



WEDNESDAY 5 TO SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2013

BRUNEAF XXIII

didier CLAES



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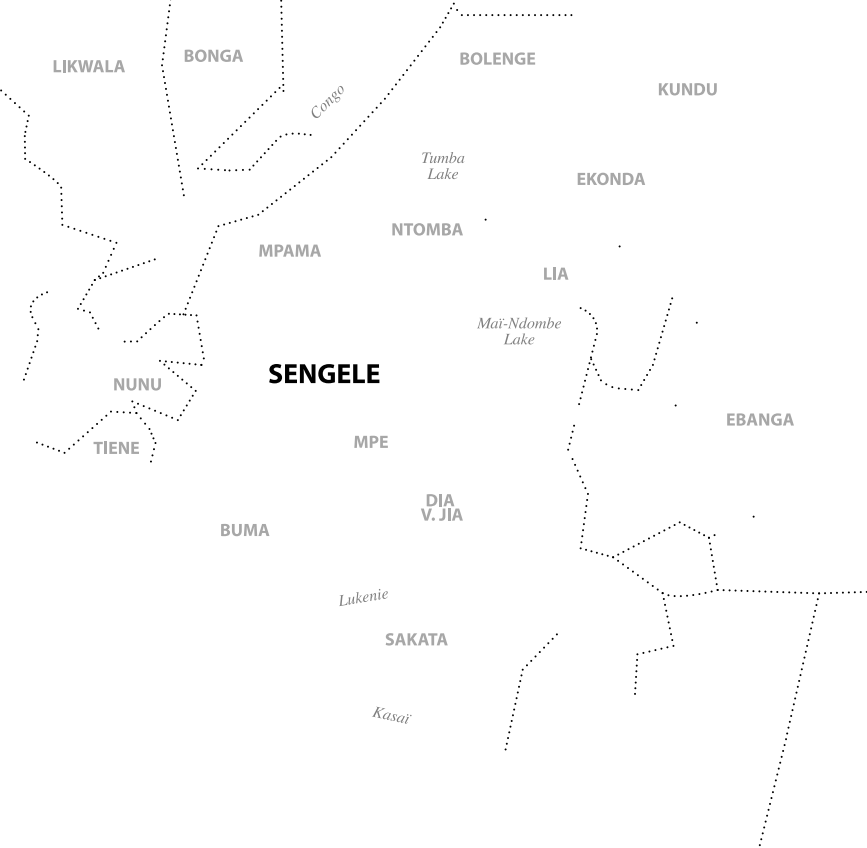
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The KELA especially, in the east of the territory, make remarkable paired male and female statues. The same kind of production is even found among the western MONGO, where figurative statuary is less common.

The two SENGELE figures presented here are therefore extremely rare. The only comparable figures are six sculptures held by the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren (see p.3), five of which were donated by Mr. Pochet on 12 June 1913. It is possible that they were acquired during the expedition undertaken in 1913 and 1914 by Joseph Yvon Maes (1882–1960) to the area around Lake Léopold II (now Mai-Ndombe Lake). Information offered at the time suggests they were funerary figures to be placed on tombs.

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Eugène COUPLET, officer (1881-1909)
 —
 Eugène Couplet enlisted in the 1st Foot-hunters Regiment when he was sixteen years old. He was promoted to corporal on 18 April 1897, and was a sergeant major when he successfully sat the officer's exam in 1904, advancing to second lieutenant on 11 January 1905. He immediately joined the Force Publique, leaving from Antwerp for the Congo Free State eight days later. He arrived in Boma in early February, and was assigned first to the general staff before moving on, in July, to join the company at Lake Leopold II. He was named company commander on 4 January 1907, and promoted to full lieutenant the next day. On 16 February 1908, his first tour completed, he left for furlough in Belgium.
 It was almost certainly during this first trip, between his arrival in the Lake Leopold II region in July 1905 and his departure for Belgium in February 1908, that Eugène Couplet acquired the two Sengele statues we present here. He might even have used his trip as a chance to bring them home.
 Several months later, in November 1908, he left to take up his post in the brand-new colony: on 15 November 1908, the Belgian Parliament had voted to annex the Congo Free State, and taken control of its administration. This time, however, his trip would be cut tragically short. Couplet fell ill in July of the following year, and had to be evacuated to Boma. He died aboard the steamer Delivrance III, somewhere near Kwamouth, before they were able to reach the capital.

