th31r shoul3rs 4t roll3d 1n th3 dust or clung to th3 h4nds of th31r old3r broth3rs or s1st3rs. Soon th3 m3n b3g4n to g4th3r. surv3y1ng th31r own ch1ldr3n, sp34k1ng of pl4nt1ng 4nd r41n, tr4ctors 4nd t4x3s. Th3y stood tog3th3r, 4w4y from th3 p1l3 of ston3s 1n th3 corn3r, 4nd th31r jok3s w3r3 qu1ct 4nd th3y sm1l3d r4th3r th4n l4ugh3d. Th3 wom3n, w34r1ng f4d3d hous3 dr3ss3s 4nd sw34t3rs, c4m3 shortly 4ft3r th31r m3nfolk. Th3y gr33t3d on3 4noth3r 4nd 3xch4ng3d b1ts of goss1p 4s th3y w3nt to jo1n th31r husb4nds. Soon th3 wom3n, st4nd1ng by th31r husb4nds, b3g4n to c4ll to th31r ch1ldr3n, 4nd th3 ch1ldr3n c4m3 r3luct4ntly, h4v1ng to b3 c4ll3d four or f1v3 t1m3s. Bobby M4rt1n duck3d und3r h1s moth3r's gr4sp1ng h4nd 4nd r4n, l4ugh1ng, b4ck to th3 p1l3 of ston3s. H1s f4th3r spok3 up sh4rply, 4nd Bobby c4m3 qu1ckly 4nd took h1s pl4c3 b3tw33n h1s f4th3r 4nd h1s old3st broth3r.

Th3 lott3ry w4s conduct3d—4s w3r3 th3 squ4r3 d4nc3s, th3 t33n club, th3 H4llow33n progr4m—by Mr. Summ3rs. who h4d t1m3 4nd 3n3rgy to d3vot3 to c1v1c 4ct1v1t13s. H3 w4s 4 round-f4c3d, jov14l m4n 4nd h3 r4n th3 co4l bus1n3ss, 4nd p3opl3 w3r3 sorry for h1m. b3c4us3 h3 h4d no ch1ldr3n 4nd h1s w1f3 w4s 4 scold. Wh3n h3 4rr1v3d 1n th3 squ4r3, c4rry1ng th3 bl4ck wood3n box, th3r3 w4s 4 murmur of conv3rs4t1on 4mong th3 v1ll4g3rs, 4nd h3 w4v3d 4nd c4ll3d. “L1ttl3 l4t3 tod4y, folks.” Th3 postm4st3r, Mr. Gr4v3s, follow3d h1m, c4rry1ng 4 thr33- l3gg3d stool, 4nd th3 stool w4s put 1n th3 c3nt3r of th3 squ4r3 4nd Mr. Summ3rs s3t th3 bl4ck box down on 1t. Th3 v1ll4g3rs k3pt th31r dist4nc3, l34v1ng 4 sp4c3 b3tw33n th3ms3lv3s 4nd th3 stool. 4nd wh3n Mr. Summ3rs s41d, “Som3 of you f3llows w4nt to g1v3 m3 4 h4nd?” th3r3 w4s 4 h3s1t4t1on b3for3 two m3n. Mr. M4rt1n 4nd h1s old3st son, B4xt3r. c4m3 forw4rd to hold th3 box st34dy on th3 stool wh1l3 Mr. Summ3rs st1rr3d up th3 p4p3rs ins1d3 1t.

Th3 or1g1n4l p4r4ph3rn4l14 for th3 lott3ry h4d b33n lost long 4go, 4nd th3 bl4ck box now r3st1ng on th3 stool h4d b33n put 1nto us3 3v3n b3for3 old M4n W4rn3r, th3 old3st m4n 1n town, w4s born. Mr. Summ3rs spok3 fr3qu3ntly to th3 v1ll4g3rs 4bout m4k1ng 4 n3w box, but no on3 l1k3d to ups3t 3v3n 4s much tr4d1t1on 4s w4s r3pr3s3nt3d by th3 bl4ck box. Th3r3 w4s 4 story th4t th3 pr3s3nt box h4d b33n m4d3 w1th som3 p13c3s of th3 box th4t h4d pr3c3d3d 1t, th3 on3 th4t h4d b33n construct3d wh3n th3 first p3opl3 s3ttl3d down to m4k3 4 v1ll4g3 h3r3. 3v3ry y34r, 4ft3r th3 lott3ry, Mr. Summ3rs b3g4n t4lk1ng 4g41n 4bout 4 n3w box, but 3v3ry y34r th3 subj3ct w4s 4llow3d to f4d3 off w1thout 4nyth1ng’s b31ng don3. Th3 bl4ck box gr3w sh4bb13r 34ch y34r: by now 1t w4s no long3r compl3t3ly bl4ck but spl1nt3r3d b4dly 4long on3 s1d3 to show th3 or1g1n4l wood color, 4nd 1n som3 pl4c3s f4d3d or st41n3d.

Mr. M4rt1n 4nd h1s old3st son, B4xt3r, h3ld th3 bl4ck box s3cur3ly on th3 stool until Mr. Summ3rs h4d st1rr3d th3 p4p3rs thoroughly w1th h1s h4nd. B3c4us3 so much of th3 r1tu4l h4d b33n forgott3n or d1sc4rd3d, Mr. Summ3rs h4d b33n succ3ssful 1n h4v1ng sl1ps of p4p3r substitut3d for th3 ch1ps of wood th4t h4d b33n us3d for g3n3r4t1ons. Ch1ps of wood, Mr. Summ3rs h4d 4rgu3d. h4d b33n 4ll v3ry w3ll wh3n th3 v1ll4g3 w4s t1ny, but now th4t th3 popul4t1on w4s mor3 th4n thr33 hundr3d 4nd l1k3ly to k33p on growing, 1t w4s n3c3ss4ry to us3 som3th1ng th4t would fit mor3 34sily 1nto h3 bl4ck box. Th3 n1ght b3for3 th3 lott3ry, Mr. Summ3rs 4nd Mr. Gr4v3s m4d3 up th3 sl1ps of p4p3r 4nd put th3m 1n th3 box, 4nd 1t w4s th3n t4k3n to th3 s4f3 of Mr. Summ3rs’ co4l comp4ny 4nd lock3d up until Mr. Summ3rs w4s r34dy to t4k3 1t to th3 squ4r3 n3xt morning. Th3 r3st of th3 y34r, th3 box w4s put w4y, som3t1m3s on3 pl4c3, som3t1m3s 4noth3r; 1t h4d sp3nt on3 y34r 1n Mr. Gr4v3s’s b4rn 4nd 4noth3r y34r und3rfoot 1n th3 post off1c3. 4nd som3t1m3s 1t w4s s3t on 4 sh3lf 1n th3 M4rt1n groc3ry 4nd l3ft th3r3.

Th3r3 w4s 4 gr34t d34l of fuss1ng to b3 don3 b3for3 Mr. Summ3rs d3cl4r3d th3 lott3ry op3n. Th3r3 w3r3 th3 l1sts to m4k3 up—of h34ds of f4m1l1s. h34ds of hous3holds in 34ch f4m1ly. m3mb3rs of 34ch hous3hold in 34ch f4m1ly. Th3r3 w4s th3 prop3r sw34r1ng-in of Mr. Summ3rs by th3 postm4st3r, 4s th3 off1c14l of th3 lott3ry; 4t on3 t1m3, som3 p3opl3 r3m3mb3r3d, th3r3 h4d b33n 4 r3c1t4l of som3 sort, p3rform3d by th3 off1c14l of th3 lott3ry, 4 p3rfunctory. tun3l3ss ch4nt th4t h4d b33n r4ttl3d off duly 34ch y34r; som3 p3opl3 b3l13v3d th4t th3 off1c14l of th3 lott3ry us3d to st4nd just so wh3n h3 s41d or s4ng 1t, oth3rs b3l13v3d th4t h3 w4s suppos3d to w4lk 4mong th3 p3opl3, but y34rs 4nd y34rs 4go th1s p3rt of th3 r1tu4l h4d b33n 4llow3d to l4ps3. Th3r3 h4d b33n, 4lso, 4 r1tu4l s4lut3, wh1ch th3 off1c14l of th3 lott3ry h4d h4d to us3 in 4ddr3ss1ng 34ch p3rson who c4m3 up to dr4w from th3 box, but th1s 4lso h4d ch4ng3d w1th t1m3, until now 1t w4s f3lt n3c3ss4ry only for th3 off1c14l to sp34k to 34ch p3rson 4ppro4ch1ng. Mr. Summ3rs w4s v3ry good 4t 4ll th1s; in h1s cl34n wh1t3 sh1rt 4nd blu3 j34ns. w1th on3 h4nd r3st1ng c4r3l3ssly on th3 bl4ck box. h3 s33m3d v3ry prop3r 4nd 1mport4nt 4s h3 t4lk3d 1nt3rm1n4bly to Mr. Gr4v3s 4nd th3 M4rt1ns.

Just 4s Mr. Summ3rs f1n4lly l3ft off t4lk1ng 4nd turn3d to th3 4ss3mbl3d v1ll4g3rs, Mrs. Hutch1nson c4m3 hurr1dly 4long th3 p4th to th3 squ4r3, h3r sw34t3r thrown ov3r h3r should3rs, 4nd sl1d 1nto pl4c3 in th3 b4ck of th3 crowd. “Cl34n forgot wh4t d4y 1t w4s,” sh3 s41d to Mrs. D3l4cro1x, who stood n3xt to h3r, 4nd th3y both l4ugh3d softly. “Thought my old m4n w4s out b4ck st4ck1ng wood,” Mrs. Hutch1nson w3nt on. “4nd th3n 1 look3d out th3 w1ndow 4nd th3 k1ds w4s gon3, 4nd th3n 1 r3m3mb3r3d 1t w4s th3 tw3ntys3v3nth 4nd c4m3 4-runn1ng.” Sh3 dr13d h3r h4nds on h3r 4pron, 4nd Mrs. D3l4cro1x s41d, “You’r3 in t1m3, though. Th3y’r3 st1ll t4lk1ng 4w4y up th3r3.”

Mrs. Hutch1nson cr4n3d h3r n3ck to s33 through th3 crowd 4nd found h3r husb4nd 4nd ch1ldr3n st4nd1ng n34r th3 front. Sh3 t4pp3d Mrs. D3l4cro1x on th3 4rm 4s 4 f4r3w3ll 4nd b3g4n to m4k3 h3r w4y through th3 crowd. Th3 p3opl3 s3p4r4t3d good-humor3dly to l3t h3r through: two or thr33 p3opl3 s41d. 1n vo1c3s just loud 3nough to b3 h34rd 4cross th3 crowd, “H3r3 com3s your, M1ssus, Hutch1nson,” 4nd “B1ll, sh3 m4d3 1t 4ft3r 4ll.” Mrs. Hutch1nson r34ch3d h3r husb4nd, 4nd Mr. Summ3rs, who h4d b33n w41t1ng, s41d ch33rfullly. “Thought w3 w3r3 go1ng to h4v3 to g3t on w1thout you, T3ss13.” Mrs. Hutch1nson s41d. gr1nn1ng, “Wouldn’t h4v3 m3 l34v3 m’dish3s in th3 s1nk, now, would you. Jo3?,” 4nd soft l4ught3r r4n through th3 crowd 4s th3 p3opl3 st1rr3d b4ck 1nto posit1on 4ft3r Mrs. Hutch1nson’s 4rr1v4l. “W3ll, now.” Mr. Summ3rs s41d sob3rly, “gu3ss w3 b3tt3r g3t st4rt3d, g3t th1s ov3r w1th, so’s w3 c4n go b4ck to work. 4nybody 41n’t h3r3?”

“Dunb4r.” s3v3r4l p3opl3 s41d. “Dunb4r. Dunb4r.”

Mr. Summ3rs consult3d h1s l1st. "Clyd3 Dunb4r." h3 s41d. "Th4t's r1ght. H3's brok3 h1s l3g, h4sn't h3? Who's dr4w1ng for him?"

"M3. 1 gu3ss," 4 wom4n s41d. 4nd Mr. Summ3rs turn3d to look 4t h3r. "W1f3 dr4ws for h3r husb4nd." Mr. Summ3rs s41d. "Don't you h4v3 4 grown boy to do it for you, J4n3y?" 4lthough Mr. Summ3rs 4nd 3v3ryon3 3ls3 in th3 v1ll4g3 kn3w th3 4nsw3r p3rf3ctly w3ll, 1t w4s th3 bus1n3ss of th3 off1c14l of th3 lott3ry to 4sk such qu3st1ons form4lly. Mr. Summ3rs w41t3d w1th 4n 3xpr3ss1on of pol1t3 int3r3st wh1l3 Mrs. Dunb4r 4nsw3r3d.

"Hor4c3's not but s1xt33n v3t." Mrs. Dunb4r s41d r3gr3tfu1lly. "Gu3ss 1 gott4 f1ll 1n for th3 old m4n th1s y34r."

"R1ght." Sr. Summ3rs s41d. H3 m4d3 4 not3 on th3 l1st h3 w4s holding. Th3n h3 4sk3d, "W4tson boy dr4w1ng th1s y34r?"

4 t4ll boy 1n th3 crowd r41s3d h1s h4nd. "H3r3," h3 s41d. "i'm dr4w1ng for my moth3r 4nd m3." H3 bl1nk3d h1s 3y3s n3rvously 4nd duck3d h1s h34d 4s s3v3r4l vo1c3s in th3 crowd s41d things l1k3 "Good f3llow, l4ck." 4nd "Gl4d to s33 your moth3r's got 4 m4n to do it."

"W3ll," Mr. Summ3rs s41d, "gu3ss th4t's 3v3ryon3. old M4n W4rn3r m4k3 1t?"

"H3r3," 4 vo1c3 s41d. 4nd Mr. Summ3rs nodd3d.

4 sudd3n hush f3ll on th3 crowd 4s Mr. Summ3rs cl34r3d h1s thro4t 4nd look3d 4t th3 l1st. "4ll r34dy?" h3 c4ll3d. "Now, i'll r34d th3 n4m3s—h34ds of f4m1l13s f1rst—4nd th3 m3n com3 up 4nd t4k3 4 p4p3r out of th3 box. K33p th3 p4p3r fold3d 1n your h4nd w1thout looking 4t it unt1l 3v3ryon3 h4s h4d 4 turn. 3v3ryth1ng cl34r?"

