|                                 | ase 2:21-cv-08533-MCS-SP Document 254     | Filed 12/14/23 Page 1 of 32 Page ID #:6052  CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  12/14/23  CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 1                               | Amrit Kumar                               | BY: CS DEPUTY  |
| 2                               | 601 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Rupa Solitare  |  |
| 3                               | Millennium Business Park, Plot No. A-1    |  |
| 4                               | Mahape, Mumbai                            |  |
| 5                               | Maharashtra-400710, India                 |  |
| 6                               | Email: amritkum@proton.me                 |  |
| 7                               |   |  |
| 8                               | Defendant pro se                          |  |
| 9                               |   |  |
| 10                              | UNITED STATES I                           |  |
| 11                              | CENTRAL DISTRIC                           | T OF CALIFORNIA  |
| 12                              | MG PREMIUM LTD, a limited                 | Case No.: 2:21-cv-08533-MCS-SPx  |
| 13                              | liability, company organized under the    |  |
| 14                              | laws of the Republic of Cyprus,           |  |
| 15                              |   | DEFENDANT AMRIT KUMAR'S  |
| 16                              | Plaintiff,                                | EX PARTE APPLICATION TO  |
| 17                              | VS.                                       | SET ASIDE DEFAULT  |
| 18                              |   | JUDGMENT   |
| <ul><li>19</li><li>20</li></ul> | AMRIT KUMAR                               |  |
| 21                              | , d/b/a GOODPORN.TO,                      |  |
| 22                              |   |  |
| 23                              | Defendant                                 |  |
| 24                              |   |  |
| 25                              |   |  |
| 26                              |   | plies, on an ex parte basis, for an order to   |
| 27                              | set aside the default judgment entered ag | gainst him in the above-captioned case.  |
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This application is made in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

#### I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On November 27, 2023, the court issued an order entering default against all defendants, including Defendant Amrit Kumar, due to their non-appearance at the Final Pretrial Conference (FPTC). The reasons for this non-appearance, which are critical to the current ex parte application, encompass several factors. First, visa restrictions, which were brought to the court's attention prior to the Final Settlement Conference, prevented the Defendant's physical presence in the United States. As a pro se litigant with limited familiarity with U.S. legal procedures, the Defendants faced challenges that led to unintended procedural oversights. Additionally, the situation was further complicated by the Plaintiff's failure to comply with the court's directive to engage in a meet and confer, adding to the Defendant's confusion and contributing to the circumstances leading to the default.

#### II. MEMORANDUM

# **A. Opposing Counsel's Contact Information**

KARISH & BJORUGM, PC

A. ERIC BJORGUM

Eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com

MARC KARISH

Marc.karish@kb-ip.com

119 E. Union Street, Suite B

Pasadena, CA 91103

Phone: (213) 785-8070

## **B.** Reasons for Seeking Ex Parte Relief

The Defendant is compelled to file an ex parte motion due to extraordinary circumstances, justifying an expedited judicial review:

- 1. Timeline for Regular Motion Exceeded: The opportunity for filing a regular motion lapsed on August 28, 2023. With the default judgment issued on November 27, 2023, and considering today's date is December 14, 2023, it was impossible for the Defendant to file a standard motion within the prescribed timeframe. Therefore, an ex parte motion remains the sole feasible method for the Defendant to request the court to set aside the default judgment.
- **2. External Factors Contributing to Default:** Key issues leading to the default judgment were not within the Defendant's control. Specifically, visa restrictions on Indian nationals, a matter previously disclosed to the court, significantly impeded the Defendant's ability to comply. These restrictions are a result of U.S. policy, not the actions of the Defendant, underscoring that the default was not a result of the Defendant's own doing.

