

## Avatar 1431

### Chapter 1431: Misty Thicket

Yu Wenzhou had been in the scene for all these years, and his hand speed was on record. His hand speed wasn't a secret any longer, everyone knew. As a rival, there was no way he wouldn't have checked these statistics, so Ye Xiu's question was clearly a taunt.

A hand speed of 200 was, in general, seen as the boundary between pros and casual players. Of course, this two hundred referred to effective APM, not button mashing.

Yu Wenzhou's status as a hand cripple was judged according to pro player standards. Pro players nowadays could easily reach 300-400 on average. Yu Wenzhou could only get past 200 with great effort, and usually averaged below 200. It was no wonder no one thought he could last in the beginning. He was completely different from the pros around him with their terrifying hand speed.

However, normal players didn't have any right to mock him for it.

Normal players' effective APM generally drifted around 100. Those that went above 120, aiming for 200, were experts. Glory was a very complex game. There were plenty of fast people, but those who were able to fully utilize this speed ingame were rare.

Yu Wenzhou's effective hand speed was usually approaching 200. In other words, his hand speed was the same as the experts among casual players. Yet, he managed to become a pro player with this speed, a member of the Golden Generation, an All-Star Player, Master Tactician, the captain of a powerhouse team like Blue Rain...

Yu Wenzhou was very inspirational. His achievements became proof for many players without much talent in hand speed that they could achieve as well. Unfortunately, it had to be said that they were sorely mistaken. They had been delighted, finding a common point between them and this God, but that point was a flaw. The flaw itself didn't mean anything. Yu Wenzhou's current heights was in no way related to his flaw, but instead because of the efforts he had placed into and the talents he had in other areas to make up for this flaw.

There were plenty of Glory players with this hand speed.

But amongst all these players, only Yu Wenzhou had made it here.

And now, Yu Wenzhou was doing something he hadn't done in a long time.

He was playing in a 1v1 match, and in the playoffs, too, against the best 1v1 duelist of the season.

"Huh... This map..." It was only after chatting for all this time that Ye Xiu placed his attention on Blue Rain's choice of map.

Misty Thicket.

A forest map, with little variation in terrain. It was long and narrow, stretching from north to south. The trait that differentiated this forest from normal forest was in its name, the forest was filled with mist.

With dense forestry and layers of evening mist, this map limited character vision greatly. It was good for ambushes, and hindered ranged fighters. Pan Lin and Li Yibo as well as countless spectators had all already started discussing this back while Ye Xiu was still mocking Yu Wenzhou's hand speed.

Everyone was shocked that Yu Wenzhou was fighting a 1v1 match. However, they all instantly realized that Yu Wenzhou wouldn't fight his opponent upfront and compete with mechanics, but used the terrain to execute tactics and tricks. But, Misty Thicket? Li Yibo had already pointed out in the TV broadcast that this map put ranged fighters at a disadvantage, and Warlocks were a ranged class.

What was Yu Wenzhou planning? After seeing Blue Rain's map choice, everyone was even more confused. That was when everyone saw that Ye Xiu seemed to be about to comment on the map.

But all they got was, "Huh... this map..." and then, then nothing!

Both sides had started to move already. Ye Xiu was very direct and went straight down the middle, but in this map, even heading straight forward could result in an ambush attack. Since visibility was low, the two sides would pretty much be within range of each other when they could see the other. Lord Grim looked like he couldn't be bothered to waste the brainpower on figuring out a roundabout route.

Yu Wenzhou, on the other hand, seemed to be treating this much more seriously. Swoksaar had spawned in the north corner of the map, and he had began heading south from the west while Ye Xiu was still talking. However, Swoksaar didn't go too far west. On this map, if you went too far from your target, you wouldn't even be able to find them when ambushing them.

However, this was only the current situation. The further south Swoksaar went, the more he swerved west. Slowly, his distance from the central axis of the map grew and he drew almost completely out of the visible areas of the map.