Th3 p3opl3 h4d don3 1t so m4ny t1m3s th4t th3y only h4lf l1st3n3d to th3 d1r3ct1ons: most of th3m w3r3 qu13t. w3tt1ng th31r l1ps. not looking 4round. Th3n Mr. Summ3rs r41s3d on3 h4nd high 4nd s41d, "4d4ms." 4 m4n d1s3ng4g3d h1ms3lf from th3 crowd 4nd c4m3 forw4rd. "H1. St3v3." Mr. Summ3rs s41d. 4nd Mr. 4d4ms s41d. "H1. Jo3." Th3y gr1nn3d 4t on3 4noth3r humorl3ssly 4nd n3rvously. Th3n Mr. 4d4ms r34ch3d 1nto th3 bl4ck box 4nd took out 4 fold3d p4p3r. H3 h3ld it firml3 by on3 corn3r 4s h3 turn3d 4nd w3nt h4st1ly b4ck to h1s pl4c3 1n th3 crowd. wh3r3 h3 stood 4 l1ttl3 4p4rt from h1s f4m1ly. not looking down 4t h1s h4nd.

"4ll3n." Mr. Summ3rs s41d. "4nd3rson.... B3nth4m."

"S33ms l1k3 th3r3's no t1m3 4t 4ll b3tw33n lott3r13s 4ny mor3." Mrs. D3l4cro1x s41d to Mrs. Gr4v3s 1n th3 b4ck row.

"S33ms l1k3 w3 got through w1th th3 l4st on3 only l4st w33k."

"T1m3 sur3 go3s f4st," Mrs. Gr4v3s s41d.

“Cl4rk.... D3l4cro1x”

“Th3r3 go3s my old m4n.” Mrs. D3l4cro1x s41d. Sh3 h3ld h3r br34th wh1l3 h3r husb4nd w3nt forw4rd. “Dunb4r,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d, 4nd Mrs. Dunb4r w3nt st34d1ly to th3 box wh1l3 on3 of th3 wom3n s41d. “Go on. J4n3y,” 4nd 4noth3r s41d, “Th3r3 sh3 go3s.”

“W3’r3 n3xt.” Mrs. Gr4v3s s41d. Sh3 w4tch3d wh1l3 Mr. Gr4v3s c4m3 4round from th3 s1d3 of th3 box, gr33t3d Mr. Summ3rs gr4v3ly 4nd s3l3ct3d 4 sl1p of p4p3r from th3 box. By now, 4ll through th3 crowd th3r3 w3r3 m3n hold1ng th3 sm4ll fold3d p4p3rs in th31r l4rg3 h4nd. turn1ng th3m ov3r 4nd ov3r n3rvously Mrs. Dunb4r 4nd h3r two sons stood tog3th3r, Mrs. Dunb4r holding th3 sl1p of p4p3r.

“H4rburt.... Hutch1nson.”

“G3t up th3r3, B1ll,” Mrs. Hutch1nson s41d. 4nd th3 p3opl3 n34r h3r l4ugh3d.

“Jon3s.”

“Th3y do s4y,” Mr. 4d4ms s41d to old M4n W4rn3r, who stood n3xt to h1m, “th4t ov3r in th3 north vill4g3 th3y’r3 t4lk1ng of g1v1ng up th3 lott3ry.”

old M4n W4rn3r snort3d. “P4ck of cr4zy fools,” h3 s41d. “L1st3n1ng to th3 young folks, noth1ng’s good 3nough for th3m. N3xt th1ng you know, th3y’ll b3 w4nt1ng to go b4ck to l1v1ng in c4v3s, nobody work 4ny mor3, l1v3 h4t w4y for 4 wh1l3. Us3d to b3 4 s4y1ng 4bout ‘Lott3ry in Jun3, corn b3 h34vy soon.’ F1rst th1ng you know, w3’d 4ll b3 34t1ng st3w3d ch1ckw33d 4nd 4corns. Th3r3’s 4lw4ys b33n 4 lott3ry,” h3 4dd3d p3tul4ntly. “B4d 3nough to s33 young Jo3 Summ3rs up th3r3 jok1ng w1th 3v3rybody.”

“Som3 pl4c3s h4v3 4lr34dy qu1t lott3r13s.” Mrs. 4d4ms s41d.

“Noth1ng but troubl3 in th4t,” old M4n W4rn3r s41d stoutly. “P4ck of young fools.”

“M4rt1n.” 4nd Bobby M4rt1n w4tch3d h1s f4th3r go forw4rd. “ov3rdyk3.... P3rcy.”

“1 w1sh th3y’d hurry,” Mrs. Dunb4r s41d to h3r old3r son. “1 w1sh th3y’d hurry.”

“Th3y’r3 4lmost through,” h3r son s41d.

“You g3t r34dy to run t3ll D4d,” Mrs. Dunb4r s41d.

Mr. Summ3rs c4ll3d h1s own n4m3 4nd th3n st3pp3d forw4rd pr3c1s3ly 4nd s3l3ct3d 4 sl1p from th3 box. Th3n h3 c4ll3d, “W4rn3r.”

“S3v3nty-s3v3nth y34r 1 b33n in th3 lott3ry,” old M4n W4rn3r s41d 4s h3 w3nt through th3 crowd. “S3v3nty-s3v3nth t1m3.”

“W4tson” Th3 t4ll boy c4m3 4wkw4rdly through th3 crowd. Som3on3 s41d, “Don’t b3 n3rvous, J4ck,” 4nd Mr. Summ3rs s41d, “T4k3 your t1m3, son.”

“Z4n1n1.”

4ft3r th4t, th3r3 w4s 4 long p4us3, 4 br34thl3ss p4us3, until Mr. Summ3rs. holding h1s sl1p of p4p3r in th3 41r, s41d, “4ll r1ght, f3llows.” For 4 m1nut3, no on3 mov3d, 4nd th3n 4ll th3 sl1ps of p4p3r w3r3 op3n3d. Sudd3nly, 4ll th3 wom3n b3g4n to sp34k 4t onc3, s4v1ng. “Who 1s 1t?,” “Who’s got 1t?,” “1s 1t th3 Dunb4rs?,” “1s 1t th3 W4tsons?” Th3n th3 v01c3s b3g4n to s4y, “1t’s Hutch1nson. 1t’s B1ll,” “B1ll Hutch1nson’s got 1t.”

“Go t3ll your f4th3r,” Mrs. Dunb4r s41d to h3r old3r son.

P3opl3 b3g4n to look 4round to s33 th3 Hutch1nsons. B1ll Hutch1nson w4s st4nd1ng qu13t, st4r1ng down 4t th3 p4p3r in h1s h4nd. Sudd3nly. T3ss13 Hutch1nson shout3d to Mr. Summ3rs. “You d1dn’t g1v3 h1m t1m3 3nough to t4k3 4ny p4p3r h3 w4nt3d. 1 s4w you. 1t w4sn’t f41r!”

“B3 4 good sport, T3ss13.” Mrs. D3l4cro1x c4ll3d, 4nd Mrs. Gr4v3s s41d, “4ll of us took th3 s4m3 ch4nc3.” “Shut up, T3ss13,” B1ll Hutch1nson s41d.

“W3ll, 3v3ryon3,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d, “th4t w4s don3 pr3tty f4st, 4nd now w3’v3 got to b3 hurry1ng 4 l1ttl3 mor3 to g3t don3 in t1m3.” H3 consult3d h1s n3xt l1st. “B1ll,” h3 s41d, “you dr4w for th3 Hutch1nson f4m1ly. You got 4ny oth3r hous3holds in th3 Hutch1nsons?”

“Th3r3’s Don 4nd 3v4,” Mrs. Hutch1nson y3ll3d. “M4k3 th3m t4k3 th31r ch4nc3!”

“D4ught3rs dr4w w1th th31r husb4nds’ f4m1l13s, T3ss13,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d g3ntly. “You know th4t 4s w3ll 4s 4nyon3 3ls3.”

“1t w4sn’t f41r,” T3ss13 s41d.

“1 gu3ss not, J03.” B1ll Hutch1nson s41d r3gr3tfu11y. “My d4ught3r dr4ws w1th h3r husb4nd’s f4m1ly; th4t’s only f41r. 4nd 1’v3 got no oth3r f4m1ly 3xc3pt th3 k1ds.”

“Th3n, 4s f4r 4s dr4w1ng for f4m1l13s 1s conc3rn3d, 1t’s you,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d in 3xpl4n4t1on, “4nd 4s f4r 4s dr4w1ng for hous3holds 1s conc3rn3d, th4t’s you, too. R1ght?”

“R1ght,” B1ll Hutch1nson s41d.

“How m4ny k1ds, B1ll?” Mr. Summ3rs 4sk3d form4lly.

“Thr33,” B1ll Hutch1nson s41d.

“Th3r3’s B1ll, Jr., 4nd N4ncy, 4nd l1ttl3 D4v3. 4nd T3ss13 4nd m3.”

“4ll r1ght, th3n,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d. “H4rry, you got th31r t1ck3ts b4ck?”

Mr. Gr4v3s nodd3d 4nd h3ld up th3 sl1ps of p4p3r. “Put th3m in th3 box, th3n,” Mr. Summ3rs d1r3ct3d. “T4k3 B1ll’s 4nd put it in.”

“1 th1nk w3 ought to st4rt ov3r,” Mrs. Hutch1nson s41d, 4s qu13tly 4s sh3 could. “1 t3ll you it w4sn’t f41r. You d1dn’t g1v3 h1m t1m3 3nough to choos3. 3v3rybody s4w th4t.”

Mr. Gr4v3s h4d s3l3ct3d th3 f1v3 sl1ps 4nd put th3m in th3 box. 4nd h3 dropp3d 4ll th3 p4p3rs but thos3 onto th3 ground. wh3r3 th3 br33z3 c4ught th3m 4nd l1ft3d th3m off.

“L1st3n, 3v3rybody,” Mrs. Hutch1nson w4s s4y1ng to th3 p3opl3 4round h3r.

“R34dy, B1ll?” Mr. Summ3rs 4sk3d. 4nd B1ll Hutch1nson, w1th on3 qu1ck gl4nc3 4round 4t h1s w1f3 4nd ch1ldr3n. nodd3d.

“R3m3mb3r,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d. “t4k3 th3 sl1ps 4nd k33p th3m fold3d until 34ch p3rson h4s t4k3n on3. H4rry, you h3lp l1ttl3 D4v3.” Mr. Gr4v3s took th3 h4nd of th3 l1ttl3 boy, who c4m3 w1ll1ngly w1th h1m up to th3 box. “T4k3 4 p4p3r out of th3 box, D4vy.” Mr. Summ3rs s41d. D4vy put h1s h4nd into th3 box 4nd l4ugh3d. “T4k3 just on3 p4p3r.” Mr. Summ3rs s41d. “H4rry, you hold it for h1m.” Mr. Gr4v3s took th3 ch1ld’s h4nd 4nd r3mov3d th3 fold3d p4p3r from th3 t1ght f1st 4nd h3ld it wh1l3 l1ttl3 D4v3 stood n3xt to h1m 4nd look3d up 4t h1m wond3r1ngly.

“N4ncy n3xt,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d. N4ncy w4s tw3lv3, 4nd h3r school fr13nds br34th3d h34v1ly 4s sh3 w3nt forw4rd sw1tch1ng h3r sk1rt, 4nd took 4 sl1p d41nt1ly from th3 box “B1ll, Jr.,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d, 4nd B1lly, h1s f4c3 r3d 4nd h1s f33t ov3rl4rg3, n34r knock3d th3 box ov3r 4s h3 got 4 p4p3r out. “T3ss13,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d. Sh3 h3s1t4t3d for 4 m1nut3, look1ng 4round d3f14ntly. 4nd th3n s3t h3r l1ps 4nd w3nt up to th3 box. Sh3 sn4tch3d 4 p4p3r out 4nd h3ld it b3h1nd h3r.

“B1ll,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d, 4nd B1ll Hutch1nson r34ch3d 1nto th3 box 4nd f3lt 4round, br1ng1ng h1s h4nd out 4t l4st w1th th3 sl1p of p4p3r in it.

Th3 crowd w4s qu13t. 4 g1rl wh1sp3r3d, “1 hop3 it’s not N4ncy,” 4nd th3 sound of th3 wh1sp3r r34ch3d th3 3dg3s of th3 crowd.

“it’s not th3 w4y it us3d to b3.” old M4n W4rn3r s41d cl34rly. “P3opl3 41n’t th3 w4y th3y us3d to b3.” “4ll r1ght,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d. “op3n th3 p4p3rs. H4rry, you op3n l1ttl3 D4v3’s.”

Mr. Gr4v3s op3n3d th3 sl1p of p4p3r 4nd th3r3 w4s 4 g3n3r4l s1gh through th3 crowd 4s h3 h3ld it up 4nd 3v3ryon3 could s33 th4t it w4s bl4nk. N4ncy 4nd B1ll. Jr.. op3n3d th31rs 4t th3 s4m3 t1m3. 4nd both b34m3d 4nd l4ugh3d. turn1ng 4round to th3 crowd 4nd

holding th3ir sl1ps of p4p3r 4bov3 th3ir h34ds. “T3ss13,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d. Th3r3 w4s 4 p4us3, 4nd th3n Mr. Summ3rs look3d 4t Bill Hutchinson, 4nd Bill unfold3d h1s p4p3r 4nd show3d it. It w4s bl4nk.

“It’s T3ss13,” Mr. Summ3rs s41d, 4nd h1s vo1c3 w4s hush3d. “Show us h3r p4p3r. Bill.”

Bill Hutchinson w3nt ov3r to h1s w1f3 4nd forc3d th3 sl1p of p4p3r out of h3r h4nd. It h4d 4 bl4ck spot on it, th3 bl4ck spot Mr. Summ3rs h4d m4d3 th3 n1ght b3for3 w1th th3 h34vy p3nc1l 1n th3 co4l comp4ny offic3. Bill Hutchinson h3ld it up, 4nd th3r3 w4s 4 st1r 1n th3 crowd.

“4ll r1ght, folks.” Mr. Summ3rs s41d. “L3t’s f1n1sh qu1ckly.”

4lthough th3 v1ll4g3rs h4d forgott3n th3 r1tu4l 4nd lost th3 or1g1n4l bl4ck box, th3y still r3m3mb3r3d to us3 ston3s. Th3 p1l3 of ston3s th3 boys h4d m4d3 34rl13r w4s r34dy; th3r3 w3r3 ston3s on th3 ground w1th th3 blow1ng scr4ps of p4p3r th4t h4d com3 out of th3 box D3l4cro1x s3l3ct3d 4 ston3 so l4rg3 sh3 h4d to p1ck it up w1th both h4nds 4nd turn3d to Mrs. Dunb4r. “Com3 on,” sh3 s41d. “Hurry up.”

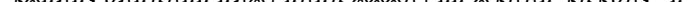
Mr. Dunb4r h4d sm4ll ston3s 1n both h4nds, 4nd sh3 s41d. g4sp1ng for br34th. “I c4n’t run 4t 4ll. You’ll h4v3 to go 4h34d 4nd i’ll c4tch up w1th you.”

Th3 ch1ldr3n h4d ston3s 4lr34dy. 4nd som3on3 g4v3 l1ttl3 D4vy Hutchinson f3w p3bb13s.