#### C. Points and Authorities

The Defendant's ex parte application for setting aside the default judgment is anchored on the following legal provisions and principles:

- 1. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 55, Default Judgement.
- (c) Setting Aside a Default or a Default Judgment. The court may set aside an entry of default for good cause, and it may set aside a final default judgment under Rule 60(b).
- 2. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 60. Relief from a Judgment or Order
- (b) Grounds for Relief from a Final Judgment, Order, or Proceeding. On motion and just terms, the court may relieve a party or its legal representative from a final judgment, order, or proceeding for the following reasons:
  - (1) mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect;
- (2) newly discovered evidence that, with reasonable diligence, could not have been discovered in time to move for a new trial under Rule 59(b);
- (3) fraud (whether previously called intrinsic or extrinsic), misrepresentation, or misconduct by an opposing party;
  - (4) the judgment is void;
- (5) the judgment has been satisfied, released, or discharged; it is based on an earlier judgment that has been reversed or vacated; or applying it prospectively is no longer equitable; or
  - (6) any other reason that justifies relie

#### III. NOTICE OF EX PARTE APPLICATION

In compliance with Local Rules 7-19 and 7-19.1 of the Central District of California, Defendant Amrit Kumar respectfully submits the following details regarding the efforts made to notify the opposing counsel, Eric Bjorgum, about the ex parte application.

On December 13, 2023, the Defendant sent an email to the opposing requirement.

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counsel, notifying them of the intent to file an ex parte motion on either December 14 or 15, 2023. The email outlined the central issues of the motion, including the Defendant's inability to be physically present in the U.S., potential oversights due to pro se representation, and confusion resulting from the Plaintiff's alleged noncompliance with court-ordered procedures such as the meet and confer

The Plaintiff's counsel responded via email on December 13, 2023, stating: "We filed an errata today; let me know what you intend to do. It's attached." Further communication from the Plaintiff's counsel on December 14, 2023, at 1:21 AM, requested a phone call at 10:00 AM PST. The Defendant attempted to call at the specified time but the call didn't go through, and received no call to his number provided to the Plaintiff's counsel. The Defendant then reported this back in an email and inquired about the Plaintiff's position regarding opposition to the ex parte motion. Additionally, the Plaintiff later asked for the translator's name of the Defendant to facilitate a call, which Amrit Kumar immediately provided. Furthermore, the Plaintiff made a statement indicating their intention to oppose this ex parte application. The Plaintiff was reminded that there is a 24-hour time limit for opposing.

Later, the Plaintiff emailed, expressing a hope to speak "tomorrow (Friday, PST)" on 12/15/2023 in the PST time zone and mentioned the possibility of providing another contact number if needed. In accordance with the Local Rules, Amrit Kumar responded by stating that he had provided his phone number on Wednesday, 12/13/2023, and had attempted to contact the Plaintiff at the agreed time of 10:00 AM PST on 12/14/2023. Additionally, Amrit Kumar called the Plaintiff several times after 10:00 AM PST, but none of the calls went through,

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suggesting that the number provided by the Plaintiff may be non-functional. Despite this, the Plaintiff did not initiate a call to the defendant's number on either December 13 or 14.

Amrit Kumar has adhered to the requirements of the local rules and has demonstrated good faith in trying to facilitate a telephonic meet and confer. However, it appears the plaintiff did not have a working phone number, nor did they attempt to call Amrit Kumar at the number he has provided.

Furthermore, Amrit Kumar has expressed that he is available for the next hour, approximately until 4:30 PM PST on 12/14/2023, which corresponds to 6:00 AM IST in India. Despite not having slept throughout the night, in an effort to contact the Plaintiff and waiting for the Plaintiff to make a call, Amrit Kumar has remained available and vigilant. Nevertheless, he cannot delay filing his ex parte motion indefinitely due to the Plaintiff's lack of response and unreasonable delays. At the time of this filing, the Plaintiff has not yet called the defendant's number. The entire conversation is attached as Exhibit A.