"This positioning... doesn't this make Yu Wenzhou incapable of finding Lord Grim as well? Or did he predict that Ye Xiu would make Lord Grim come west as well?" Pan Lin wondered aloud.

"The problem is, Ye Xiu didn't..." Li Yibo added.

Not long afterwards, the two characters approached the center of the map, slowing down. Then, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim suddenly began to fire shots.

Bang bang!

Bang bang!

The Myriad Manifestation Umbrella's gun form was a rifle, so his normal attack consisted of two consecutive shots. Ye Xiu was currently just using normal attacks. It didn't cost any mana. He fired shot after shot, randomly shooting into the air.

"He's purposefully exposing his own position!" Pan Lin exclaimed. From Yu Wenzhou's view, he couldn't see Lord Grim, but every time a gunshot rang out, the gunfire could be seen through the layers of mist.

"Does he intend to draw Yu Wenzhou into attacking and then use that to figure out where Yu Wenzhou is?" Li Yibo said, "But..."

He wanted to say that Warlock skills were hard to see through this sort of mist. The lighting caused by Warlock skills were relatively dark, not nearly as eye-catching as an explosion elemental light. For Warlock skills, if there was any elemental damage, it would be dark element.

However, Li Yibo was terrified that with Ye Xiu's experience and observation skills, he would be able to easily catch the light of Warlock skills even under the current circumstances, so he didn't dare continue.

What about Yu Wenzhou? Perhaps he had the same thought as Li Yibo, since he didn't attack when he saw Ye Xiu expose Lord Grim's position, having Swoksaar approach slowly instead.

Lord Grim continued to shoot randomly, two shots at a time, switching up his directions. A few bullets were sent west, brushing past Swoksaar's shoulder. The spectator's with their omniscient view felt their heart leap into their throats with every shot, but Swoksaar stayed immobile.

"What precise judgement," Li Yibo exclaimed.

It was because Yu Wenzhou's judgement was so precise that he had Swoksaar stay immobile, otherwise, if one couldn't be certain, then they would have their character dodge.

"From this angle, how far can he see?" Pan Lin mumbled, but there was no data on something like that, and there was no way of figuring out with their omniscient view.

Bang bang, bang bang.

Lord Grim continued to shoot and Swoksaar had stopped in his tracks. Yu Wenzhou was carefully observing the shots that Lord Grim was firing.

The audience had a much clearer view of this than Swoksaar, and seeing Lord Grim's actions, everyone only had one thought: what a tricky bastard!

Lord Grim, holding up the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella in gun form, had the muzzle directed behind him, which meant that all his shots were aimed behind him...

Yu Wenzhou was currently carefully observing. If he wouldn't figure this out and waited for the line of fire to turn, then launched a sneak attack while Lord Grim "had his back turned", then unfortunately, he'd be charging right into Lord Grim's line of sight.

How sly! How despicable!

The spectating Blue Rain fans all cursed, led by those dead loyal high ranking members of the Blue Brook Guild. These guys had gone up against Ye Xiu in game and they had plenty of personal experience with his tricks and schemes, leaving unimaginable pain in their hearts.

However, this commotion wouldn't have any influence on the match itself. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim continued to cunningly shoot behind him.

Yu Wenzhou stayed motionless, carefully observing for a full half a minute.

Ye Xiu continued to turn and shoot for a full half a minute.

On the thirty-fifth second, Yu Wenzhou finally acted.

Swoksaar began to cast, directly going for a Chaotic Rain.

There was a roar of applause.

Since this skill summoned acidic clouds in the sky to create rain, it didn't matter where the character was casting from, the attack would still come from above. It would be impossible to figure out the character's position using this.

And so, thick, dark clouds began to gather above Lord Grim's head.

The applause grew in volume, everyone eager to see Lord Grim being splashed! But that was when, with a whoosh, Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella opened up above his head.

"Fuck!" Quite a few people cursed aloud at this.