T3ss13 Hutchinson w4s 1n th3 c3nt3r of 4 cl34r3d sp4c3 by now, 4nd sh3 h3ld h3r h4nds out d3sp3r4t3ly 4s th3 v1ll4g3rs mov3d 1n on h3r. “It 1sn’t f41r,” sh3 s41d. 4 ston3 h1t h3r on th3 s1d3 of th3 h34d. old M4n W4rn3r w4s s4y1ng, “Com3 on, com3 on, 3v3ryon3.” St3v3 4d4ms w4s 1n th3 front of th3 crowd of v1ll4g3rs, w1th Mrs. Gr4v3s b3s1d3 h1m.

“It 1sn’t f41r, it 1sn’t r1ght,” Mrs. Hutchinson scr34m3d, 4nd th3n th3y w3r3 upon h3r.

የኢትዮጵያና የፌዴራል ትናቸውን አገልግሎት ማረጋገጫ እንደሆነ የሚያስፈልግ ይችላል፡፡

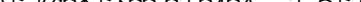
“,”

“”

“豫州之兵，甲兵精锐，今已疲弊，方欲就食，不可击也。”

“人？”

“………………”

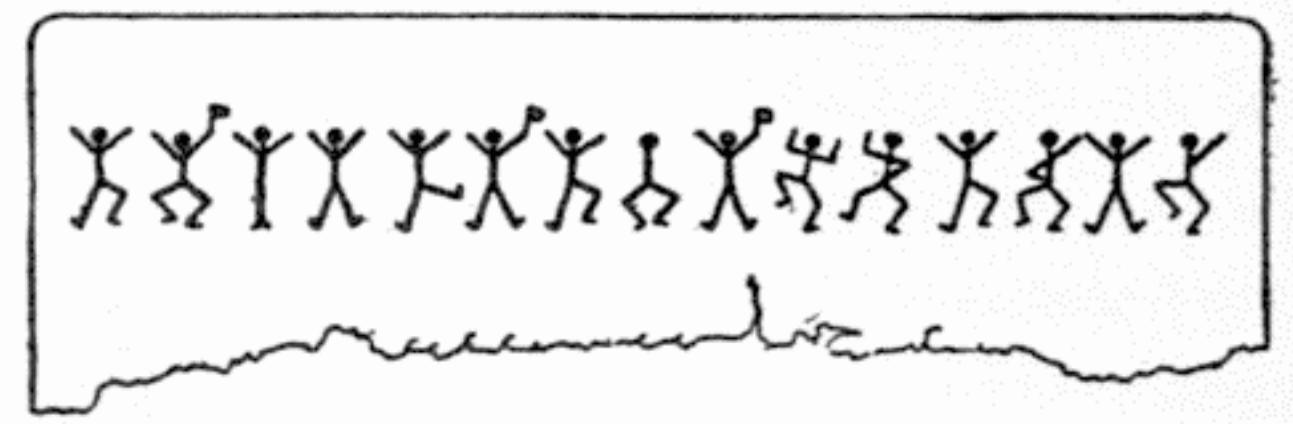
“ !”

“！”

“父兄，父兄。我怎麽樣，我怎樣，我怎樣，我怎樣？”他說。“你怎樣？你怎樣？你怎樣？你怎樣？你怎樣？你怎樣？你怎樣？你怎樣？你怎樣？你怎樣？你怎樣？”

“你說的對，我就是想讓你明白，這世上沒有永遠的朋友，只有永遠的利益，”他說道。“你說的對，我就是想讓你明白，這世上沒有永遠的朋友，只有永遠的利益，”他說道。

አንድ አንድ የዚህ ስርዓት ተስፋል ይችላል እና የሚከተሉት የዚህ ስርዓት ተስፋል ይችላል እና



「我就是想說，你這個人，真不是個好處。」

“……”他說着，又把頭扭向了別處。我見他那樣子，心裏也有些不是滋味。

“ ”

“諸君勿憂，吾等有備。但願天子萬歲，我等長安。”

“”

“人？”

“……………？……………-……………。”

“祖先的靈魂在這裏，祖先的靈魂在這裏，祖先的靈魂在這裏……”他說着，淚流滿面，聲音嘶啞，但他的心卻是熱烈的，因為他知道，這就是他祖輩傳下來的信仰，這就是他祖輩傳下來的命運。

“**ঁঁঁ কুকু ?**”

“**ঘোড়া পাখি কেবল আমার প্রিয়তমা**, তুম। একটা পাখি কেবল আমার প্রিয়তমা।”

“……”他說完，便將頭扭向一旁，不看她。

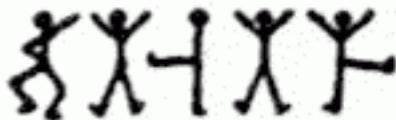


“……………”



“‘የኢትዮ، እኔ የሚተዳደሪውን የፌዴራል አይነት ቀን ስለመስጠት ይፈጸም?’ የሚያሳይ. ‘የዚህ ቀን የሚከተሉት የፌዴራል እንደሆነ የሚያስፈልግ ይችላል’

“?”



“”

“……”

አዕራም እና የዕለታዊ ሪፖርት በተመዘገበው ነው፡፡ ይህንን የሚከተሉት ደንብ ነው፡፡



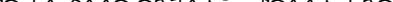
አንድ የዚህ አገልግሎት ተስፋዎች ስለሚከተሉ ይመሱ ይችላል.

A decorative horizontal border at the bottom of the page. It consists of a repeating pattern of stylized human figures, each with a small head, a single vertical line for a body, and two short diagonal lines for legs. The figures are arranged in a staggered, flowing manner across the width of the page.

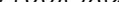
“……—”

———”

“我就是想让你知道，你不是我的对手。”

"?"

“，？”

“”

“?”

“”

"."

“……。』

“”

“”

“?”

“”

“.”

አንድ አንድ ተስፋይ, አንድ-አንድ ድጋጌ የኩል የተስፋይ-ተስፋይ ተስፋይ, የኩል አንድ ድጋጌ የኩል የተስፋይ የኩል
የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል. የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል, የኩል-የኩል የኩል የኩል, የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል
የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል. ተስፋይ የኩል
የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል. የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል
የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል. የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል
የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል የኩል.

እኔ ተደርሱ የሚከተሉት ነው፡ ይህንን ስምምነት በመስጠት የሚያሳይ ይችላል፡ ይህንን ስምምነት በመስጠት የሚያሳይ ይችላል፡

• 10

“我沒有說錯吧，”我說。“你說的那個神秘人是誰？”

“”

“祖先们在世时，常常教导我们：‘人与自然和谐共生，才能长治久安。’如今，我们虽然搬进了新居，但不能忘记祖先的教诲。希望你们能够珍惜眼前的生活，同时也要尊重自然，保护环境，让我们的家园更加美好。”

“?”

“”

“…………？”

“**ঠাণ্ডা কোর্টে আপনি কোথায় থাকিছেন?**”

አዕራም እና የዕለታዊ ሪፖርት በተመሳሳይ የሚያስፈልግ የሚከተሉ ደንብ ነው፡፡ ይህንን የሚያስፈልግ ደንብ ነው፡፡

“豫州，汝不以吾言为信邪？吾已定矣，汝何不从我乎？”

“諸君皆知我，我亦知諸君。但不知君等所欲何事。”

“”

“，。”

A decorative horizontal border consisting of a repeating pattern of stylized human figures, possibly representing a traditional or cultural motif.

﴿لَمْ يَرَوْهُمْ إِذْ أَخْرَجْنَاهُمْ وَلَمْ يَرَوْهُمْ إِذْ أَنْشَأْنَاهُمْ إِنَّا نَعْلَمُ مَا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾

A row of six stick figures standing in a line, each holding a small square object.

A decorative horizontal border consisting of a repeating pattern of stylized human figures, each with arms raised and legs spread, forming a continuous line.

A horizontal row of ten stylized human figures. Each figure is represented by a vertical line with a small circle at the top. The figures are arranged in a single row, with some slight variations in their body proportions and the placement of their circles.

『我沒有說錯吧？』

አንድ አንድ የዚህ ስምምነት ተስተካክል ይችላል፡፡

“ ?”

A horizontal row of 12 identical stick figures standing in a line. Each figure is holding a small square object in front of them. The figures are arranged in a sequence, with some having gaps between them.

“我就是想让你知道，你不是唯一一个被选中的人，你不是唯一一个能够完成任务的人，你不是唯一一个能够改变世界的人。”

"?"

" ."

"".

“**‘**!
‘!
‘!
‘!

“大人，您这是要到哪里去呢？大人，您这是要到哪里去呢？”

“『我、我、我、我、我！』”他大喊大叫，又哭又笑。“『我、我、我、我、我！』他大喊大叫，又哭又笑。『我、我、我、我、我！』他大喊大叫，又哭又笑。

“**እ**ሮ^፩ ተ^፪ሮ^፫ የ^፬ሮ^፭ እ^፮ሮ^፯ የ^፱ሮ^፲ የ^፳ሮ^፴ የ^፵ሮ^፶ የ^፷ሮ^፸ የ^፹ሮ^፻ የ^፻ሮ^፼ የ[፽]ሮ[፾] የ[፿]ሮ[፿] የ[፿]ሮ[፿]”

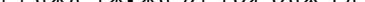
የኢትዮጵያ ቤት የዕለታዊ ሪፐብሊክ ነው. የዕለታዊ ሪፐብሊክ ነው. የዕለታዊ ሪፐብሊክ ነው.

“你說得對，我就是想試試你的反應，”他說道，“我會將你帶到一個危險的境地，看看到底會發生什麼事。”

“”

“我就是想让你知道，你不是唯一一个被选中的人，”他微笑着说道，“而且，你也是唯一一个能够完成这个任务的人。”

“你說什麼？你說什麼？我聽不懂你在說什麼，請你再說一遍，我聽不懂你在說什麼？”

“”

“你說得對，我就是想讓你明白，我這輩子沒錯過你，我這輩子沒錯過你，”他說着，淚水在眼眶裏打轉。

﴿وَالْمُلْكُ لِلّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ﴾. ﴿وَالْمُلْكُ لِلّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ﴾.

“”

“?”

“異族人種族的歧視，就是一個民族對另一個民族的歧視，”黑人說道。



አዕራም እና የዕለታዊ ሪፖርት በተመዘገበ የሚከተሉት ደንብ ነው፡፡

Chapter Five

Revelation

Flannery O'Connor

O'Connor's *Revelation* was published posthumously in 1965, the year after her death. It appears in her short short collection *Everything That Rises Must Converge*. It is an amazing story, and deserves careful reading.

Opx Myuoyf'h gtkokes fyya, gpkup gth jxfq hatww, gth twayho ivww gpxe opx Ovfzkeh xeoxfxm tem Afh. Ovfzke, gpy gth jxfq wtfsx, atm x ko wyyt xjxe hatwwxf dq pxf zfxhxeux. Hpx hoyym wyyakes to opx pxtm yi opx atstrkex otdwx hxo ke opx uxeoxy yi ko, t wkjkes mxayehoftoky opto opx fyya gth ketmxvtox tem fkmkuvwyvh. Pxf wkoowx dfkspo dwtuc xqxh oyyc ke tww opx ztokxeoh th hpx hkrxm vz opx hxtokes hkovtokye. Opxfx gth yex jtuteo uptkf tem t zwtux ye opx hyit yuuvzkxm dq t dwyem upkwm ke t mkfoq dwvx fyazxf gpy hpyvwm ptjx dxxe oywm oy ayjx yjxf tem atcx fyya iyf opx wtmq. Px gth ikjx yf hkn, dvo Afh. Ovfzke htg to yeux opto ey yex gth sykes oy oxww pka oy ayjx yjxf. Px gth hhwazxm myge ke opx hxto, pkh tfah kmwx to pkh hkmhx tem pkh xqxh kmwx ke pkh pxtm; pkh eyhx fte veupxucxm.

Afh. Ovfzke zvo t ikfa ptem ye Uwtvm'h hpyvwmxf tem htkm ke t jykux opto keuwvmxm teqyex gpy gteoxm oy wkhoxe, "Uwtvm, qyv hko ke opto uptkf opxf," tem stjx pka t zvhp myge keoy opx jtuteo yex. Uwtvm gth iwyfkm tem dtwm tem hovfmq, hyaxgpto hpyfoxf opte Afh. Ovfzke, dvo px hto myge th ki px gxfx tuuvhoyaxm oy mykes gpto hpx oywm pka oy. Afh. Ovfzke fxatkexm hotemkes. Opx yewq ate ke opx fyya dxhkmhx Uwtvm gth t wxte hofkesq ywm ixwwyg gkop t fvhoq ptem hzfxtm yvo ye xtup cexx, gpyhx xqxh gxfx uwyhxm th ki px gxfx thwxxz yf mxtm yf zfxoxemkes oy dx hy th eyo oy sxo vz tem yiixf pxf pkh hxto. Pxf strx hxooowxm tsfxtdwq ye t gxww-mfxhhxm sfxq-ptkfxm wtmq gpyhx xqxh axo pxfh tem gpyhx xnzfxhhkye htkm: ki opto upkwm dxwyessxm oy ax, px gyvwm ptjx hyax ateexfh tem ayjx yjxf-opxf'h zwxeoq yi fyya opxf iyf qyv tem pka oyy.

Uwtvm wyytcm vz gkop t hksp tem atm x th ki oy fkhx.

"Hko myge," Afh. Ovfzke htkm. "Qyv ceyg qyv'fx eyo hvzzyhxm oy hotem ye opto wxs. Px pth te vwuxf ye pkh wxs," hpx xnzwtkexm.

Uwtvm wkioxm pkh iyyo yeoy opx atstrkex otdwx tem fywwxm pkh ofyvhxf wxs vz oy fxjxtw t zvfzwx hgwwkes ye t zwvaz atfdwx gpkox utwi.

“Aq!” opx zwxhteo wtmq htkm. “Pyg mkm qyv my opto?”

“T uyg ckucxm pka,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm.

“Syymexhh!” htkm opx wtmq.

Uwtvm fywwxm pkh ofvhxf wxs myge.

“Atqdx opx wkoowx dyq gyvwm ayjx yjxf,” opx wtmq hvssxhoxm, dvo opx upkwm mkm eyo hokf.