# IV. GROUNDS FOR REQUESTING EX PARTE RELIEF

1. Visa Restrictions and Physical Presence in the U.S.: Defendant, as an Indian national, is subject to the extensive and uncertain process faced by many Indian citizens in obtaining a U.S. Visa for physical presence in the United States. Acquiring such a permit involves a lengthy and complex process, laden with numerous requirements, and there's no assurance of eventual approval. Consequently, Amrit Kumar was unable to be physically present in the U.S. This visa issue was previously discussed and acknowledged by the court prior to the final settlement conference, leading to the conference being conducted remotely.

Given this backdrop, the Defendant reasonably did not anticipate the necessity for physical attendance in subsequent court proceedings.

- 2. Pro Se Litigant Challenges: Amrit Kumar, as a pro se litigant, is not experienced or knowledgeable about U.S. laws and legal systems. He has been learning the law progressively as the case advances. For him, each step is new and unfamiliar. Kumar was not aware of the Pretrial Conference, having forgotten that such an event was listed in the schedule report. His limited familiarity with the intricacies of U.S. legal procedures presented significant challenges. Confronted with numerous new legal concepts and requirements, Kumar faced difficulties in fully grasping and retaining all the procedural details. The Pretrial Conference, mentioned in the court's schedule report in February, became one of the many legal elements that Kumar struggled to keep track of amidst the influx of new information. This lack of experience and the overwhelming amount of legal information contributed to his inadvertent oversight of the scheduled Pretrial Conference.
- 3. Meet and Confer Compliance Issues: Prior to the final pretrial conference, the court mandated a meet and confer session between the parties. As a pro se litigant, Amrit Kumar awaited the completion of this session, following the court's instructions, before advancing to the next procedural stage. This requirement, outlined in docket #71, specifically mandated that lead trial counsel for each party meet and confer in person 40 days before the FPTC. On October 6th, Mr. Eric Bjorgum, the Plaintiff's counsel, was contacted via email to suggest a location for this session as required under Local Rule 16, and was reminded of Amrit Kumar's difficulty in visiting the US. However, the Plaintiff's counsel refused to respond, contrary to the court's guidelines which state that non-compliance could lead to sanctions or even the cancellation of the FPTC. This lack

of response left Kumar uncertain and without clear direction on how to proceed, given the absence of the required in-person session.

4. Late Awareness of Physical Presence Requirement at FPTC and Request for Remote Participation: The Defendant became aware of the requirement for physical attendance at the FPTC on Friday, November 24, 2023. Initially, it was assumed that this communication related to the mandatory meet and confer session prior to the FPTC. However, further clarifications from Mr. Bjorgum, the Plaintiff's counsel, revealed that the reference was to the actual FPTC. Upon realizing that the FPTC required physical attendance, and considering that all defendants, including Amrit Kumar, are located outside the U.S. with Kumar unable to enter the USA due to visa restrictions, a request was made to the court. On November 26, 2023, a day before the scheduled FPTC, Kumar filed a request (Docket No. 235) seeking to reschedule the FPTC and allow for remote participation, thereby enabling him to participate and defend himself.

#### V. CONCLUSION

In light of the aforementioned circumstances, including the impossibility of traveling to the U.S. due to visa restrictions, the lack of knowledge about litigation procedures, and the plaintiff's refusal to participate in the required meet and confer, which contributed to the defendant's confusion, Amrit Kumar respectfully requests the court to set aside the default judgment. Kumar urges the court to allow the conferences to be conducted remotely, thereby granting him the opportunity to adequately defend himself in accordance with the principles of justice and fairness.