If this was actually a Knight's shield, then it might not be possible for it to block all the Chaotic Rain by holding it above a character's head like that. However, this Myriad Manifestations Umbrella was an umbrella when opened. It was the best at blocking the rain.

"Drift inside! Drift inside!" Someone suddenly started to yell and others soon followed suit. They were hoping that there would be some wind that would blow the rain off course and under the umbrella.

But it was like Ye Xiu had heard the Blue Rain fans' words. Lord Grim suddenly squatted down.

Squatting with an umbrella over his head really covered all his bases. Now even wind wouldn't be able to do anything.

Blue Rain's fans all blew up in rage. Fuck, can't you play seriously!?! You pretending to be a mushroom or something, squatting there?

But it was then that above Lord Grim's head, amidst the dark clouds, light flashed. There seemed to be six spots of light...

Hexagram Prison!

The players who were familiar with the Warlock class recognized it immediately.

"Brilliant!" Those who managed to react fastest yelled.

This Hexagram Prison was a flawless sneak attack!

Yu Wenzhou had predicted that Ye Xiu's Lord Grim would open up the umbrella to block Chaotic Rain. No other method was safe enough. After all, he hadn't seen it being casted. By the time he noticed, the clouds were already gathering and ready to spill.

Then, with the umbrella open, Ye Xiu had completely blocked off his own view of the sky above. Thus, when a Hexagram Prison fell silently from the heavens, he wouldn't notice it.

"Die!" Blue Rain's fans in the stands cheered in excitement.

As expected of their captain. This technique was absolutely brilliant, absolutely spectacular!

Hexagram Prison descended!

## Chapter 1432: Battle of Connotations

The battle was already occurring, and the spectators could see everything clearly with their omniscient view. However, the scene was more shocking, watching from the player's view.

This was because for both players, apart from mist and trees, they couldn't see anything else.

Yu Wenzhou's attack had been launched while he was completely incapable of seeing his opponent. He had deduced Lord Grim's location purely through the shots the other had fired, yet his attacks were so precise.

The Hexagram Prison descended, and a shield's protection couldn't defend against everything. Hexagram Prison's effect wasn't something that could be negated by a shield.

But, hand seals!

In the close up shot, everyone could clearly see Lord Grim suddenly let go of the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, his hands rapidly forming seals. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had yet to fall when he was done with the seals.

There was only one Ninja skill under level twenty that required hand seals.

Shadow Clone Technique!

Would he make it?

Everyone was sweating like crazy. In the end, this Shadow Clone ended up activating before the Hexagram Prison landed.

The Lord Grim caught by Hexagram Prison, in the end, was a mere shadow clone.

"Did he notice it?" Pan Lin cried out.

"No. He definitely couldn't see or hear this attack coming... It should be a judgement made through Ye Xiu's experience and awareness," Li Yibo estimated. "Did you notice? If it wasn't for Lord Grim squatting, then this Shadow Clone Technique might be a little too late."

Pan Lin startled and the shot was switched to a slow motion replay. The beams of light from the Hexagram Prison were mere millimeters away from the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella in Lord Grim's hands when the latter's Shadow Clone Technique activated. However, if this skill had been activated while standing, then the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella would have certainly been caught by the beams of light already.

"As expected of the all-class Glory Textbook!" Pan Lin's awed voice rang out. This sort of reaction speed and awareness was a perfect display of Ye Xiu's familiarity and understanding with the Warlock class, which was what allowed him to predict the sneak attack via Hexagram Prison.

Thus, the home spectators who had been excited, immediately began to worry for their captain.

This was because Swoksaar's casted curse had already shot forwards. This time, the skill was no longer one that descended from above, so Ye Xiu could already deduce Swoksaar's position. His Lord Grim was waiting, watching, at one side.

A ghostly shadow arrived, darting through the Chaotic Rain and into the Hexagram Prison, into Lord Grim's Shadow Clone.