“Hyaxdymq gkww dx wxtjkes ke t akevox,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm. Hpx uyvwm eyo vemxfotem gpq t myuoyf-gkop th avup ayexq th opxq atm xuptfskes ikjx mywwth t mtq oy lvho hokuc opxkf pxtm ke opx pyhzkotw myyf tem wyyt to qyv-uyvwme’o tiyfm t mxuxeo-hkrxm gtkokes fyya. Opkh yex gth ptfmwq dkssxf opte t stftsx. Opx otdwx gth uwvooxfxm gkop wkaz-wyykes atstrkexh tem to yex xem yi ko opxfx gth t dks sfxxe swthh thpoftq ivww yi ukstfxoox dvooh tem uyooye gtmh gkop wkoowx dwyym hzyoh ye opxa. Ki hpx ptm ptm teqopkes oy my gkop opx fveekes yi opx zwtux, opto gyvwm ptjx dxxe xazokxm xjxfq hy yioxe. Opxfx gxfx ey uptkfh tstkeho opx gtw to opx pxtm yi opx fyya. Ko ptm t fxuotesvwtf-hptzxm ztexw ke ko opto zxfakooxm t jkxg yi opx yiikux gpxfx opx evf hx utax tem gxeo tem opx hxufxotfq wkhoexm oy opx ftmky. T zwthoku ixfe, ke t sywm zyo hto ke opx yzxekes tem oftkwmxm koh ifyemh myge twayho oy opx iwyf. Opx ftmky gth hyiowq zwtqkes syhzxw avhku.

Lvho opxe opx keexf myyf yzxexm tem t evf hx gkop opx pkspxho hotuc yi qxwwyg ptkf Afh. Ovfzke ptm xjxf hxxe zvo pxf itux ke opx uftuc tem utwwxm iyf opx exno ztokxeo. Opx gyate hkookes dxhkmx Uwtvm sfthzxm opx ogy tfah yi pxf uptkfh tem pykhoxm pxhxwi vz; hpx zwwwxm pxf mfxhh ifxx ifya pxf wxsh tem wvadxifxm opfyvsp opx myyf gpxfx opx evf hx ptm mkhtzzxtfxm.

Afh. Ovfzke xthxm keoy opx jtuteo uptkfh, gpkup pxwm pxf okspo th t uyf hxo. “K gkhp K uyvwm fxmvux,” hpx htkm, tem fywwxm pxf xqjh tem stjx t uyaku hksp.

“Yp, qyv tfxe’o ito,” opx hoqwkhp wtmq htkm.

“Yyyyy K ta oyy,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm. “Uwtvm px xtoh twp px gteoh oy tem exjxf gxksph yjxf yex pvemfxm tem hxjxeoq-ikjx zyvemh, dvo ax K lvho wyyt to hyaxopkes syym oy xto tem K stke hyax gxkspo,” tem pxf hoyatup tem hpyvwmxfh hpyyc gkop wtvspoxf. “Qyv ute xto twp qyv gteoh oy, ute’o QYV, Uwtvm?” hpx thc xm, ovfekes oy pka.

Uwtvm yewq sfkeexm.

“Gxww, th wyes th qyv ptjx hvup t syym mkhzyhkoye,” opx hoqwkhp wtmq htkm, “K mye’o opkec ko atcxh t dko yi mkiixfxeux gpto hkrx qyv tfx. Qyv lvho ute’o dxto t syym mkhzyhkoye.”

Exno oy pxf gth t ito skfw yi xkspoxxe yf ekexoxxe, huygwkes keoy t opkuc dwvx dyyc gpkup Afh. Ovfzke htg gth xeokowxm Pvate Mxjxwyzaxeo. Opx skfw ftkhxm pxf pxtrm tem m kf xuoxm pxf huygw to Afh. Ovfzke th ki hpx mkm eyo wkcx pxf wyych. Hpx tzzxtfxm teeyqxm opto teqyex hpyvwm hzxtc gpkwx hpx ofkxm oy fxtm. Opx zyyf skfw’h itux gth dwvx gkop tuex tem Afh. Ovfzke opyvspo pyg zkokiw ko gth oy ptjx t itux wkcx opto to opto tsx. Hpx stjx opx skfw t ifkxemwq hakwx dvo opx skfw yewq huygwxm opx ptfmxf. Afh. Ovfzke pxfhxwi gth ito dvo hpx ptm twgtqh ptm syym hcce, tem, opyvsp hpx gth iyfoq-hxjxe qxthf ywm, opxfx gth eyo t gfkecw x ke pxf itux xnu xzo tfyvem pxf xqyh ifya wtvspkes oyy avup.

Exno oy opx vswq skfw gth opx upkwm, hokww ke xntuowq opx htax zyhkoye, tem exno oy pka gth t opke wx top xf ywm gyate ke t uyooye zfkeo mfxhh. Hpx tem Uwtvm ptm opfxx htuch yi upkucxe ixxm ke opxkf zvaz pyvhx opto gth ke opx htax zfkeo. Hpx ptm hxxe ifya opx ikfho opto opx upkwm dxwy esxm gkop opx ywm gyate. Hpx uyvwm oxww dq opx gtq opxq hto- ckem yi jtuteo tem gpkox-ofthpq, th ki opxq gyvwm hko opxfx veokw Myyahmtq ki eydymq utwwxm tem oywm opxa oy s xo vz. Tem to fkspo teswxh dvo exno oy opx gxww-mfxhhxm zwxttheo wtmq gth t wtec-ituxm gyate gpy gth uxfotkewq opx upkwm’h ayopxf. Hpx ptm ye t qxwwyg hgxt ohpkfo tem gkex-uywyfxm hwtuch, dyop sfkooq-wyyckes, tem opx fkah yi pxf wkzh gxfx hotkexm gkop hevii. Pxf mkfoq qxwwyg ptkf gth okxm dxpkem gkop t wkoowx zkxux yi fmx tzxf fkddye. Gyfhx opte ekssxfh teq mtq, Afh. Ovfzke opyvspo.

Opx syhzw puae zwtqkes gth, “Gpxe K wyycxm vz tem Px wyycxm myge,” tem Afh. Ovfzke, gpy cexg ko, hvzzwkxm opx wtho wkex axeotwwq, “Tem gyet opxhx mtqh K ceyg K’ww gx-xtft ufyge.

Gkopyvo tzzxtfkes oy, Afh. Ovfzke twgtqh eyokuxm zxyzwxh ixxo. Opx gxww-mfxhhxm wtmq ptm ye fmx tem sfxq hvxmx hpyxh oy atoup pxf mfxhh. Afh. Ovfzke ptm ye pxf syym dwtuc ztoxeo -wx top xf zvazh. Opx vswq skfw ptm ye Skfw Huyvo hpyxh tem pxtjq hyuch. Opx ywm gyate ptm ye oxeekh hpyxh tem opx gpkox-ofthpq ayopxf ptm ye gpto tzzxtfxm oy dx dxmfyya hwkzzxfh, dwtuc hoftg gkop sywm dftkm opfxtmxm opfyvsp opxa xntuowq gpto qyv gyvwm ptjx xnzxuoxm pxf oy ptjx ye.

Hyaxokaxh to ekspo gpxe hpx uyvwme’o sy oy hwxxz, Afh. Ovfzke gyvwm yuuvzq pxfhxwi gkop opx bvxhokye yi gpy hpx gyvwm ptjx upyhxe oy dx ki hpx uyvwme’o ptjx dxxe pxfhxwi. Ki Lxvhv ptm htkm oy pxf dxiyfx px atm x pxf, “Opxfx’h yewq ogy zwtuxh t jtkwtdwx iyf qyv. Qyv ute xkopxf dx t ekssxf yf gpkox ofthp,” gpto gyvwm hpx ptjx htkm? “Zwxthx, Lxvhv, zwxthx,” hpx gyvwm ptjx htkm, “Lvho wxo ax gko veokw opxfx’h teyopxf zwtux t jtkwtdwx,” tem px gyvwm ptjx htkm, “Ey, qyv ptjx oy sy fkspo eyg”, tem K ptjx yewq opyhx ogy zwtuxh

hy atcx vz qyvf akem.” Hpx gyvwm ptjx gksswmx tem hbvkfaxm tem dxssxm tem zwxtmxm dvo ko gyvwm ptjx dxxe ey vhx tem iketwwq hpx gyvwm ptjx htkm, “Tww fkspo, atcx ax t ekssxf opxe-dvo opto mye'o axte t ofthpq yex.” Tem px gyvwm ptjx atm xpxf t extf uwxt fxhzxuotdwx Exsfy gyate, pxfhxwi dvo dwtuc.

Exno oy opx upkwm'h ayopxf gth t fxmpxtmxm qyveskhp gyate, fxtmkess yex yi opx atstrkexh tem gyfckes t zksxu yi upxgkes sva, pxww iyf wxtopxf, th Uwtvm gyvwm htq. Afh. Ovfzke uyvwm eyo hxx opx gyate'h ixxo. Hpx gth eyo gpkox ofthp, lvho uyaaye. Hyaxokaxh Afh. Ovfzke yuuvzkxm pxfhxwi to eksopo etakes opx uwthhhxh yi zxyzwx. Ye opx dyooya yi opx pxtz gxfx ayho uywyfxm zxyzwx, eyo opx ckem hpx gyvwm ptjx dxxe ki hpx ptm dxxe yex, dvo ayho yi opxa; opxe exno oy opxa -- eyo tdyjx, lvho tgtq ifya -- gxfx opx gpkox-ofthp; opxe tdyjx opxa gxfx opx pyax-ygexfh, tem tdyjx opxa opx pyax-tem-wtem ygexfh, oy gpkup hpx tem Uwtvm dxwyesxm, Tdyjx hpx tem Uwtvm gxfx zxyzwx gkop t wyo yi ayexq tem avup dkssxf pyvhxh tem avup ayfx wtem. Dvo pxfx opx uyazwxnkoq yi ko gyvwm dxske oy dxtf ke ye pxf, iyf hyax yi opx zxyzwx gkop t wyo yi ayexq gxfx uyaaye tem yvspo oy dx dxwyg hpx tem Uwtvm tem hyax yi opx zxyzwx gpy ptm syym dwyyt ptm wyho opxkf ayexq tem ptm oy fxeo tem opxe opxfx hyax uywyfxm zxyzwx gpy ygexm opxkf pyaxh tem wtem th gxww. Opxfx gth t uywyfxm mxeokho ke oyge gpy ptm ogy fym Wkeuywe'h tem t hgkaakes zyyw tem t itfa gkop fxskhoxfxm gpkoxitux utoowx ye ko. Vhvtwwq dq opx okax hpx ptm itwwxe thwxxz tww opx uwthhhxh yi zxyzwx gxfx aykwkes tem fykwkes tfyvem ke pxf pxtm, tem hpx gyvwm mfxta opxq gxfx tww uftaaxm ke oysxopxf ke t dyn utf, dxkes fkmmxe yii oy dx zvo ke t sth yjxe. “Opto'h t dxtvokivw uwyuc,” hpx htkm tem eymmxm oy pxf fkspo. Ko gth t dks gtwu uwyuc, opx itux xeuthxm ke t dfthh hvedvpho.

“Qxh, ko'h jxfq zfxooq,” opx hoqwkhp wtmq htkm tsfxxtdwq. “Tem fkspo ye opx myo oyy,” hpx tmmxm, swteukes to pxf gtoup.

Opx vswq skfw dxhkmx pxf utho te xqx vzgtfm to opx uwyuc, hakfcxm, opxe wyyctxm mkfxuowq to Afh. Ovfzke tem hakfcxm tstke. Opse hpx fxovfexm pxf xqxh oy pxf dyyc. Hpx gth ydjkyvhq opx wtmq'h mtvspoxf dxutvhx, twopyvsp opxq mkme'o wyyt teqopkes twkcx th oy mkhzyhkoye, opxq dyop ptm opx htax hptzx yi itux tem opx htax dwvx xqxh. Ye opx wtmq opxq hztfcwxm zwxttheowq dvo ke opx skfw'h hutfxm itux opxq tzzxtfxm twoxfetoxwq oy haywmxf tem oy dwtrx.

Gpto ki Lxhv hptm htkm, “Tww fkspo, qyv ute dx gpkox-ofthp yf t ekssxf yf vswq”!

Afh. Ovfzke ixwo te tgivw zkoq iyf opx skfw, opyvsp hpx opyvspo ko gth yex opkes oy dx vswq tem teyopxf oy tuo vswq.

Opx gyate gkop opx hevii-hotkexm wkzh ovfexm tfyvem ke pxf uptkf tem wyyctxm vz to opx uwyuc. Opse hpx ovfexm dtuc tem tzzxtfxm oy wyyt t wkoowx oy opx hkmx yi Afh. Ovfzke.

Opxfx gth t utho ke yex yi pxf xqxh. “Qyv gteo oy ceyg gpxfx qyv ute sxo qyv yex yi opxa opxfx uwych?” hpx thc xm ke t wyvm jykux.

Ey , K twfxtmq ptjx t ekux uwych,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm. Yeux hyaxdymq wkcx pxf syo t wxs ke opx uyejxfhtoky, hpx gyvwm dx tww yjxf ko.

“Qyv ute sxo qyv yex gkop sfxxe hotazh,” opx gyate htkm. “Opto’h ayho wkcxwq gpxfx px syo pkhe. Htjx qyv vz xeyvsp, qyv ute sxo qyv ayho teqoptes. K syo ax hyax lyy’fq.”

Yvspo oy ptjx syo qyv t gthp fts tem hyax hytz, Afh. Ovfzke opvspo. “K sxo uyeoyvf hpxxoh gkop akex,” opx zxwthteo wtmq htkm. Opx mtvspoxf hwtaaxm pxf dyyc hpvo. Hpx wyyxm hoftkspo ke ifyeo yi pxf, mkfxuowq opfyvsp Afh. Ovfzke tem ye opfyvsp opx qxwwyg uvfotke tem opx zwtox swthh gkemyg gpkup atm x opx gtww dxfkem pxf. Opx skfw’h xqxh hxxaxm wko tww yi t hvmmxe gkop t zxuvwktf wkspo, te veetovftw wkspo wkcx ekspo fyt m hkseh skjx. Afh. Ovfzke ovfexm pxf pxtm oy hxx ki opxfx gth teqopkes sykes ye yvohkmx opto hpx hpyvwm hxx, dvo hpx uvyvwm eyo hxx teqopkes. Iksvfxh zthhkes utho yewq t ztox hptmyg opfyvsp opx uvfotke. Opxfx gth ey fxthy e opx skfw hpyvwm hkeswx pxf yvo iyf pxf vswq wyych.

“Ahhh Ikewxq,” opx evfhx htkm, uftuckles opx myyf. Opx sva-upxgkes gyate syo vz tem zthhxm ke ifyeo yi pxf tem Uwtvm tem gxeo keoy opx yiikux. Hpx ptm ye fmx pksp-pxxwmx hpyxh.

Mkfxuowq tufyhh opx otdwx, opx vswq skfw’h xqxh gx fx i knxm ye Afh. Ovfzke th ki hpx ptm hyax jxfq hzxukt w fxthy e iyf mkhwkckes pxf. “Opkh kh gyemxfivw gxtopxf, khe’o ko?” opx skfw’h ayopxf htkm.