Respectfully submitted,

Amrit Kumar 1 2

Pro Se Defendant

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#### **DECLARATION**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of

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America that the foregoing responses are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Dated: December 14, 2023

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/s/ Amrit Kumar

AMRIT KUMAR

601 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rupa Solitare

Millennium Business Park, Plot No. A-1

Mahape, Mumbai

Maharashtra-400710, India

Email: amritkum@proton.me

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on 12/14/2023, copies of the foregoing document have been sent to all the parties at the following addresses:

KARISH & BJORUGM, PC A. ERIC BJORGUM

Defendant Amrit Kumar's Ex Parte Application to Set Aside Default Judgment

ase 2:21-cv-08533-MCS-SP Document 254 Filed 12/14/23 Page 10 of 32 Page ID #:6061

# Exhibit A

## Notice of Intent to File Ex Parte Motion to Set Aside Default Judgment

From amritkum@proton.me <amritkum@proton.me>

To Eric Bjorgum<eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com>, Liz.lundberg<Liz.lundberg@protonmail.ch>,

Emilie.brunn<br/><br/>Emilie.brunn@protonmail.com>

Date Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 at 10:56 PM

Dear Eric,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to formally notify you of my intention to file an ex parte motion to set aside the default judgment entered in the case of MG Premium Ltd v. John Does 1-20 d/b/a <u>Goodporn.to</u> (Case No. 2:21-cv-08533-MCS-SP). My plan is to file this motion on either December 14th or 15th, 2023.

Some of the issues I intend to raise in my ex parte motion include:

- 1. Physical Presence in the United States: Due to circumstances beyond my control, I am unable to physically present myself in the United States for proceedings.
- 2. Pro Se Representation Challenges: As a pro se litigant unfamiliar with the intricacies of the U.S. legal system and procedures, I fear that critical deadlines may have been inadvertently overlooked.
- 3. Confusion Arising from Plaintiff's Actions: I believe there was a failure on the plaintiff's part to adhere strictly to court-ordered procedures, which contributed significantly to my confusion and inability to respond appropriately to the legal proceedings.

In accordance with Local Rule 7-19.1 of the Central District of California, I am reaching out to you regarding this forthcoming ex parte motion. I kindly request an opportunity to verbally discuss the specifics of this motion with you. Please advise a suitable time for a telephonic conversation. You may also contact me directly at 2250972547 to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

**Amrit Kumar** 

## RE: Notice of Intent to File Ex Parte Motion to Set Aside Default Judgment

From Eric Bjorgum <eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com>

To amritkum@proton.me Liz.lundberg<Liz.lundberg@protonmail.ch>

Emilie.brunn<Emilie.brunn@protonmail.com>

CC Holly Newsome<holly.newsome@kb-ip.com>

Date Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 at 11:18 PM

We filed an errata today; let me know what you intend to do. It's attached.

From: Amrit Kumar <amritkum@proton.me>
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 2:56 PM

To: Eric Bjorgum <eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com>; Liz.lundberg <Liz.lundberg@protonmail.ch>; Emilie.brunn

<Emilie.brunn@protonmail.com>

Subject: Notice of Intent to File Ex Parte Motion to Set Aside Default Judgment

Dear Eric,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to formally notify you of my intention to file an ex parte motion to set aside the default judgment entered in the case of MG Premium Ltd v. John Does 1-20 d/b/a <u>Goodporn.to</u> (Case No. 2:21-cv-08533-MCS-SP). My plan is to file this motion on either December 14th or 15th, 2023.

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Sincerely,

**Amrit Kumar** 

#### 6.51 MB 7 files attached

DN 251a.pdf 129.43 KB

DN 251.pdf 188.48 KB DN 250 MG corrected declaration.pdf 139.92 KB

DN 250 -1 MG Corrected defeault judgment motion.pdf 288.48 KB

DN 250 MG Notice of Errata.pdf 118.78 KB

D.N. 30-1 -- MG -- Exhibits A-E to First Amended Complaint.pdf 5.40 MB

D.N. 30 -- MG -- First Amended Complaint.pdf 273.42 KB

## RE: NoticE oefl tEl t to niÆ l x PartE Motiol to SEt AsidE DEœuR JudgmEl t

From Eric Bjorgum <eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com>

To amritkum@proton.me

Date Thursday, December 14th, 2023 at 1:21 AM

Amrit - pls call me at the office at 213-785-8070 at 10:00 am my time. Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 13, 2023, at 2:56 PM, Amrit Kumar <amritkum@proton.me> wrote:

Dear Eric,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to formally notify you of my intention to file an ex parte motion to set aside the default judgment entered in the case of MG Premium Ltd v. John Does 1-20 d/b/a <u>Goodporn.to</u> (Case No. 2:21-cv-08533-MCS-SP). My plan is to file this motion on either December 14th or 15th, 2023.