The audience was heartbroken!

Captain, you fell for a trick!

Ye Xiu's Lord Grim immediately charged in the direction the ghostly shadow had flown in from, careful to not make any noise.

Hurry and run! That was the inner voice of the audience members. This time, it was almost as if their captain had heard.

"Yu Wenzhou hasn't neglected to consider this possibility either!" Li Yibo announced.

Swoksaar was already leaving his original position under Yu Wenzhou's control.

"But if he attacks after leaving, he would still be locked onto by Ye Xiu, no? Considering Lord Grim's movement speed, he should be able to close in quickly!" Pan Lin said.

"He won't move elsewhere and attack," Li Yibo said with surprising confidence.

"Huh? Has he noticed Lord Grim's actions?" Pan Lin was confused.

"He'll notice soon enough enough," Li Yibo corrected with a smile, "Think. What skill did he use just now?"

"Grasping Ghosts?" Pan Lin was saying when the ghostly shadow that Swoksaar had sent out just now suddenly flew back.

"Ah! This..." Pan Lin cried out in surprise. Didn't... didn't this expose Swoksaar's position again?

"So, he now knows that the Lord Grim he trapped was nothing more than a shadow clone," Li Yibo laughed.

Pan Lin froze for a moment before realizing what had happened.

Grasping Ghosts would latch onto a target and deal damage for a period of time. After the skill finished, the ghostly shadow would fly back to the user and restore the Warlock's health by 33 percent of the damage it had dealt.

Shadow clones were very fragile, so Swoksaar's Grasping Ghosts had only latched on for a moment before destroying the shadow clone. After that, the ghostly shadow would naturally come back. No matter if it was from the time the skill had been active or the recovery statistics, Yu Wenzhou could easily determine that Grasping Ghosts had only latched onto a shadow clone.

So this skill wasn't just an attack, but also reconnaissance!

Pan Lin's heart was struck by surprise after surprise. This match was way too deep for him.

However, the ghostly shadow which flew back to its owner was like a guiding light. Ye Xiu seemed to have noticed this as well and immediately adjusted Lord Grim's direction upon seeing the ghostly shadow.

Grasping Ghosts moved extremely fast, but Lord Grim was also putting on as much speed as possible. He no longer thought about executing a sneak attack. Lord Grim's figure seemed like a ghostly shadow as it darted through the forestry as well. Soon enough, Swoksaar's form appeared in his view.

"So fast! He's too fast! How will Yu Wenzhou shake him off now?!" Pan Lin cried out.

Yet that was when, with a boom, a sandstorm arrived on the forest map, enveloping Lord Grim inside.

The stadium was filled with shock, and as for Lord Grim's current status? He was losing health, and had a blind.

"Sandstorm Trap!" Pan Lin exclaimed, stunned.

This was a high level Thief's trap skill that dealt damage and inflicted a blind. Yu Wenzhou had set this Thief skill into Swoksaar's Curse of Destruction.

Now, everyone had a much better understanding of how annoying it was when the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella was set with all sorts of different skills in its many forms. This sort of variation wasn't something one could easily guard against. See, even Ye Xiu himself fell for it here. No matter how familiar he was with the system of skills Warlocks used, it would be too hard to guess what Nightwalker skill was set into the opponent's weapon. If you really took all the possible skills into consideration and stayed on guard for any of them, then you probably wouldn't even be able to play properly.

However, Swoksaar's Sandstorm Trap was only rank one. It didn't do much damage, and the blind lasted for three seconds.

These three seconds allowed Yu Wenzhou to leave a Curse Arrows for Ye Xiu and flee.

"Hey, why doesn't Yu Wenzhou take this chance to try and bring Lord Grim under his control?"

Pan Lin wondered with some disappointment.

However, the Curse Arrows soon gave him his answer.

Though Lord Grim was blinded, he hadn't been otherwise affected. Suddenly, he activated Slide Kick, not only dodging the Curse Arrows, but also closing the distance between him and Swoksaar.