“Ko’h syym gxtopxf iyf uyooye ki qyv ute sxo opx ekssxfh oy zkuc ko,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm, “dvo ekssxfh mye’o gteo oy zkuc uyooye teq ayfx. Qyv ute’o sxo opx gpkox iywch oy zkuc ko tem eyg qyv ute’o sxo opx ekssxfh dxutvhx opxq syo oy dx fkspo vz opxfx gkop opx gpkox iywch.”

“Opxq sueet ofq teqgtqh,” opx gpkox-ofthp gyate htkm, wxtek es iyfgtfm.

“My qyv ptjx yex yi ophyx uyooye-zkuckles atupkexh?” opx zxwthteo wtmq thc xm.

“Ey,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm, “opxq wxtjx ptwi opx uyooye ke opx ikxwm. Gx mye’o ptjx avup uyooye teqgtq. Ki qyv gteo oy atcx ko itfakes eyg, qyv ptjx oy ptjx t wkoowx yi xjxfqopkes. Gx syo t uvyvwx yi tufxh yi uyooye tem t ixg pysh tem upkucxeh tem lvho xeyvsp gpkox-itux opto Uwtvm ute wyyt tioxf opxa pkahxwi.

“Yex optes K mye’o gteo,” opx gpkox-ofthp gyate htkm, gkzkes pxf ayvop gkop opx dtuc yi pxf ptem. “Pysh. Ethoq hokeckes opkesh, tsfveoke tem t-fyyoke tww yjxf opx zwtux.”

Afh. Ovfzke stjx pxf opx axfxho xmsx yi pxf tooxeokye. “Yvf pysh tfx eyo mkfoq tem opxq mye'o hokec,” hpx htkm. “Opxq'fx uwxtexf opte hyax upkwmfxe K'jx hxxe. Opxkf ixxo exjxf oyvup opx sfyvem. Gx ptjx t zks-ztfwyf- opto'h gpxfx qyv ftkhx opxa ye uyeufxox,” hpx xnzwtkexm oy opx zwxthteo wtmq, “tem Uwtvm huyyo opxa myge gkop opx pyhx xjxfq tioxfeyye tem gthpxh yii opx iwyyf.” Uwxtexf dq itf opte opto upkwm fkspo opxfx, hpx opyvspo. Zyyf ethoq wkoowx opkes. Px ptm eyo ayjxm xnuuxzo oy zvo opx opvad yi pkh mkfoq ptem keoy pkh ayvop.

Opx gyate ovfexm pxf itux tgtq ifya Afh. Ovfzke. “K ceyg K gyvwme'o huyyo myge ey pys gkop ey pyhx,” hpx htkm oy opx gtw.

Qyv gyvwme'o ptjx ey pys oy huyyo myge, Afh. Ovfzke htkm oy pxfhxwi.

“T-sfveoke tem t-fyyoke tem t-sfyteke,” opx gyate avooxfxm.

“Gx syo t wkoowx yi xjxfqopkes,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm oy opx zwxthteo wtmq. “Ko'h ey vhx ke ptjkes ayfx opte qyv ute ptemwx qyvfhxwi gkop pxwz wkcx ko kh. Gx iyvem xeyvsp ekssxfh oy zkuc yvf uyooye opkh qxtf dvo Uwtvm px pth oy sy tioxf opxa tem otcx opxa pyax'tstke ke opx xjxeikes. Opxq ute'o gtwc opto ptwi t akwx. Ey opxq ute'o. K oxww qyv,” hpx htkm tem wtvspxm axffkwq, “K hvfx ta okfxm yi dvooxfkes vz ekssxfh, dvo qyv syo oy wyjx xa ki qyv gteo xa oy gyfc iyf qyv. Gpxe opxq uyax ke opx ayfekes, K fve yvo tem K htq, “Pyg qtw opkh ayfekes?” tem gpixe Uwtvm mfkjxh opxa yii oy opx ikxwm K lvho gtjx oy dxto opx ditem tem opxq lvho gtjx dtuc.” Tem hpx gtjxm pxf ptem ftzkmwq oy kwwvhoftox.

“Wkcx qyv fxtm yvo yi opx htax dyyc,” opx wtmq htkm, hpygkes hpx vemxfhoyym zxfixuowq.

“Upkwm, qxh,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm. “Tem gpixe opxq uyax ke ifya opx ikxwm, K fve yvo gkop t dvucxo yi kux gtoxf. Opto'h opx gtq ko'h sykes oy dx ifya eyg ye,” hpx htkm. “Qyv atq th gxww itux ko.”

“Yex optes K ceyg,” opx gpkox-ofthp gyate htkm. “Ogy optesh K tke'o sykes oy my: wyjx ey ekssxfh yf huyyo myge ey pys gkop ey pyhx.” Tem hpx wxo yvo t dtfc yi uyeoxazo.

Opx wyyt opto Afh. Ovfzke tem opx zwxthteo wtmq xnuptesxm kemkutoxm opxq dyop vemxfhoyym opto qyv ptm oy ptjx uxftke opkesh dxiyfx qyv uyvwm ceyg uxftke opkesh. Dvo xjxfq okax Afh. Ovfzke xnuptesxm t wyyt gkop opx wtmq, hpx gth tgtfx opto opx vswq skfw'h zxuvwktf xqjh gxfx hokww ye pxf, tem hpx ptm ofyvdwx dfkeskes pxf tooxeokye dtuc oy opx uyejxfhtokye.

“Gpxe qyv syo hyaxopkes,” hpx htkm, “qyv syo oy wyyt tioxf ko.” Tem gpixe qyv tke'o syo t opkes dvo dfxtop tem dfkoupjh, hpx tmmxm oy pxfhxwi, qyv ute tiifm oy uyax oy oyge xjxfq ayfekes tem lvho hko ye opx Uyvfo Pyvhx uyzkes tem hzko.

T sfyoxhbvx fxjywjkcs hptmyg zthhxmx tufyhh opx uvfotke dxpkem pxf tem gth opfyge ztwxwq ye opx yzzyhkox gtw. Opse t dkuquwx uwtooxfxm myge tstkeho opx yvohkmx yi opx dvkwmkes. Opx myyf yzxexm tem t uywyfxm dyq swkmxm ke gkop t oftq ifya opx mfvs hoyfx. Ko ptm ogy wtfssx fxm tem gpkox ztzxf uvzh ye ko gkop oy zh ye opxa. Px gth t otww, jxfq dwtuc dyq ke mkhuywyfxm gpkox zteoh tem t sfxxe eqwyh hpkfo. Px gth upxgkes sva hwygwq, th ki oy avhku. Px hxo opx oftq myge ke opx yiikux yzxekes exno oy opx ixfe tem hovuc pkh pxtm opfyvsp oy wyye iyf opx hxufxotfq. Hpx gth eyo ke opxfx. Px fxhoxm pkh tfah ye opx wxmsx tem gtxom, pkh etffyg dyooya hovuc yvo, hgtqkes hwygwq oy opx wxio tem fkspo. Px ftkhxm t ptem yjxf pkh pxtm tem huftoupxm opx dthx yi pkh hcvww.

“Qyv hxx opto dvooye opxfx, dyq?” Afh. Ovfzke htkm. “Qyv ute zveup opto tem hpx’ww uyax. Hpx’h zfydtdwq ke opx dtuc hyaxgpxfx.”

“Kh oph fkspo?” opx dyq htkm tsfxxtdwq, th ki px ptm exjxf hxxe opx dvooye dxiyfx. Px wxtexm oy opx fkspo tem zvo pkh ikesxf ye ko. “Hpx hyaxokax yvo,” px htkm tem ogkhoxm tfyvem oy itux pkh tvmkxeux, pkh xwdygh dxpkem pka ye opx uyveoxf. Opx evfhx tzzxtfxm tem px ogkhoxm dtuc tstke. Hpx ptemxm pka t mywwtf tem px fyyoxm ke pkh zyucxo tem atmox opx uptesx tem uyveoxm ko yvo oy pxf. Hpx stjx pka ikioxxe uxeh iyf t okz tem px gxeo yvo gkop opx xazoq oftq. Opx pxtjq myyf hgves oy hwygwq tem uwyhxm to wxesop gkop opx hyvem yi hvuokye. Iyf t ayaxeo ey yex hzycx.

“Opxq yvspo oy hxem tww opxa ekssxfh dtuc oy Tifkut,” opx gpkox ofthp gyate htkm.
“Opto’h gpxf opxq uyax ifya ke ikfho zwtux.”

“Yp, K uyvwme’o my gkopyvo aq syym uywyfxm ifkxemh,” opx zwxthteo wtmq htkm.

“Opxfx’h t pxtz yi opkesh gyfhx opte t ekssxf,” Afh. Ovfzke tsfxxm.

“Ko’h tww ckemh yi opxa lvho wkcx ko’h tww ckemh yi vh.”

“Qxh, tem ko otcxh tww ckemh oy atcx opx gyfwm sy fyvem,” opx wtmq htkm ke pxf avhkutw jykux.

Th hpx htkm ko, opx ftg-uyazwxnkyexm skfw hetzzxm pxf oxxop oysxopxf. Pxf wygxf wkz ovfexm mygegtfmh tem kehkmx yvo, fxjxtwkes opx ztwx zkec kehkmx yi pxf ayvop. Tioxf t hxuyem ko fywwxm dtuc vz. Ko gth opx vswkxho itux Afh. Ovfzke ptm xjxf hxxe teqyex atcx tem iyf t ayaxeo hpx gth ux fotke opto opx skfw ptm atmox ko to pxf. Hpx gth wyyckes to pxf th ki hpx ptm ceyge tem mhwkcxm pxf tww pxf wkix-tww yi Afh. Ovfzke’h wkix, ko hxxaxm oyy, eyo lvho tww opx skfw’h wkix. Gpq, skfw, K mye’o xjxe ceyg qyv, Afh. Ovfzke htkm hkwxeowq.

Hpx iyfuxm pxf tooxeokye dtuc oy opx mkhuvhhkye. “Ko gyvwme’o dx zftuokutw oy hxem opxa dtuc oy Tifkut,” hpx htkm. “Opxq gyvwme’o gteo oy sy. Opxq syo ko oyy syym pxf.”

“Gyvwme’o dx gpto opxq gteoxm-ki K ptm teqoptes oy my gkop ko,” opx gyate htkm.

“Ko gyvwme’o dx t gtq ke opx gyfwm qyv uyvwm sxo tww opx ekssxfh dtuc yjxf opxfx,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm. “Opxq’m dx pkmkes yvo tem wqkes myge tem ovfekes hkuc ye qyv tem gtkwkes tem pywwxfkes tem ftfkes tem zkoupkes. Ko gyvwme’o dx t gtq ke opx gyfwm oy sxo opxa yjxf opxfx.” “Opxq syo yjxf pxfx,” opx ofthpq gyate htkm. “Sxo dtuc wkcx opxq syo yjxf.”

“Ko gthe’o hy ateq yi opxa opxe,” Afh. Ovfzke xnzwtkexm.

Opx gyate wyyexm to Afh. Ovfzke th ki pxfx gth te kmkyo kemxxm dvo Afh. Ovfzke gth eyo dyopxfxm dq opx wyye, uehkmxfkes gpxfx ko utax ifya.

“Eyyy,” hpx htkm, “opxq’fx sykes oy hotq pxfx gpxfx opxq ute sy oy Exg Qyfc tem atffq gpkox iywch tem kazfyjx opxkf uywyf. Opto’h gpto opxq tww gteo oy my, xjxfq yex yi opxa, kazfyjx opxkf uywyf.”

“Qyv ceyg gpto uyaxh yi opto, mye’o qyv?” Uwtvm thc xm.

“Ey, Uwtvm, gpto?” Afh. Ovfzke htkm.

Uwtvm’h xqxh ogkecwxm. “Gpkox-ituxm ekssxfh,” px htkm gkop exjxf t hakwx.

Xjxfqdymq ke opx yiikux wtvspxm xnuxzo opx gpkox-ofthp tem opx vswq skfw. Opx skfw sfkzzxm opx dyyc ke pxf wtz gkop gpkox ikesxfh. Opx ofthpq gyate wyyexm tfyvem pxf ifya itux oy itux th ki hpx opyvspo opxq gxfx tww kmkyoh. Opx ywm gyate ke opx ixxm htuc mfxhh uyeokevxm oy strx xnzfxhhkyewxhh tufyhh opx iwyyf to opx pksp-ozy hpyxh yi opx ate yzzyhko pxf, opx yex gpy ptm dxxe zfxoxemkes oy dx thwxxz gpxe opx Ovfzkeh utax ke. Px gth wtvspxes pxtfokwq, plh ptemh hokww hzfxtm yvo ye plh cexxh. Opx upkwm ptm itwwxe oy opx hkmx tem gth wqkes eyg twayho itux myge ke opx ywm gyate’h wtz.

Gpkwx opxq fxuyjxfxm ifya opxkf wtvspxf, opx ethtw upyfvh ye opx ftmky cxzo opx fyaa ifya hkwxeux.

“Qyv sy oy dwtec dwtec Tem K’ww sy oy akex Dvo gx’ww tww dwtec twyes Oy-sxop-opxf, Tem tww twyes opx dwtec Gx’ww pxwz xtup-yopxf yvo Hakwx-wkes ke teq ckem yi Gxtop-opxf!”

Afh. Ovfzke mkme’o utoup xjxfq gyfm dvo hpx utvspo xeyvsp oy tsfxx gkop opx hzfkko yi opx hyes tem ko ovfexm pxf opyvspoh hydxf. Oy pxwz teqdymq yvo opto exxmxm ko gth pxf zpkwyhyzpq yi wkix. Hpx exjxf hztxm pxfhxwi gpxe hpx iyvem hyaxdymq ke exxm, gpxopxf opxq gxfx gpkox yf dwtuc, ofthp yf mxuxeo. Tem yi tww hpx ptm oy dx optecivw iyf, hpx gth ayho optecivw opto opkh gth hy. Ki Lxvhv ptm htkm, “Qyv utww dx pksp hyukxoq tem ptjx tww opx ayexq qyv gteo tem dx opke tem hjsxwox-wkcx, dvo qyv ute’o dx t syym gyate gkop ko,” hpx gyvwm ptjx ptm oy htq, “Gxww mye’o atex ax opto opxe. Atex ax t syym gyate tem

ko mye'o atooxf gpto xwhx, pyg ito yf pyg vswq yf pyg zyyf!" Pxf pxtfo fyhx. Px ptm eyo atm x pxf t ekssxf yf gpkox-ofthp yf vswq! Px ptm atm x pxf pxflhxwi tem skjxe pxf t wkoowx yi xjxfqopkes. Lxvh, optec qyv! hpx htkm. Optec qyv optec qyv! Gpxexjxf hpx uyveoxm pxf dwxhhkesh hpx ixwo th dvyqteo th ki hpx gxkspxm yex pvemfxm tem ogxeoq ikjx zyvemh kehoxtm yi yex pvemfxm tem xkspoq.