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Sincerely,

Amrit Kumar

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# RE: NoticE oefl tEl t to niÆ l x PartE Motiol to SEt AsidE DEœuR JudgmEl t

From Eric Bjorgum <eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com>

To amritkum@proton.me

Date Thursday, December 14th, 2023 at 9:04 PM

Amrit,

There is no record of you calling. Please let me know the name of your translator because you require a translator when I call you.

However, per the rule, we will oppose.

— Eric Bjorgum.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2023, at 12:57 PM, Amrit Kumar <amritkum@proton.me> wrote:

Dear Eric,

I attempted to call your office at the designated time, but unfortunately, the call did not go through. I also haven't received a call from your end. I am proceeding with the filing of my ex parte motion. Please be aware that the court requires notification regarding whether you intend to oppose this motion. I wish to remind you of the 24-hour deadline to oppose ex parte applications, in accordance with the Judge's Procedures. Your prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Amrit Kumar

On Thursday, December 14th, 2023 at 1:21 AM, Eric Bjorgum <eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com> wrote:

Amrit - pls call me at the office at 213-785-8070 at 10:00 am my time. Sent from my iPhone

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Sincerely,

Amrit Kumar

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| RE: NoticE oefl tEl t to niÆ l x PartE Motiol | to SEt AsidE DEœult JudgmEl | t |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
|---|-----------------------------|---|

| From   | Eric Bjorgum <eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com></eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com> |
|--------|--|
| То     | amritkum@proton.me   |
| Date   | Thursday, December 14th, 2023 at 1094: PM                      |
| Amrit, |  |

Thank you. f am hopeluwthat qe can speak soon, so as to al oid issues qith the Hocaw uwe. f am al aiwabwe tomorroq —Friday, PSTO fl needed, f q iwwprol ide a diawin conlerence number.

5 Eric Bjorgum

7 n Dec 14, 2023, at 1912 PM, Amrit Kumar <amritkum@proton.me> q rote9

Dear Eric,

My transwator's name is v ishi.

Sincerewy,

7 n Thursday, December 14th, 2023 at x904 PM, Eric Bjorgum <eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com> q rote9

Amrit,

Amrit

There is no record of you cawing. Pwease wet me knoot the name of your transwator because you reJuire a transwator q hen f cawwyou.

Yoqeler, per the ruwe, qe qiwwoppose.

5 Eric Bjorgum.

Sent Irom my iPhone

7 n Dec 14, 2023, at 129 8 PM, Amrit Kumar <amritkum@proton.me> q rote9

Dear Eric,

f attempted to cawyour ollice at the designated time, but unfortunatery, the cawdid not go through. f awo hal en't receil ed a cawdrom your end. f am proceeding q ith the living of my e6 parte motion. Pwease be aq are that the court reJuires notilication regarding q hether you intend to oppose this motion. f q ish to remind you of the 24-hour deadwine to oppose e6 parte apprications, in accordance q ith the Gudge's Procedures. Lour prompt attention to this matter q ouvil be greatry appreciated.

Sincerewy,

**Amrit Kumar** 

7 n Thursday, December 14th, 2023 at 1921 AM, Eric Bjorgum <eric.bjorgum@kb-ip.com> q rote9

Amrit - pws cawwme at the ollice at 213-8/: -/ 080 at 10900 am my time. Sent Irom my iPhone

7 n Dec 13, 2023, at 29 ( PM, Amrit Kumar <amritkum@proton.me> q rote9

Dear Eric,

f hope this message linds you q ewwf am q riting to lormawy notily you ol my intention to live an e6 parte motion to set aside the delauwijudgment entered in the case ol MC Premium Htd I. Gohn Does 1-20 dNbNa Coodporn.to —) ase Uo. 2921-cl -0/: 33-M) S-SPOMy pwan is to live this motion on either December 14th or 1: th, 2023.