Li Yibo glanced at Pan Lin, knowing that the other had gotten his answer already from his expression.

Yu Wenzhou wasn't careless at all. This was Ye Xiu. Three seconds of blindness was too risky a chance and Yu Wenzhou clearly didn't want to take risks. After quickly casting a Curse Arrows, he chose to flee.

By the time Lord Grim's blind wore off, Swoksaar was out of sight. Ye Xiu hurriedly used what he had last seen and the possible distance Swoksaar could've run in three seconds to deduce the other's approximate direction and whereabouts, but didn't manage to find the other after searching.

The two's first clash ended just like that. Lord Grim hadn't managed to deal any real damage to Swoksaar, but at this stage, it was Swoksaar that people were more worried about.

“He has such an overwhelming and threatening presence!” Li Yibo exclaimed, referring to Ye Xiu.

“However, Yu Wenzhou has managed to deal some damage to Lord Grim, though it’s not much,” Pan Lin said.

Then they saw Lord Grim cast a Recovery on himself. Li Yibo gazed at Pan Lin without speaking.

“Seems like you plan on dragging things out!” Seeing as he couldn’t find his target, Ye Xiu started chatting.

“You can heal. Dragging things out will benefit you,” Yu Wenzhou replied.

“Continuing to drag things out like this is just a waste of effort. How about we roll die to decide who wins? Whoever loses can GG\*,” Ye Xiu suggested.

The audience exploded.

What was even more shocking was that Swoksaar’s dice roll soon followed, and then came a “97”!

“Wow!” Blue Rain’s home stadium erupted in applause.

Then, in the chat.

“The hell are you doing? Be serious. This is the playoffs,” Ye Xiu said.

The audience exploded again.

“Hahaha....” Pan Lin didn’t even know what to say anymore.

“It’s just a joke. There’s no way the referee would allow the two to use die to decide the victor,” Li Yibo laughed.

This might be a game, but this was also a professional match!

Imagine in a soccer match where the two teams flipped a coin, and then, heads, you guessed it, ok, you win I guess, and then they just leave?

That was unacceptable. The Glory Pro League matches wouldn’t allow such a thing either. Even when people went GG and surrendered, the Alliance would deliberate on the validity of the GG after the match.

Although the two were trashtalking each other on the chat, they hadn’t stopped moving.

Yu Wenzhou had shaken Ye Xiu off, but he had also lost Lord Grim’s position as well. Right now, the two were carefully searching through the mist, trying to find the other.

This was something they couldn’t use logic to figure out. They were pretty much searching blindly, and the visual hindrances made the map seem even bigger.

One minute, two minutes...

The two didn’t meet, wandering around in the mist. The audience, with their omniscient view, sometimes couldn’t even feel any tension. The two were careful and cautious, but in reality, they were already on practically opposite sides of the map.



The broadcasters were pretty stressed out, too! Glory matches weren't like soccer matches which finished when time was up, so the broadcasters couldn't control the time for their programme. If it finished beforehand, that was alright, but if it took too long, then it would mess up the schedule for the programmes following.

However, what choice did they have? The match couldn't be moved just because they wanted it to be.

"There's no helping it! We can't continue like this!" Ye Xiu spoke up again, and the broadcasters immediately began to adore him.

"What do you suggest we do then?" Yu Wenzhou replied.

"Let's meet up somewhere and end this!" Ye Xiu said.

"Where?" Yu Wenzhou asked.

Ye Xiu sent some coordinates.

Thirty seconds later, no one appeared at the coordinates agreed upon. Both characters carefully hid themselves nearby.

Neither of them successfully tricked the other. The broadcasters were weeping.

### **Chapter 1433: That's All You're Showing Us?**

Five minutes.