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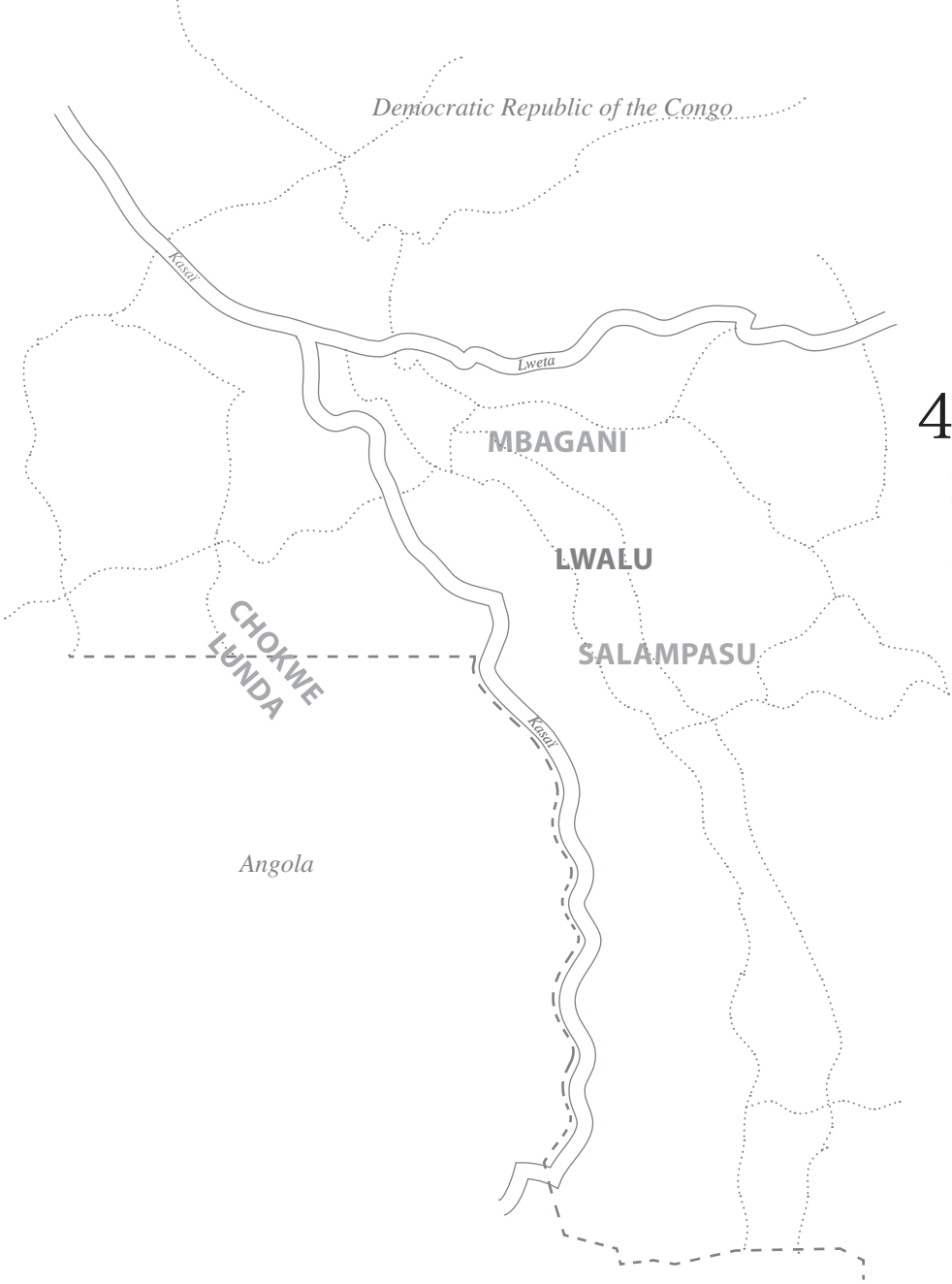
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Democratic Republic of the Congo