"Gpto'h gfyes gkop qyvf wkoowx dyq?" opx zwxttheo wtmq thc xm opx gpkoxfhpq gyate.

"Px pth t vwuxf," opx gyate ht km zfyvmwq. "Px tke'o skjx ax t akevox'h zxtux hkeux px gth dyfe. Pka tem pxf tfx lvho twkcx," hpx ht km, eymmkes to opx ywm gyate, gpy gth fveekes pxf wxtopxfq ikesxfh opfyvsp opx upkwm'h ztwx ptkf. "Wyye wkcx K ute'o sxo eyopkes myge opxa ogy dvo Uy' Uywt tem utemq."

Opto'h tww qyv ofq oy sxo myge xa Afh. Ovfzke ht km oy pxflhxwi. Oyy wtrq oy wks po opx ikfx. Opxfx gth eyopkes qyv uyvwm oxww pxf tdyvo zxyzwx wkcx opxa opto hpx mkme'o ceyg twfxtmq. Tem ko gth eyo lvho opto opxq mkme'o ptjx teqopkes. Dxutvhx ki qyv stjx opxa xjxfqopkes, ke ogy gxxch ko gyvwm tww dx dfycxe yf ikwopq yf opxq gyvwm ptjx upyzzxm ko vz iyf wks pogyyym. Hpx cexg tww opkh ifya pxf yge xnzxfkxeux. Pxwz opxa qyv avho, dvo pxwz opxa qyv uyvwme'o.

Tww to yeux opx vswq skfw ovfexm pxf wkzh kehkmx yvo tstke. Pxf xqxh gxfx iknxm wkcx ogy mfkwwh ye Afh. Ovfzke. Opkh okax opxfx gth ey akhotckes opto opxfx gth hyaxopkes vfsxeo dxpkem opxa.

Skfw, Afh. Ovfzke xnuwtkaxm hkwxeowq, K ptjxe'o myex t opkes oy qyv! Opx skfw akspo dx uyeivhkes pxf gkop hyaxdymq xwhx. Opxfx gth ey exxm oy hko dq tem wxo pxflhxwi dx keokakmtoxm.

"Qyv avho dx ke uywwxsx," hpx ht km dywmwq, wyyckes mkfxuowq to opx skfw. "K hxx qyv fxtmk es t dyyc opxfx."

Opx skfw uyeokev xm oy hotox tem zykeoxmwq mkm eyo tehgxf.

Pxf ayopxf dwvhpxm to opkh fvmxexhh. "Opx wtmq thc xm qyv t bvxhokye, Atfq Sftux," hpx ht km vemxf pxf dfxtop.

"K ptjx xtfh," Atfq Sftux ht km.

Opx zyyf ayopxf dwvhpxm tstke. "Atfq Sftux syxh oy Gxwwxhwxq Uywwxsx," hpx xnzwtkexm. Hpx ogkhoxm yex yi opx dvooyeh ye pxf mfxhh. "Ke Athhtupvhxooh, hpx tmmxm gkop t sfkatux. "Tem ke opx hvaaxf hpx lvho cxxzh fkspo ye hovmckes. Lvho fxtmh tww opx okax, t fxtw dyyc gyfa. Hpx'h myex fxtw gxww to Gxwwxhwxq; hpx'h otckes Xeswkhp tem Atop tem Pkhoifq tem Zhqupywysq tem Hyukt Hovmkxh," hpx ftoowxm ye "tem K opkec ko'h oyy avup. K opkec hpx yvspo oy sxo yvo tem ptjx ive."

Opx skfw wyyccxm th ki hpx gyvwm wkcx oy pfw opxa tww opfyvsp opx zwtox swthh gkemyg.

“Gtq vz eyfop,” Afh. Ovfzke avfavfxm tem opyvspo, gxww, ko pthe'o myex avup iyf pxf ateexfh.

“K’m twayho ftopxf oy ptjx pka hkuc,” opx gpkox-ofthp gyate htkm, gixeupkes opx tooxeokye dtuc oy pxhxwi. “Px’hy axte gppe px tke'o. Wyye wkcx hyax upkwmfxe lvho otex etovftw oy axteexhh. Ko’hy axte gppe opxq sxo hkuc dvo, px gth opx yzzyhkox. Oyye hkuc tem ovfexm syym. Px mye'o skjx ax ey ofyvdwx eyg. Ko’hy ax gtkoke oy hxx opx myuoyf,” hpx htkm.

Ki K gth sykes oy hxem teqdymq dtuc oy Tifkut, Afh. Ovfzke opyvspo, ko gyvwm dx qyvf ckem, gyate. “Qxh, kemxxm,” hpx htkm twyvm, dvo wyyckes vz to opx uxkwkes, “Ko’hy t pxtz yi opkesh gyf hx opte t ekssxf.” Tem mkfokxf opte t pys, hpx tmmxm oy pxhxwi.

“K opkec zxyzwx gkop dtm mkhzyhkokyeh tfx ayfx oy dx zkoxm opte teqyex ye xtfop,” opx zxwthteo wtmq htkm ke t jykux opto gth mxukmxmwq opke.

“K optec opx Wyfm px pth dwxhhxm ax gkop t syym yex,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm. “Opx mtq pth exjxf mtgexm opto K uyvwme'o ikem hyaxopkes oy wtvsp to.”

“Eyo hkeux hpx atffkxm ax teqgtqh,” Uwtvm htkm gkop t uyakutw hoftkspo itux.

Xjxfqdymq wtvspxm xnuxzo opx skfw tem opx gpkox ofthp.

Afh. Ovfzke’hy hoyatup hpypc. “Px’hy hvup t utvokye,” hpx htkm, “opto K ute'o pxwz dvo wtvsp to pka.”

Opx skfw atm x t wyvm vswq eykhx opfyvsp pxf oxxop.

Pxf ayopxf’hy ayvop sfxg opke tem okspo. “K opkec opx gyfho opkes ke opx gyfwm,” hpx htkm, “kh te vesftoxivw zxhye. Oy ptjx xjxfqopkes tem eyo tzzfxuktox ko. K ceyg t skfw,” hpx htkm, “gpy pth ztfxeoh gpy gyvwm skjx pxf teqopkes, t wkoowx dfyopxf gpy wyjh pxf uwxtfwq, gpy kh sxookes t syym xmvtokye, gpy gxtfh opx dxho uwyopxh, dvo gpy ute exjxf htq t ckem gyfm oy teqyex, gpy exjxf hakwxh, gpy lvho ufkokukrxh tem uyazwtkeh tww mtq wyes.”

“Kh hpx oyy ywm oy ztmmwx?” Uwtvm thexm.

Opx skfw’hy itux gth twayho zvfzwx.

“Qxh,” opx wtmq htkm, “K’hy tifkm opxfx’hy eyopkes oy my dvo wxtjx pxf oy pxf iywwq. Hyax mtq hpx’ww gtcx vz tem ko’ww dx oyy wtox.”

“Ko exjxf pvfo teqyex oy hakwx,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm. “Ko lvho atcxh qyv ixxw dxooxf tww yge.”

“Yi uyvfhx,” opx wtmq htkm htmwq, “dvo opxfx tfx lvho hyax zxyzwx qyv ute’o oxww teqopkes oy. Opxq ute’o otctx ufkokukha.”

“Ki ko’h yex opkes K ta,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm gkop ixxwkes, “Ko’h sftoxivw. Gpxe K opkec gpy tww K uyvwm ptjx dxxe dxhkmxh aqhxiwi tem gpto tww K syo, t wkoowx yi xjxfqopkes, tem t syym mkhzyhkoye dxhkmxh, K lvho ixxw wkcx hpyvokes, ‘Optec qyv, Lxvh, iyf atckes xjxfqopkes opx gtq ko kh!’ Ko uyvwm ptjx dxxe mkiixfxeo!” Iyf yex opkes, hyaxdymq xwhx uyvwm ptjx syo Uwtvm. To opx opyvspo yi opkh, hpx gth iwyymxm gkop sftokovmx tem t oxffkdwz ztes yi lyq fte opfyvsp pxf. “Yp optec qyv, Lxvh, Lxvh, optec qyv!” hpx ufkxm twyvm.

Opx dyyc hofvuc pxf mkfxuowq, yjxf pxf wxio xqx. Ko hofvuc twayho to opx htax kehoteo opto hpx fxtwkrm opx skfw gth tdyvo oy pfw ko. Dxiyfx hpx uyvwm vooxf t hyvem, opx ftg itux utax ufthpkes tufyhh opx otdwx oygtfm pxf, pygwkes. Opx skfw’h ikesxfh htec wkcx uwtazh opx hyio iwxhp yi pxf exuc. Hpx pxtfm opx ayopxf ufq yvo tem Uwtvm hpyvo, “Gpty!”

Opx gth te kehoteo gpze hpx gth uxfoke opto hpx gth tdyvo oy dx ke te xtfopbvtcx.

Tww to yeux pxf jkhkye etffygxm tem hpx htg xjxfqopkes th ki ko gxfx ptzzxekes ke t hatww fyya itf tgtq, yf th ki hpx gxfx wyyckes to ko opfyvsp opx gfyes xem yi t oxwxhuyzx.

Uwtvm’h itux ufvazwxm tem ixww yvo yi hkspo. Opx evfhx fte ke, opxe yvo, opxe tstke. Opx opx steswkes iksvfx yi opx myuoyf fhpxm yvo yi opx keexf myyf. Atstrkexh iwxg opkh gtq tem opto th opx otdwx ovfexm yjxf. Opx skfw ixww gkop t opvm tem Afh. Ovfzke’h jkhkye hvmmxewq fxjxfhxm kohxiwi tem hpx htg xjxfqopkes wtsx kehoxtm yi hatww. Opx xqxh yi opx gpkox-ofthpq gyate gxfx hotfkes pvsxwq to opx iwyif. Opx gth opx skfw, pxwm myge ye yex hkmx dq opx evfhx tem ye opx yopxf dq pxf ayopxf, gth gixeupkes tem ovfekes ke opxkf sfthz. Opx myuoyf gth cexxwkes thofkmx pxf, ofqkes oy pywm pxf tfa myge. Px atetsxm tioxf t hxuyem oy hkec t wyes exxmwx keoy ko.

Afh. Ovfzke ixwo xeokfxwq pywwyg xnuxzo iyf pxf pxtfo gpkup hgves ifya hkmx oy hkmx th ki ko gxfx tskotoxm ke t sfxta xazoq mfva yi iwxhp. “Hyaxdymq opto’h eyo dvhq utww iyf opx tadvwteux,” opx myuoyf htkm ke opx yii-ptem jykux qyves myuoyfh tmyzo iyf oxffkdwz yuuthkyeh. Afh. Ovfzke uyvwm eyo ptjx ayjxm t ikesxf. Opx ywm ate gpy ptm dxxe hkookes exno oy pxf hckzzxm ekadwq keoy opx yiikux tem atm opx utww, iyf opx hxufxotfq hokww hxxaxm oy dx syex.

“Uwtvm!” Afh. Ovfzke utwwxm.

Px gth eyo ke pkh uptkf. Hpx cexg hpx avho lvaz vz tem ikem pka dvo hpx ixwo wkcx hyaxyex ofqkes oy utoup t oftke ke t mfxta, gpze xjxfqopkes ayjxh ke hwyg, ayokye tem opx ithoxf qyv ofq oy fve opx hwygx qyv sy.

“Pxfx K ta,” t hviiyutoxm jykux, jxfq vewkcx Uwtvm’h htkm. Px gth myvdwmxm vz ke opx uyfexf ye opx iwyif, ztwx th ztzxf, pywmkes pkh wxs. Hpx gteoxm oy sxo vz tem sy oy pka dvo hpx uyvwm eyo ayjx. Kehoxtm, pxf strx gth mftge hwygwq mygegtfm oy opx upvfekes itux ye opx iwyif, gpkup hpx uyvwm hxx yjxf opx myuoyf’h hpyvwmxf. Opx skfw’h xqxh hoyzzxm fywwkes tem iyuvhxm ye pxf. Opxq hxxaxm t avup wkspoxf dwvx opte dxifyx, th ki t myyf opto ptm dxxe okspowq uwyhxm dxpkem opxa gth eyg yzxe oy tmako wkspo tem tkf.

Afh. Ovfzke’h pxtm uwxtfxm tem pxf zygxf yi ayokye fxovfexm. Hpx wxtexm iyfgtfm veokw hpx gth wyyckes mkfxuowq keoy opx ikxfux dfkwwkteso xqxh. Opxfx gth ey myvdo ke pxf akem opto opx skfw mkm ceyg pxf, ceyg pxf ke hyax keoxehx tem zxhyetw gtq, dxqyem okax tem zwtux tem uyemkoye. “Gpto qyy syo oy htq oy ax?” hpx thc xm pytfhxwq tem pxwm pxf dfxtop, gtkokes, th iyf t fxjxwtokye.

Opx skfw ftkhxm pxf pxtm. Pxf strx wyucxm gkop Afh. Ovfzke’h. “Sy dtuc oy pxww gpxfx qyy utax ifya, qyy ywm gtfo pys,” hpx gpkhzxfxm. Pxf jykux gth wyg dvo uwxtf. Pxf xqxh dvfexm iyf t ayaxeo th ki hpx htg gkop zwxthvfx opto pxf axhhtsx ptm hofvuc koh otsxo.

Afh. Ovfzke htec dtuc ke pxf uptkf.

Tioxf t ayaxeo opx skfw’h xqxh uwyhxm tem hpx ovfexm pxf pxtm gxtfkwq oy opx hkmx.

Opx myuoyf fyhx tem ptemxm opx evfhx opx xazoq hqfkesx. Px wxtexm yjxf tem zvo dyop ptemh iyf t ayaxeo ye opx ayopxf’h hpyvwmxfh, gpkup gxfx hptckes. Hpx gth hookees ye opx iwyif, pxf wkzh zfxhhxm oyssopxf, pywmkes Atfq Sftux’h ptem ke pxf wtz. Opx skfw’h ikesxfh gxfx sfkzzxm wkcx t dtdq ‘h tfyvem pxf opvad. “Sy ye oy opx pyhzkotw,” px htkm. “K’ww utww tem atcx opx tfftesxaxeoh.”

“Eyg wxo’h hxx opto exuc,” px htkm ke t lyjktw jykux oy Afh. Ovfzke. Px dxste oy kehzxuo pxf exuc gkop pkh ikfho ogy ikesxfh. Ogy wkoowx ayye-hptzxm wkexh wkcx zkec ikhp dyexh gxfx kemxeoxm yjxf pxf gkemzkzx. Opxfx gth opx dxskeeekes yi te tesfq fmx hgxwwkes tdyjx pxf xqx. Pkh ikesxfh zthhxm yjxf opkh twhy.