A one on one battle that lasted five minutes wasn't uncommon in the pro circle. However, the problem right now wasn't that this battle had been five minutes long, but that five minutes in and both characters were at full health. That miniscule amount of damage dealt by Swoksaar's Chaotic Rain and Sandstorm Trap had long since been healed by Recovery.

Right now, both characters appeared near the coordinates Ye Xiu had given, but neither of them showed themselves.

"Where are ya? Come out!" Ye Xiu yelled.

"I'm here, but I don't see you," Yu Wenzhou said.

"Last time I came out first. It's your turn," Ye Xiu said.

"Which time?"

"Stop pretending you don't know. Did you forget when I was shooting and let you hit me?" Ye Xiu raged, as if he hadn't been trying to trap his opponent before and had revealed his position out of the goodness of his heart. Though it had already been five minutes, the audience hadn't forgotten Ye Xiu's little trick of shooting behind him. Was that something someone who was generously giving themselves away would do?

"Oh." Yu Wenzhou acknowledged his words, then sent another message, "Did you see the curse I just sent?"

“! Didn’t! See! It! Yu Wenzhou you had better not try anything!!!” Ye Xiu warned his opponent.

Finally, the referee couldn’t take it anymore. “Less useless talk from the two of you! Focus on the match!”

The messages sent by the referee were in the form of system messages. Just like how, in game, no matter how powerful a player was, they couldn’t beat the system, in pro matches, no matter how talented a trash talker, no one dared trash talk the referee. With the referee’s words, the two captains both fell silent. Their team members offstage looked at one another. For Happy, they weren’t caught too off guard because Ye Xiu had led them charging through the online game, so his unprofessionalism wasn’t anything foreign. But for Blue Rain... When had they ever seen their captain talk so much in a match? Because of his hand speed problem, their captain never had any time to chat, but using today’s map choice, he had managed to make up for that.

In reality, these two had never paused in their current actions while they chatted. No one made to actually stand into the area of the coordinates Ye Xiu gave. Both of them were a distance away, and maintained this distance as they circled around the area. The audience could see that one of them was moving clockwise and the other anti-clockwise. They were bound to meet eventually. It all depended on who would spot the other first amidst this dense mist.

Neither side was moving very quickly, careful to make no noise as they stepped forth.

Like that, they approached each other, bit by bit, little by little.

All the audience felt their hearts rising further and further into their throats.

Commentators Pan Lin and Li Yibo were silent now as well. The entire world of Glory had sunk into silence in that moment, as if the slightest sound would affect the two players onstage.

The big screen provided the two player’s views as they turned constantly. Then, at practically the exact same moment, they both stopped.

Charge!

Lord Grim immediately charged out, shockingly accurate, straight towards Swoksaar’s location/ As for Swoksaar, he wasn’t nearly as aggressive. The moment Lord Grim stepped out, he turned and darted behind a tree. The audience had known from before with their omniscient view that Swoksaar had paid careful attention to his pathing, prepared for this sort of sudden meeting.

Gunshots!

After using Charge, Lord Grim began shooting as he ran, the bullets striking the tree Swoksaar had hid behind. However, Swoksaar was no longer behind the tree. Lord Grim stepped two steps to the side, but still didn’t see Swoksaar. Lord Grim didn’t stop moving, continuing to charge as he threw a grenade out.

Boom!

The explosion created by a grenade was relatively more intense. In this mist, it could also light up the area, making it easier to see the silhouettes of other characters. However, Swoksaar still remained hidden to Ye Xiu.

The Blue Rain fans all let out a breath of relief, because these coordinates that Ye Xiu had suggested weren't random. That guy had wandered about, carefully cataloguing the terrain in this area, familiarizing himself with the environment.

Seeing him call Yu Wenzhou over, everyone had cursed that crafty bastard Ye Xiu, yet Yu Wenzhou hadn't refused, continuing onwards. Everyone was worried that Yu Wenzhou would fall into Ye Xiu's trap, but now it seemed...