Some of the issues f intend to raise in my e6 parte motion incwde9

- 1. PhysicawPresence in the Rnited States9Due to circumstances beyond my controwf am unabwe to physicawy present mysewin the Rnited States Ior proceedings.
- 2. Pro Se v epresentation ) hawenges9As a pro se witigant unlamiwar qith the intricacies of the R.S. wegawsystem and procedures, f lear that criticawdeadwines may hale been inadlertentwy of erwooked.
- 3.) onlusion Arising Irom Pwiintill's Actions9f beviel e there q as a laiwre on the pwiintill's part to adhere strictly to court-ordered procedures, q hich contributed significantly to my confusion and inabivity to respond appropriately to the wegawproceedings.

fn accordance q ith Hocaw use 8-1x.1 ol the ) entrawDistrict ol ) awlornia, f am reaching out to you regarding this lorthcoming e6 parte motion. f kindwy reJuest an opportunity to I erbawy discuss the specilics ol this motion q ith you. Pwease adl ise a suitabwe time lor a tewephonic conl ersation. Lou may awo contact me directwy at 22: 0x82: 48 to discuss this matter lurther.

Sincerewy,

**Amrit Kumar** 

## RE: NoticE oefl tEl t to niÆ l x PartE Motiol to SEt AsidE DEœuR JudgmEl t

From Emric Bmj grocou<me . Emric Bmj grocou<meb

k ri-p> ToraBm. eri-∢ ToraBmj trig< omb

DEce @nBrsdEy,pDe-emt erp14ch,p2023pEqp11911p P

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—iu- erewy, Smric

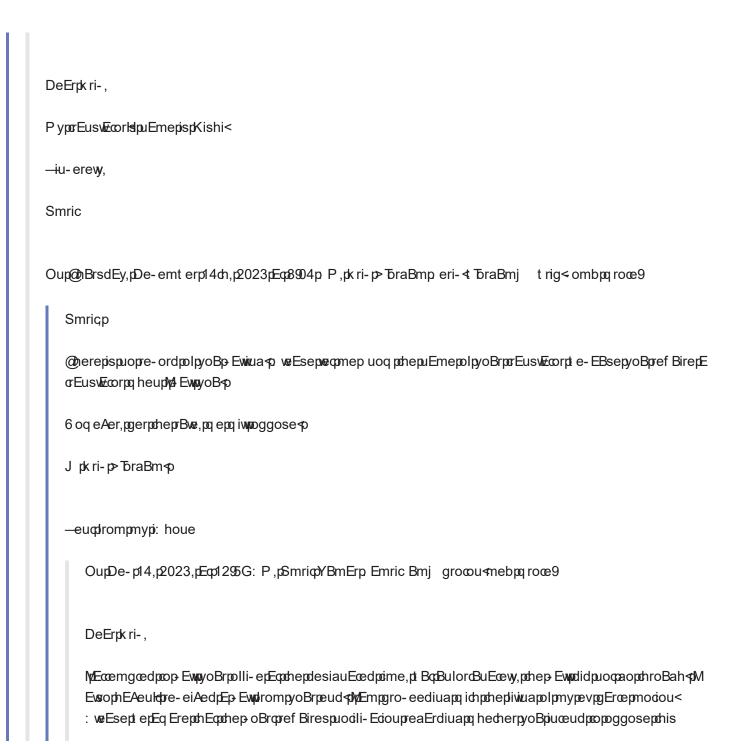
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—iu- erewy, Smric⊅⁄ BmEr

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