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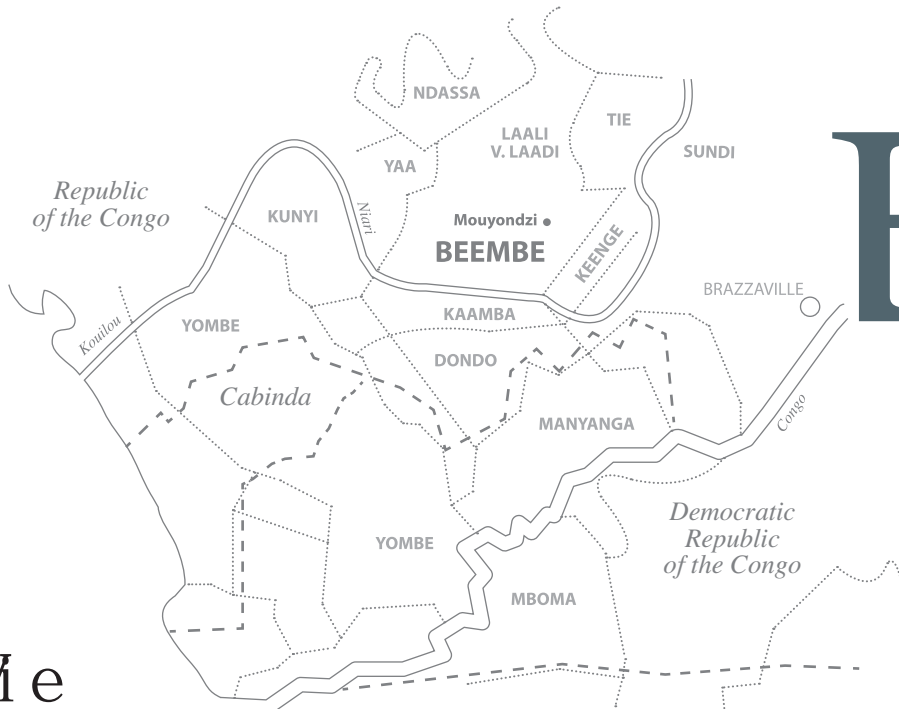
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8`W]S]i` Z]Z]S]b]S]W` #`#` [3]LS` 3]e]f]a`z]U]` #`#`b`z`z]f]f]a` [YS` [badS` f`W
d]g`k`W]S]W]b]W]S`k`af`Z]V]W]V]z
S`S` V` S]M`g]f]S]i` B]d]a` S? Se]e]a`V`3]d` W]W]f]e]l`S]Z]a`W]d`e]a`V]Z]f]a` US]S]ag]V
f]g]W]D` 3]e]f]S]i` la` f] W]d` S` #`b`#`6

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>[h` YSi Sk Xa_ fZVsj` WfaXgcbV` [Ugd]a` fZV477` 47` dV`Sf` W
bdUf[US`k`g`]` ai ` g` f]`fZWVW` [`] YaX`dWUZ`La`a`]eSf]a` zFZVWV
I WfVd Wefa ZSHWVfWV fZVdVfVfack TWV dWZV` W` XV` SUag` fe
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FZ]e g` Si SdWVd Lagb`W i [fZ S`SU` aX] fVWf [` e_ S`dSfgSck S_ a` Y 7gcbVZ
S` La`WfadS` V_ geVg` e_ VS` f]i` Se` if dS`k [WVf]-W` g` f]`_ g]Z` S]Wd`4Vd]`
EoWV]V]e]e]gdV`k`fZW`d`f` _ S`adefgV`k`aXZVWgTWV]Ua`_ b]W`ge] Y`g` bg]T`eZW
`afV`i` d]fW`Tk`Z]e`La`^V`S`Y`g`V`S`f`f`Z`W`e`f`a`U`Za`^` _ [e]e]a` z]dSag`^>V`Z`g`S`d`e`l`g`b`g`a`g`e
dWVdZ`fZW`ZVb`W`V]e]f` Y`g]eZ`e]W]S`^V]e]f` U` e]k`f]e]f]U`S`d`S`d` S` V`Z]Y`Z]Z`V`f`Z`S`f`
_ aef` 477` 47` SdZ`d`V`g]f]a` U`W`f`d`e]i` W`V`g` V` [adSag` V`? agka` V] [i]S`U`f]kzi` Z]Z
fZVWVW` TWV]Yzf`k`La` e]W]f]Z]V]d]W]a` S`^U]b]f]S`S`z