"Heh. This is Blue Rain's map, after all! Ye Xiu's few minutes of research can't beat Yu Wenzhou's understanding of this map!" Li Yibo laughed.

Yu Wenzhou's response to their sudden meeting was confident and decisive. Swoksaar didn't pause for the slightest moment, his movements making everyone's hearts skip a beat in anxiety. Yet Ye Xiu, in the end, never noticed him even once. This result was too puzzling. It took a while before the system managed to come up with a simplified video displaying Lord Grim's movements and changes in view, and then Swoksaar's movement patterns and the obstacles he used for cover. From this video, the audience could clearly see that Yu Wenzhou's choice of pathing was in Lord Grim's blind spot. Yu Wenzhou's familiarity with this map truly did far exceed Ye Xiu's. Ye Xiu was skilled enough to have managed to find many useful aspects to the terrain with what little time he was given, he probably wouldn't be able to improvise such a successful response like Yu Wenzhou could.

"Spectacular! No wonder Yu Wenzhou dared to fight Ye Xiu one on one," Li Yibo praised.

"But if this continues, how does he plan on beating Ye Xiu?" Pan Lin asked.

Although Yu Wenzhou was good at avoiding the other, he didn't dare to face Ye Xiu head on. From this perspective, one couldn't say that he had the advantage. If all you did upon seeing your opponent was avoid him, then there was no way you could beat them. You had to launch some sort of assault!

"Let's keep watching!" Li Yibo said.

After this, Ye Xiu still lost Swoksaar. He had no choice but to have Lord Grim stop.

"Hey, all you do is hide and run. How are we going battle like this?" Ye Xiu yelled into the chat self-righteously.

The stadium was instantly filled with booing. They couldn't believe this guy. He couldn't find Captain Yu so he started going after the referee, implying that Yu Wenzhou's behavior wasn't acceptable?

"This is strategy." That was how Yu Wenzhou ended up replying, also sounding like he was giving the referee an explanation.

"What an annoying guy," Ye Xiu said as Lord Grim began shoot randomly again.

"I'm right here! Come at me!" Ye Xiu hollered.

"No rush." Was Yu Wenzhou's reply. He never stopped inputting commands, but there was no hurry to his actions. From Swoksaar shaking Lord Grim off to now where he was turning back to find an opportunity to attack, his actions were steady and unrushed.

Not long later...

“Hey!” Ye Xiu expressed his displeasure. Another Chaotic Rain? Didn’t he have any new tricks? However, he didn’t use any new tricks to counter this. Again, he opened the umbrella, squatted, then Shadow Clone Techiqued out of there. It was just that this time, Yu Wenzhou didn’t follow up with another Hexagram Prison, the Chaotic Rain steadily falling upon the Misty Thicket.

One couldn’t deduce the caster’s position from these sorts of skills. At most, a range, so there was no way to do anything about it. Ye Xiu’s Lord Grim blankly stood amidst the forestry, watching the rain fall.

And then... there was no more and thens...

Blue Rain’s home stadium was filled with booing. This was Yu Wenzhou fighting, the much adored captain of Blue Rain, and in a one on one match, too, something he hadn’t done in ages. Yet there was booing.

The audience couldn’t help it.

Here we are, our hearts in our throats, and that’s all you’re showing us?

The two on the stage remained unmoved.

Chaotic Rain stopped. The forest sunk back into silence.

Lord Grim suddenly darted out, moving with a Charge skill.

But the direction...

With the audience’s omniscient point of view, they knew immediately that this was the wrong direction, but Ye Xiu’s movements didn’t stop. After Charge, Lord Grim immediately changed directions and used a Colliding Stab. Another high speed movement skill. This time, the direction was far more accurate, but it wasn’t enough!

After witnessing the two exchanges just now, many of the more careful audience members had noted down the distances between the characters back then. Though they probably weren’t as observant as the two players, they knew that the distance was probably the upper limit to the players’ views in the Misty thicket. Lord Grim’s charge was in the right direction, but the distance you travelled with this technique wasn’t enough to bring Swoksaar into view...