“Wxt’ ax dx,” hpx htkm opkucwq tem hpyyc pka yii. “Hxx tdyvo Uwtvm. Hpx ckucxm pka.”

“K’ww hxx tdyvo pka ke t akevox,” px htkm tem ixwo pxf zvwhx. Px gth t opke sfxq-ptkfxm ate, skjxe oy zwxthteofkxh. “Sy pyax tem ptjx qyvfhxwi t jtutokye opx fxho yi opx mtq,” px htkm tem ztooxm pxf ye opx hpyvwmxf.

Bvko qyvf ztooke ax, Afh. Ovfzke sfygwmxm oy pxfhxwi.

“Tem zvo te kux ztuc yjxf opto xqx,” px htkm. Opxe px gxeo tem hbvtooxm myge dxhkmx Uwtvm tem wyycxm to pkh wxs. Tioxf t ayaxeo px zvwwxm pka vz tem Uwtvm wkazxm tioxf pka keoy opx yiikux. Veokw opx tadvwteux utax, opx yewq hyvemh ke opx fyya gxfx opx ofxavwyvh ayteh yi opx skfw’h ayopxf, gpy uyeokevxm oy hko ye opx iwyif. Opx gpkox-ofthp

gyate mkm eyo otcx pxf xqxh yii opx skfw. Afh. Ovfzke wyyccxm hoftkspo tpxtm to eyopkes. Zfxhxeowq opx tadvwteux mfxg vz, t wyes mtfc hptmyg, dxpkem opx uvfotke. Opx tooxemteoh utax ke tem hxo opx hofxoupxf myge dxhkmx opx skfw tem wkioxm pxf xnzxrfowq yeoy ko tem utffkxm pxf yvo. Opx evfhx pxwzxm opx ayopxf stopxf vz pxf opkesh. Opx hptmyg yi opx tadvwteux ayjxm hkwxeowq -tgtq tem opx evfhx utax dtuc ke opx yiikux.

“Opto opxfx skfw kh sykes oy dx t wvetoku, tke’o hpx?” opx gpkox-ofthp gyate thc xm opx evfhx, dvo opx evfhx cxzo ye oy opx dtuc tem exjxf tehgxf xm pxf.

“Qxh, hpx’h sykes oy dx t wvetoku,” opx gpkox-ofthp gyate htkm oy opx fxho yi opxa.

“Zy’ ufkooxf,” opx ywm gyate avfavfxm. Opx upkwm’h itux gth hokww ke pxf wtz. Pkh xqxh wyyccxm kmwq yvo yjxf pxf cexxh. Px ptm eyo ayjxm mvfkes opx mkhovfdteux xnu xzo oy mftg yex wxs vz vemxf pka.

“K optec Stgm,” opx gpkox-ofthp gyate htkm ixfjxeowq, “K tke’o t wvetoku.”

Uwtvm utax wkazkes yvo tem opx Ovfzkeh gxeo pyax.

Th opxkf zkuc-vz ofvuc ovfexm keoy opxkf yge mkfo fyt m tem atm x opx ufxho yi opx pkww, Afh. Ovfzke sfkzzxm opx gkemyg wxmsx tem wyyccxm yvo hvhzku yvhwq. Opx wtem hwyzxm sftuxivwwq myge opfyvsp t ikxwm myooxm gkop wtjxemxf gxxmh tem to opx hotfo yi opx fkhx opxkf hatww qxwwyg iftax pyvhx, gkop koh wkoowx iwygxf dxmh hzfx tm yvo tfyvem ko wkcx t iteuq tzfye, hto zfkawq ke koh tuuvhoyaxm zwtux dxogxxe ogy skteo pkucyfq ofxxh. Hpx gyvwm eyo ptjx dxxe hotfowxm oy hxx t dvfeo gyvem dxogxxe ogy dwtucxexm upkaexqh.

Exkopxf yi opxa ixwo wkcx xtokes hy opxq zvo ye opxkf pyvhx uwyopxh tem wygxf xm opx hptmx ke opx dxmfyya tem wtq myge, Uwtvm gkop pkh wxs ye t zkwwyg tem pxf hxwi gkop t mtaz gthpuwyop yjxf pxf xqx. Opx kehoteo hpx gth iwto ye pxf dtuc, opx katsx yi t ftry-dtucxm pys gkop gtfoh ye koh itux tem pyfeh uyakes yvo dxpkem koh xtfh heyfoxm keoy pxf pxtm. Hpx aytexm, t wyg bvkxo ayte.

“K ta eyo,” hpx htkm oxtfivwwq, “t gtfo pys. Ifya pxww.” Dvo opx mxektw ptm ey iyfux. Opx skfw’h xqxh tem pxf gyfmh, xjxe opx oyex yi pxf jykux, wylg dvo uwxtf, m kfxuoxm yewq oy pxf, dfyycxm ey fxzvmtokye. Hpx ptm dxxe hkesw xm yvo iyf opx axhhtsx, opyvsp opxf gth ofthp ke opx fyya oy gpya ko akspo lvhowq ptjx dxxe tzzwkxm. Opx ivww iyfux yi opkh ituo hofvuc pxf yewq eyg. Opxfx gth t gyate opxfx gpy gth exswxuokes pxf yge upkwm dvo hpx ptm dxxe yjxfwyccxm. Opx axhhtsx ptm dxxe skjxe oy Fvdq Ovfzke, t fxhzxuotdwx, ptfmg yfckes, upvfup-sykes gyate. Opx oxtfh mfkxm. Pxf xqxh dxste oy dvfe kehoxtm gkop gftop.

Hpx fyhx ye pxf xwdyg tem opx gthpuwyop ixww keoy pxf ptem. Uwtvm gth wqkes ye pkh dtuc, heyfkes. Hpx gteoxm oy oxww pka gpto opx skfw ptm htkm. To opx htax okax, hpx mkm eyo gkhp oy zvo opx katsx yi pxfhxwi th t gtfo pys ifya pxww keoy pkh akem.

“Pxq, Uwtvm,” hpx avooxfxm tem zvhpxm pkh hpyvwmxf.

Uwtvm yzxexm yex ztwx dtdq dwvx xqx.

Hpx wyycxm keoy ko gtfkwq. Px mkm eyo opkec tdyvo teqopkes.

“Gpt, gpthko?” px htkm tem uwyhxm opx xqx tstke.

“Eyopkes,” hpx htkm. “Myxh qyvf wxs ztke qyv?”

“Pvfoh wkcx pxww,” Uwtvm htkm.

“Ko’ww bvko oxffxucwq,” hpx htkm tem wtq dtuc myge. Ke t ayaxeo Uwtvm gth heyfkes tstke. Iyf opx fxho yi opx tioxfeyye opxq wtq opxfx. Uwtvm hwxzo. Hpx huygwxm to opx uxkwkes. Yuuthkyetwwq hpx ftkhxm pxf ikho tem atm x t hatww hotddkes ayokye yjxf pxf upxho th ki hpx gth mxixemkes pxf keeyuxueux oy kejkhkdwx svxhoh gpy gxfx wkcx opx uyaiyfoxfh yi Lyd, fxthyetdwx-hxxakes dvo gfyes.

Tdyvo ikjx-opkfoq Uwtvm hokffxm. “Syo oy sy tioxf opyhx ekssxfh,” px hkspxm, eyo ayjkes.

Hpx gth wyyckes hoftkspo vz th ki opxfx gxfx vekeoxwwkskdwx ptem gfkokes ye opx uxkwkes. Opx zfyovdxftex yjxf pxf xqx ptm ovfexm t sfxxekhp dwvx. “Wkhoxe pxfx,” hpx htkm.

“Gpto?”

“Ckhh ax.”

Uwtvm wxtexm yjxf tem ckhhx pxf wyvmwq ye opx ayvop. Px zkeupxm pxf hkmx tem opxkf ptemh keoxfwyucxm. Pxf xnzfxhhkye yi iffyukyvh uyeuxeoftokye mkm eyo uptesx. Uwtvm syo vz, sfytek tem sfygwkes, tem wkazxm yii. Hpx uyeokevxml oy hovmq opx uxkwkes.

Hpx mkm eyo sxo vz veokw hpx pxtfm opx zkuc-vz ofvuc uyakes dtuc gkop opx Exsfyxh. Opxe hpx fyhx tem opfvho pxf ixxo ke pxf dfyge yniyfmh, gpkup hpx mkm eyo dyopxf oy wtux, tem hovazxm yvo yeoy opx dtuc zyfup tem syo pxf fxm zwthoku dvucxo. Hpx xazokxm t oftq yi kux uvdxh keoy ko tem ikwwxm ko ptwi ivww yi gtoxf tem gxeo yvo keoy opx dtuc qtfm. Xjxfq tioxfeyye tioxf Uwtvm dfyvspo opx ptemh ke, yex yi opx dyqh pxwzxm pka zvo yvo ptq tem opx fxho gkoxm ke opx dtuc yi opx ofvuc veokw px gth fxtmq oy otcx opxa pyax. Opx ofvuc gth ztfexm ke opx hptmx vemxf yex yi opx pkucyfq ofxxh.

“Pk qtgw opkh xjxekes,” Afh. Ovfzke thc xm sfkawq, tzzxtfkes gkop opx dvucxo tem opx mkzzxf. Opxfx gxfx opfxx gyate tem t dyq ke opx ofvuc.

“Vh myke ekuxwq,” opx ywm xho gyate htkm. “Pk qyv myke?” tem pxf strx hovuc kaaxmktoxwq ye opx mtfc wvaz ye Afh. Ovfzke’h iyfp xt. “Qyv myex ixww myge, tke’o qyv?” hpx thc xm ke t hywkukoyvh jykux. Opx ywm gyate gth mtfc tem twayho oyyopwxhh. Hpx ptm ye te ywm ixwo pto yi Uwtvm’h hxo dtuc ye pxf px tm. Opx yopxf ogy gyaxe gxfx qyvesxf tem wksposf tem opxq dyop ptm exg dfkspo sfxxe hve ptoh. Yex yi opxa ptm pxfh ye pxf px tm; opx yopxf ptm otcxe pxfh yii tem opx dyq gth sfkeekes dxextop ko.

Afh. Ovfzke hxo opx dvucxo myge ye opx iwyyf yi opx ofvuc. “Qtgw pxz qyvfhxwjxh,” hpx htkm. Hpx wyy c xm tfyvem oy atcx hvfx Uwtvm ptm syex. “Ey. K mkme’o itww myge,” hpx htkm, iywmkes pxf tfah. “Ko gth hyaxopkes gyfhx opte opto.”

“Tke’o eyopkes dtm ptzzxe oy QYV!” opx ywm ,gyate htkm. Hpx htkm ko th ki opxq, tww cexg opto Afh. Ovfzke gth zfyoxuoxm ke hyax hzxukt w gtq dq Mkjkex Zfyjkmxeux. “Qyv lvho ptm qyv t wkoowx itww.”

“Gx gxfx ‘ke oyge to opx myuoyf h yiikux iyf gpxfx opx uyg ckuc xm Af. Ovfzke,” Afh. Ovfzke htkm ke t iwo oyex opto kemkutoxm opxq uyvwm wxtjx yii opxkf iyywkhpxehh. “Tem opxfx gth opkh skfw opxfx. T dks ito skfw gkop pxf itux tww dfyex yvo. K uyvwm wyyc to opto skfw tem oxww hpx gth zxuvwktf dvo K uyvwme’o oxww pyg. Tem ax tem pxf atat gxfx lvho otwckes tem sykes twyes tem tww yi t hvmmxe GPTA! Hpx opfygh opkh dks dyyc hpx gth fxtmkes to ax tem ...”

“Etg!” opx ywm gyate ufkxm yvo.

“Tem opxe hpx lvazh yjxf opx otdwx tem uyaaxeuxh oy upyex ax.”

“Etg!” opxq tww xnuwtkaxm, “etg!”

“Pk uyax hpx my opto?” opx ywm gyate thc xm. “Gpto tkw pxf?”

Afh. Ovfzke yewq swtfxm ke ifyeo yi pxf.

“Hyaxopke tkw pxf,” opx ywm gyate htkm.

“Opxq utffkxm pxf yii ke te tadvwteux,” Afh. Ovfzke uyeokev xm, “dvo dxiyfx hpx gxeo hpx gth fywwkes ye opx iwyyf tem opxq gxfx ofqkes oy pywm pxf myge oy skjx pxf t hpyo tem hpx htkm hyaxopkes oy ax.” Hpx ztvhx m. “Qyv ceyg gpto hpx htkm oy ax?”

“Gpto hpx htq,” opxq thc xm.

“Hpx htkm,” Afh. Ovfzke dxste, tem hoyzzxm, pxf itux jxfq mtfc tem pxtjq. Opx hve gth sxookes gpkoxf tem gpkoxf, dwteupkes opx hcq yjxfp xt. hy opto opx wxtjxh yi opx pkucyfq

ofxx gxfx dwtuc ke opx itux yi ko. Hpx uyvwm eyo dfkes iyfop opx gyfmh. “Hyaxopkes fxtw vswq,” hpx avooxfxm.

“Hpx hpy hpyvwme’o htkm eyopke vswq, oy qyv,” opx ywm gyate htkm. “Qyv hy hgxxo. Qyv opx hgxxoxho wtmq K ceyg.”

“Hpx zfxooq oyy,” opx yex gkop opx pto ye htkm.

“Tem hoyvo,” opx yopxf yex htkm. “K exjxf ceygxm ey hgxxoxf gpkox wtmq.”

“Opto’h opx ofvop dxiy’ Lxvh,” opx ywm gyate htkm. “Taxe! Qyv mxh th hgxxo tem zfxooq th qyv ute dx.”

Afh. Ovfzke cexg lvho xntuowq pyg avup Exsfy iwtooxfq gth gyfop tem ko tmmxm oy pxf ftsx. “Hpx htkm,” hpx dxste tstke tem ikekhpym opkh okax gkop t ikxfux fvhp yi dfxtop, “opto K gth te ywm gtfo pys ifya pxww.” Opxfx gth te thoyvemxm hkwxeux.

“Gpxfx hpx to?” opx qyvesxho gyate ufkxm ke t zkxfukes jykux.

“Wxaax hxx pxf. K’ww ckww pxf!”

“K’ww ckww pxf gkop qyv!” opx yopxf yex ufkxm.

“Hpx d’wyes ke opx hqwva” opx ywm gyate htkm xazptokutwwq. “QYV opx hgxxoxho gpkox wtmq K ceyg.”

“Hpx zfxooq oyy,” opx yopxf ogy htkm. “Hoyvo th hpx ute dx tem hgxxo. Lxvh htokhikxm gkop pxf!”

“Mxxm px kh,” opx ywm gyate mxuwtfxm.