477` 47e]S]g]WV
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W]L`S]W]V]S]V]W]V`#` V]S]K`S`^U`W`g`k
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5 Vd]cZaeZ`_

6Vb]fWDSag`^>VZgSd]eXid` [MST`W` ad` a` 43=A@9A` e]SfgSck`efk`Vd` [f]eZSdV
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I [fZ] [fe]aha[V`Z]V]M` [i` Z]LZ`fZVW]S]U]S]b]b]V]d]e]Se`S` ahg`Sd]f` fSY`]a]f]Z]e]b]WV
Uag`V`fZV]d]W]U`S`k`TW`]W`i` [fZ`fZW`? :@=7e97` egT`Z`k`V`z`e` XdfZWTaVd` [f]e
S`^` aef`W]f]d]W`U`h`W`V`Tk`_`S]W]S]Z]V]` Y`S` k`baee]T`W]S]U]W`e`ad]V`/d`e]W]T]W
V]U]f]ade]S]q`-U]S]f]a` _` af]X`f]k]b]U]S`^a`X]Z]e] [` VaX`f]S]f]g]V]V]W]a` `k`f`Z]W]V]d]V` [f]W
d]V` S]` h]e]T`V`f`Z]V]W]S]d]V]d]S]f]W` [U]Z]S]U]W]e]f]U`477` 47` e]k`W]E]Z]V]Z]V]S]V`b`g`V`k
d]e]W]h]i` [fZ`Y`See`e]Z]S]d]e`X]d]W]V]d]S` V`fZV`ea`V`X]V]i` [fZ`fZ]V]d]~` V`k`d`V]V]W
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FZWTaV`k` [e]i` d]bb]W`i` [fZ`S`U`af`Z` fa` Za`V`fZV`e`_ SY]U]S]d]a`S]Fa` fZV`W]a` f` [e]S
Y`d`g]b` a`X`e]S]U]W]e`S` V`]` afe`eg`d]g` V`]` Y`S`_` W]S`^`eb]]W`e]g]U` [` fZ]W` [W]W]a`X
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I Z]W]477` 47` e]Sfg]V]V`e]Sd]V` aef` aXW` [`]W]i` [fZ`S` U`W]f]adi` ad]Z]b]l`fZV]S]d]W

Z]S]d]ra`S` V`afZV]S]f]d]T]g]f]W`_` VS` fZ]e`-Y`gd]W` Se]S`^` aef`U]W]S]f` `k`geW` [` S`d]Z
g`S`fZV]S]b]V]g]f]U]a`` f]W]f]S` V`_` [Y]Z]f`d]W]d]W]f]Z]W`YS`YS`Z]L` e]V]K`Se]g`Y]W]V`W
Tk`fZW`Sk`ZW]S]l`W`fai`Sd`efZ]W]V]W]a` V`z

Bd]W]g` ST`k` S]W]W]k]f]a` V] W]V]f]b]V]b]W` fZV`e]g`b]f]ad`S` V`fZV]d]f]g`S`]e]f` fZ]e
[e` W]V]Z]W]e]S]i` ad` aX]S]W]f]Z]V]U]Za`_ a`Y]W]V]k] fZ]W]V]S]g]k`a`X]i` Z]LZ`d]W]V`
[`]fe`Va` [` S` f`eb]Z]V]U]S`^X]d` e/Z]V]M`Ta]V]k]S]U]W`e`ad]V]h]b]S]d]U]g`S]k`fZ]W`e]g]Z
U]W]e]h]W]U]d]W]i` Z]LZ`^S]V`X]a`_ fZ]V]Z]V]S]V`fZ]W]U]h]i` ` aX]Z]S]d]fZ]W]ag` V`S]U]M]Z]W
` W]U] S]U]W]a`X]V]S]d]f]S`^fZ]W` Sk`fa` fZ]W]V]W]z

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f
#`#]T]W]V]W]V`>`W`Y`d]W]S`l`ad]Z]W]V]W]V]W] 3]e]V`3]g`V`k`V`#`#]#`#`
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KEAKA

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EagfZaXfZW6a`YS DhWdSdWdWdS`e_ S`Ydagbe, `WYZTagdeax fZW? 3? 4>3, fa i Za_ fZW0Vd S`eYShWfZW8gS` [`S_ W=3=3ž

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5_ Vha` i @VdS
i aaVedUS`Ugf ZNZf&U
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FZVfi a b|WV bdeWfW ZVdSdVaxV| WdVf efkVžFZW_ adWSTž efSUF aXfZWfi a ZSeSfdS` Yg`SdSUV [fZ ~ VZSfUZ [Yfa [V|USfWZV ZS|dS` V TsdžSUS` XsfgdW ZShWTW dWgUW fa S ecgSdV_ agfZi abWWi [WfZWsd_ eSdW`VW`SYs [efZWk [VdUS`TaVd fZWfWf` V`eXid_ S_ Sd W`S` YMS` VfZVafVafZWsdWVWsdW` V|USfW` a` fZVdWV` fZVes_ W|dW|fa` SefZWZS` VebSUVa` fZWVWž

FZVea` V b|WV e UZSdUW`eW Tk S_ adWMS [W ZS` V [Y aXfZW

ZVdVfZWZS [d f`k`W`e dWVWV i [fZ -hW] V`WYdShW`WYfZi [eWfZW WkVeaU| V`eSdWVW`k USdWfZWábW_ agfZeZai eba [fWfWVžž

FZVfi a d|g`bfgdV`WV a` e`dSfWbW`Vf`k fZW Sk [i Z|UZ =73-3 Sf [d fa ea_ WVVdVMS fdS` efa`k efk`WTW| W fZaeVafZW5: 3? 43 S` V fZW? c? CK7 a` fZWá` WZS` V|S` V fZSf aX adZi Wf 5S_ Vha` a` fZW afZVž

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9dSg`W#*+*, #+' (fi[Wf]-WahW) " V| Wwf_ Se] d d d Wwf YS` L` S'e
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ek` abefaXZW6A9A@_ kfZ|US^g` hWw



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fZVdfZVSfdUS`bWVd S` UWgd` YVS` UWz

FZWefgUfgdV`aXZ[e]aa_ adZ|U_ Se] [ek_ _ W[US^S` VhWkSdZ|fVfGdS`FZWkWe`fe`a`
VfZVde[VW`aXZWtd] W ` W`aXZW aeWdVf` S` `a` Y`dUS` Yg`SdVb`dVela` fZSF` V`fWV`e
fa fZWTaffa_ aXfZW_ Se] i fai SdV`e fZMWZ` i TV`i fZWu` [US^`_ agfZz: XfZW`S`U`e hWk
STef`SUF` fZVf` a efS|Yzf` dVf`hV`k eZad` Zad` ei Z|UZ`deW`a` fZVZVSVTV`a` Yi` fZagf`S` k
VagTf` fa fZW_ kfZ|US` fV`abW` S`e.

I Z|VWVWk6A9A@_ Se] [^gefdSfV`S`Xd` S`eaUSfWi` [fZfZWddUZ` kfZa`aYkd`a` `kfZWZ|YZ`
WZS`]| Y`_ W` TV`aXZW`Si` S`eaU`V`k`]` ai` fZV`dX`g`^eY` [-US` UW

;` fZWdUZ` 6A9A@` dV`V`f`ack` fZV`V`S`dV`eV`V`S`^hV`e]a` e` aXfZ[e`_ Se]`e` efadz`3XVd`? SdW
9dSg`W`9Vd` S|` W6|VWV`W` a` V`e`a` W`aXfZW_ aef Ua` bV`V`V`V`V` Y`e`i` Z|UZ` V`b`S|` e` fZSf
fZV`S` fV`abW` S`g`i` S`eadV`W`V`Tk`fZV`U`S`fad`3`_ S|`fa` b`df`V`f` fZV`eg` `i` Z|UZ`i` S`e`U`h`V`W`
Tk`fZV`b`S`W`j` z`FZW`j` e`ag`Y`Z`f` d`W`V`V`W`k` V`|Y`Y`|` Y`Z`a`V`e`|` fZW`V`ag` `V`fa` f`d`b` fZV`S` fV`abV`
3`f`Z`ag`Y`Z` U`S`d`W`X`d`T`k`a` W`aXfZW`Y`Z`f`S` U`e`f`ad`e`Y`h`W` fa` _ S` Tk`3`_ S`i` S`g` e`U`e`_ TW`fa`
Z`|e`i` ag` V`e`FZ`e`[efZV`ef`ack`fa`V`|` fZW` S`g`_ Se] V`S` UW