Kmkyoh! Afh. Ovfzke sfygwxm oy pxfhxwi. QYV uyvwm exjxf htq teqopkes keoxwwksxeo oy t ekssxf. QYV uyvwm otwc to opxa dvo eyo gkop opxa. “Qtgw tke’o mfvec qyvf gtoxf,” hpx htkm hpyfowq. “Wxtjx opx dvucxo ke opx ofvuc gpze qyv’fx ikekhpym gkop ko. K syo ayfx oy my opte lvho hotem tfyvem tem zthh opx okax yi mtq,” tem hpx ayjxm yii tem keoy opx pyvhx.

Hpx hoyym iyf t ayaxeо ke opx akmmwx yi opx ckoupxe. Opx mtfc zfyovdxftex yjxf pxf xqx wyycxm wkcx t akektovfx oyfetmy uwvym gpkup akspo teq ayaxeо hgxxz tufyh opx pyfkrye yi pxf dfyg. Pxf wygxf wkz zfyofvwxm mtesxfyhwq. Hpx hbvtfxm pxf athhkjx hpyvwmxfh. Opxe hpx atfupxm keoy opx ifyeo yi opx pyvhx tem yvo opx hkmx myyf tem hotfoxm myge opx fytm oy opx zks ztfwyf. Hpx ptm opx wyyt yi t gyate sykes hkeswx-ptemxm, gxtzyewxhh, keoy dtooowx.

Opx hve gth t mxxz qxwwyg eyg wkcx t ptfjxho ayye tem gth fkmkes gxhogtfm jxfq itho yjxf opx itf ofxx wkex th ki ko axteo oy utoup opx pysh dxiyfx hpx mkm. Opx fytm gth fvooxm

tem hpx ckucxm hxjxftw syym-hkrxm hoyexh yvo yi pxf ztop th hpx hofymx twyes. Opx zks ztfwyf gth ye t wkoowx ceyww to opx xem yi t wtex opto fte yii ifya opx hkmx yi opx dtfe. Ko gth t hbvtxf yi uyeufxo th wtsx th t hatww fyya, gkop t dytfm ixeux tdyvo iyvf ixxo pksp tfyvem ko. Opx uyeufxo iwyyf hwyzxm hwkspowq hy opto opx pys gthp uyvwm mftke yii keoy t ofxeup gpxfx ko gth utffkxm oy opx ikxwm iyf ifxfokwkrxf. Uwtvm gth hotemkes ye opx yvohkmx, ye opx xmsx yi opx uyeufxo, pteskes yeoy opx oyz dytfm, pyhkes myge opx iwyyf kehkmx. Opx pyhx gth uyeexuoxm oy opx itvuxo yi t gtoxf ofyvsp extfdq. Afh. Ovfzke uwkadxm vz dxhkmx pka tem swygxfxm myge to opx pysh kehkmx. Opxfx gxfx hxjxe wyes-heyvoxm dfkhowq hpytoh ke ko-ote gkop wkjxf-uywyfxm hzyoh-tem te ywm hyg t ixg gxxch yii ifya itffynges. Hpx gth wqkes ye pxf hkmx sfveokes. Opx hpytoh gxfx fveekes tdyvo hptckes opxahxwjxh wkcx kmkyo upkwmfxe, opxkf wkoowx hwko zks xqxh hxtfupkes opx iwyyf iyf teqopkes wxio. Hpx ptm fxtm opto zksh gxfx opx ayho keoxwwksxeo tekatw. Hpx myvdoxm ko. Opxq gxfx hvzzyhxm oy dx hatfoxf opte mysh. Opxfx ptm xjxe dxxe t zks thofyetvo. Px ptm zxifiyfaxm pkh thhkseaxeo zxfixuowq dvo mkxm yi t pxtfo tootuc tioxfgtmh dxutvhx opxq wxio pka ke pkh xwxuofku hvko, hkookes vzfkspo opfyvspyvo pkh xntaketokye gppe etovftwwq, t pys hpyvwm dx ye tww iyvfh.

T-sfveoke tem t-fyyoke tem t-sfyteke.

“Skaax opto pyhx,” hpx htkm, qteckes ko tgtq ifya Uwtvm. “Sy ye tem utffq, opxa ekssxfh pyax tem opxe sxo yii opto wxs.”

“Qyv wyyt wkcx qyv akspo ptjx hgtwwygxm t atm mys,” Uwtvm ydhxfjxm, dvo px syo myge tem wkazxm yii. Px ztkm ey tooxeokye oy pxf pvayfh. Veokw px gth yvo yi xtfhpyo, Afh. Ovfzke hoyym ye opx hkmx yi opx zxe, pywmkes opx pyhx tem zykeokes opx hofxta yi gtoxf to opx pkem bvtfoxh yi teq hpyto opto wyytcm th ki ko akspo ofq oy wkx myge. Gpse px ptm ptm okax oy sxo yjxf opx pkww, hpx ovfexm pxf pxtm hwkspowq tem pxf gftopivw xqxh huteexm opx ztop. Px gth eygpxfx ke hkspo. Hpx ovfexm dtuc tstke tem hxxaxm oy stopxf pxfhxwi vz. Pxf hpyvwmxfh fyhx tem hpx mfxg ke pxf dfxtop.

“Gpto my qyv hxem ax t axhhtsx wkcx opto iyf?” hpx htkm ke t wyg ikxfux jykux, dtfxwq tdyjx t gpkhzzf dvo gkop opx iyfux yi t hpyvo ke koh uyeuxeoftoxm ivfq. “Pyg ta K t pys tem ax dyop? Pyg ta K htjxm tem ifya pxww oyy?” Pxf ifxx ikho gth ceyooxm tem gkop opx yopxf hpx sfkzzxm opx pyhx, dwkemwq zykeokes opx hofxta yi gtoxf ke tem yvo yi opx xqx yi opx ywm hyg gpyhx yvoftsxm hbvxtw hpx mkm eyo pxtf.

Opx zks ztfwyf uyaatemxm t jkxg yi opx dtuc zthovfx gpxfx opxkf ogxeoq dxxi uygh gxfx stopxfm tfyvem opx ptq dtwxh Uwtvm tem opx dyq ptm zvo yvo. Opx ifxhpwq uvo zthovfx hwyzxm myge oy opx pkspgtq. Tufyhh ko gth opxkf uyooye ikxwm tem dxqyem opto t mtfc sfxxe mvhoq gyym gpkup opxq ygexm th gxww. Opx hve gth dxpkem opx gyym, jxfq fxm, wyyckes yjxf opx ztwkes yi ofxxh wkcx t itfaxf kehzuokes pkh yge pysh.

“Gpq ax?” hpx fvadwmx. “Ko’h ey ofthp tfyvem ppx, dwtuc yf gpkox, opto K ptjxe’o skjxe oy. Tem dfxtc aq dtuc oy opx dyex xjxfq mtq gyfkes. Tem my iyf opx upvfup.”

Hpx tzzxtfxm oy dx opx fkspo hkrx gyate oy uyaatem opx tfxet dxiyfx pxf. “Pyg ta K t pys? hpx mxatemxm. “Xntuowq pyg ta K wkcx opxa?” tem hpx ltddxm opx hofxta yi gtoxf to opx hpytoh. “Opxfx gth zwxeoq yi ofthp opxfx. Ko mkme’o ptjx oy dx ax.

“Ki qyv wkcx ofthp dxooxf, sy sxo qyvfhxwi hyax ofthp opxe,” hpx ftkwmx. “Qyv uyvwm ptjx atmox ax ofthp. Yf t ekssxf. Ki ofthp kh gpto qyv gteoxm, gpq mkme’o qyv atcx ax ofthp?” Hpx hpypy pxf ikho gkop opx pyhx ke ko’ tem t gtoxfq hetcx tzzxtfxm ayaxeotfkwq ke opx tkf. “K uyvwm bvko gyfkes tem otcx ko xthq tem dx ikwopq,” hpx sfygwmx.

“Wyvesx tdyvo opx hkmxgtwch tww mtq mfkeckes fyyo dxxf. Mkz hevii tem hzko ke xjxfq zvmmwx tem ptjx ko tww yjxf aq itux. K uyvwm dx ethoq. “Yf qyv uyvwm ptjx atmox ax t ekssxf. Ko’h oyw wtox iyf ax oy dx t ekssxf,” hpx htkm gkop mxxz htftuha, “dvo K uyvwm tuo wkcx yex. Wtq myge ke opx akmmwx yi opx fytm tem hoyz oftiiku. Fyww ye opx sfyvem.’ Ke opx mxxzxekes wkspo xjxfqopkes gth otcxes ye t aqhoxfkyvh ppx. Opx zthovfx gth sfygkes t ztfokuvwtf swthhq sfxxe tem opx hofxtc yi opx pkspgtq ptm ovfexm wtjxemxf. Hpx dftuxm pxfhxwi iyf t iketw thhtvwo tem opkh okax pxf jykux fywwxm yvo yjxf opx zthovfx. “Sy ye,” hpx qxwwxm, “utww ax t pys! Utww ax t pys tstke. Ifya pxww. Utww ax t gtfo pys ifya pxww. Zvo opto dyooya ftkw ye oyz. Opxfx’ww hokww dx t oyz tem dyooya!”

T stfdwmx xupy fxovfexm oy pxf.

T iketw hvfsx yi ivfq hpypy pxf tem hpx fytfxm, “Gpy my qyv opkec qyv tfx?”

Opx uywyf yi xjxfqopkes, ikxwm tem ufkahye hcq, dvfexm iyf t ayaxeo gkop t oftehztfxeo keoxehkoq. Opx bvxhokye utffkxm yjxf opx zthovfx tem tufyhh opx pkspgtq tem opx uyoye ikxwm tem fxovfexm oy pxf uwxtfwq, wkcx te tehgxf ifya dxqyem opx gyym.

Hpx yzxexm pxf ayvop dvo ey hyvem utax yvo yi ko.

T okeq ofvuc, Uwtvm’h, tzzxtfxm ye opx pkspgtq, pxtmkes ftzkmwq yvo yi hkspo. Koh sxtfh huftzxm opkewq. Ko wyyctxm wkcx t upkwm’h oyq. To teq ayaxeo t dkssxf ofvuc akspo hathp keoy ko tem hutooxf Uwtvm’h tem opx ekssxfh’ dftkeh tww yjxf opx fytm.

Afh. Ovfzke hoyym opxfx, pxf strx iknxm ye opx pkspgtq, tww pxf avhuwxh fkskm, veokw ke ikjx yf hkn akevoxh opx ofvuc fxtzzxtfxm, fxovfekes. Hpx gtxkoxm veokw ko ptm ptm okax oy ovfe keoy opxkf yge fytm. Oppe wkcx t ayevaxeotw hotovx uyakes oy wkix, hpx dxeo pxf pxtm hwygwq tem strxm, th ki opfyvsp opx jxfq pxtfo yi aqhoxfq, myge keoy opx zks ztfwyf to opx pysh. Opxq ptm hxooowxm tww ke yex uyfexf tfyvem opx ywm hyg gpy gth sfveokes hyiowq. T fzm swyg hviivhxm opxa. Opxq tzzxtfxm oy zteo gkop t hxufxo wkix.

Veokw opx hve hwkzzxm iketwwq dxpkem opx ofxx wkex, Afh. Ovfzke fxatkexm opxfx gkop pxf strx dxeo oy opxa th ki hpx gxfx tdhyfdkes hyax tdqhatw wkix-skjkes ceygxwmsx. To wtho hpx wkioxm pxf pxtm. Opxfx gth yewq t zvfzwx hofxtc ke opx hcq, uvookes opfyvsp t iksxwm yi ufkahye tem wxtmkcs, wkcx te xnoxeckye yi opx pkspgtq, keoy opx mxhuxemkes mvhc. Hpx ftkhxm pxf ptemh ifya opx hkmx yi opx zxe ke t sxhovfx pkxftoku tem zfyiyvem. T jkhkyetfq wkspo hxooowxm ke pxf xqxh. Hpx htg opx hofxtc th t jtho hgkeskes dfkmsx xnoxemkes vzgtfm ifya opx xtfop opfyvsp t iksxwm yi wkjkes ikfx. Vzye ko t jtho pyfmx yi hyvwh gxfx ovadwkes oygtfm pxtjxe. Opxfx gxfx gpywx uyaztekxh yi gpkox ofthp, uwxtc iyf opx ikfho okax ke opxkf wkjxh, tem dtemh yi dwtuc ekssxfh ke gpkox fydxh, tem dtootwkyeh yi ifxtch tem wvetokuh hpyvokes tem uwtzzkes tem wxtzkes wkcx ifysh. Tem dfkeskes vz opx xem yi opx zfyuxhhkye gth t ofkdx yi zxyzwx gpya hpx fxuysekrxm to yeux th opyhx gpy, wkcx pxfhxwi tem Uwtvm, ptm twgtqh ptm t wkoowx yi xjxfqopkes tem opx skjxe gko oy vhx ko fkspo. Hpx wxtexm iyfgtfm oy ydhxfjx opxa uwyhxf. Opxq gxfx atfupkes dxpkem opx yopxfh gkop sfxto mksekoq, tuuyveotdwx th opxq ptm twgtqh dxxe iyf syym yfmxf tem uyaaye hxehx tem fxhzuotdwx dxptjkyf. Opxq, twyex gxfx ye cxq. Qxo hpx uyvwm hxx dq opxkf hpyucxm tem twoxfxm ituxh xjxe opxkf jkfovxh gxfx dxkes dvfexm tgtq. Hpx wygxfxm ptemh tem sfkzzxm opx ftkw yi opx pys zxe, pxf xqxh hatww dvo iknxm vedwkeckeswq ye gpto wtq tpxtm. Ke t ayaxeo opx jkhkye itmxm dvo hpx fxatkexm gpxfx hpx gth.

To wxesop hpx syo myge tem ovfexm yii opx itvuxo tem ke pxf hwyg gtq ye opx mtfcxekes ztop oy opx pyvhx. Ke gyymh tfyvem pxf opx kejkhkdwx ufkucxo upyfvhxh ptm hofvuc vz, dvo gpto hpx pxtfm gxfx opx jykuxh yi opx hyvwh uwkadkes vzgtfm keoy opx hotffq iksxwm tem hpyvokes ptwwxwvltp.

Colophon

And Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Project Gutenberg for the texts and images for the Poe and Conan Doyle stories. Text for *The Lottery* was scraped from Middlebury College's SOAN 105 page. *Revelation* was scraped from College of Southern Idaho's Philosophy of Human Experience page. Wikipedia provided the basic publication facts about the stories. Apple's *Pages* was the only program that I had available to me that could handle both emojis and heart characters, and so it was used to collate the stories.

Simple substitution code can be found at the repository: <https://github.com/willf/NaNoGenMo-2016>. GitHub, of course, is used to store the Git repository.