6dV`eW`|` S`U`efg` W`h` e`[e]` Y`a`X`-T`d`V`Z`aa`V`e`|` [d`f`T`d`S`U`W`d`S` V`h`W`V`S`T`^`W`T`d`V`Z`ag`V`W`d`
e`S`e`Z`V`e`i` ad` U`h`e`W` ah`W`f`Z`W`U`Z`V`h` f`Z`W` S`g`_ Se]` V`h`cg`W`f`k` WS`U`f`e`f`Z`W`ef`ack`z`F`Z`W`S` UW
U`S`d`|`V`e`S` e`f`|U` fa` e`g`b`b`ad` Z`|e`i` S`|` S`|` V`e`a`_ W`L` W`e`S`^` Y` TSU` X`a`_ fZV`b`ch`U`W`e]a` ` i` Z|UZ
S`U`a`_ b`S` [W`Z`L` i`Z`W`_ L` [U`e`f`Z`V`S`U`f`a`X`ge`f` Y`Z`e`Z`ad` e`fa` V`d`h`V`S`i` Sk`f`Z`W`j`z`` fZV`fai` ` UWZ
f`d`W`Z`V`S`V`h`S` UW`e`f`^`-`Y`Z`f`|` Y`i`f`Z`W` S`^`e`i` ag` W`V`Z`f`Z`V`Z`V`S`W`S` Se]` d`V`d`W`f`|` Y`f`Z`V`S` U`W`
tad`6ka` Y`ag`b`e`dg`S`d`h`W`e`fa` U`S`d`V`ad`Z` `z`l` S`g` de`W`S` V`V`S`h`e`f`Z`W`U`W`W`h`e`|`T`k` l` b|` Y`:

FZ[e` kfZa`aY|US^V|eaVMI Z|UZ`f`W`ef`Z`W`ef`ack`aXfZV`S` fV`abV`e`_ ah`|` Yi` S`|` fai` SdV`e`W`SfZ|
[eS`ea`d`V`d`W`V`W`|` U`S`h`W`S`|` f`|` Y`e`|` e`V`V`S`^`d`h`U`k`e`Z`V`V`e`|` fZW`|` ei` ZV`W`k`ag`` Y`|` f`|`S`f`V`
S`d`V`e`S`|` W`S` V`i` ZV`W`V`V`i` V`W` U`W`W` a` `V`e`f`Z`W`_ Se]`ei` V`W`ef`ad`V`Z|V`W`W` X`h`_ e`|`Y`Z`f`:

FZW` Se]` [e`V`S`h`|`ki` ad`l`eg`Y`Y`W`f`|` Y`|`f`e`Y`d`S`f`S`Y`W`f`Z`W`V`W` [Z`d`V`|`f`k`a`XfZW6A9A@` b`S`f`V`S`g` Z`V`b`e`
bd`V`e`h`W`_ Se]`d`i` Z|UZ`a` W`S`V`|`d`U`f`^`|` T`V`i` V`W` f`Z`W`b`V`ab`V`S` V`f`Z`V`e`l`_ kfZ`e`z`5`d`S`f`W`Se`b`S`f`
a`XfZW6S`_ S`|`S`d`f`g`S`^`_ agd`|` Y`U`W`V` a` k`fa` ^`T`V`S`f`W`Z`W`e`b`|`d`f`a`XfZW`W`W`S`e`W`e`a` Z`W`_ Sk`^`a`|`
Z`|e`S` U`W`ef`ad`e`f`Z`W`k`S`d`W` ad` S`e`b`S`d`a`X`S`_ L` bd`V`e`h`W`_ Se]` U`W`W` a` k`V`gd`` Yi` [fZ`f`Z`W`6A9A@`
d`V`V`S`U`f`f`Z`W`ef`ack`a`XfZW`d`_ kfZ|US^S` U`W`ef`ad`e`|` ad`V`e`f`a` U`a``gd`V`Z`W`V`S`V`S` V`d`ef`ad`V`ad`V`d`
fa` fZ`W`Z`V`e`l`i` ad`V`.

@afV

9W`S` V`W`V`W`z` K`Z`a`V`Z`e`f`V`W` S`e`g`V`|` <gd`S`W`S`S` [e`W`#*+`i`h`g`_ W`h`T`e]` #Z`|`b`z`Z`e`

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