Continue forwards! Many people prayed, yet after that Colliding Stab, Lord Grim switched directions again and used a Shining Cut...

You went in the wrong direction!

Many people cried in their heads.

However, those that realized what Ye Xiu was trying perked up.

“There!” Li Yibo yelled.

“Ah?”

With an “ah” from Pan Lin, Lord Grim’s Shining Cut had ended. It wasn’t towards Swoksaar’s direction, but it flashed through Swoksaar’s view. That meant that he also had a moments chance to see Swoksaar’s position.

“He’s using high speed movement to increase the range of his view!” Li Yibo explained to the audience.

“Did he see?” Pan Lin asked loudly.

Lord Grim’s reaction gave him the best answer. Shining Cut swept out, but it was already just a shadow clone. Lord Grim’s real body was near Swoksaar.

Boom boom boom!

Anti-Tank Missiles’s three shells flew out with tongues of flame. The three missiles were very spread out, not aiming to strike their target, but using light to lock onto Swoksaar’s form.

Yu Wenzhou repeated his previous action. Having stood, prepared, he turned and darted behind a tree, but this time, Ye Xiu was prepared as well. Lord Grim stopped to cast and a Goblin appeared beside the tree.

Lord Grim lunged forth. Swoksaar had disappeared from view once more. Yu Wenzhou’s use of his environment was truly ingenious. However, the Goblin was still in Lord Grim’s view. Lord Grim, sprinting forwards, rapidly headed towards the direction the Goblin was unsteadily charging towards.

#### **Chapter 1434: There’s a Trap**

Ye Xiu’s trick had Pan Lin and Li Yibo exchanging a look in the broadcasting room.

“I don’t know why but I suddenly thought of the phrase ‘close the door and release the dogs’,” Pan Lin suddenly sighed.

“Haha, I don’t know if the door closed or not, but he really did release a dog,” Li Yibo laughed.

“And this dog is practically biting at the heels,” Pan Lin noted, watching the screen.

Currently, Ye Xiu still couldn’t see Swoksaar, but the Goblin continued to move, confident in where to go. Even novices knew that summons would only move when under the control of the player or on auto. Otherwise, they would just stand in place dumbly. So, Pan Lin and Li Yibo made a few comments but didn’t discuss it in detail, since it was so simple. However, before Ye Xiu, how many people would think to use the most low leveled summons to hunt down Yu Wenzhou whose understanding of the map was unparalleled?

With a clear direction, Lord Grim’s pursuit was swift. If it wasn’t for the fact that he had used three movement skills in succession to increase the range of his view, then Lord Grim would’ve caught up a while ago. Unfortunately, those three skills were on cooldown, meaning that Lord Grim wasn’t at his fastest. Even so, Ye Xiu had Lord Grim close the distance rapidly with what he had. At the very least, he could see Swoksaar’s form now.

The Goblin was small, with short legs. It wasn't very fast at all. Normal players could easily shake them off as well. However, these few moments had given Ye Xiu a chance.

Bang bang!

As he moved, Lord Grim shot twice to disrupt Swoksaar's movement. But Yu Wenzhou didn't react to it at all. Swoksaar didn't even bother to dodge.

Ye Xiu knew that something was wrong. There was no way you could escape just by ignoring these attacks. That wasn't a thing!

Gatling Gun!

Ye Xiu resolutely activated this skill. Bullets shot out like a flood. It didn't take many shots before Swoksaar turned into a puff of smoke and disappeared in the mist.

"Hahahahaha!" The audience was delighted, because they had known about this from the moment it happened!

You might have your cunning tricks, but I'm no less crafty!

Ye Xiu's use of summons to track his target had fully utilized the characteristics of this basic skill, but Yu Wenzhou soon countered, tooth for a tooth.

Shadow Clone Technique!

It was also a low level skill, which was generally used as a teleportation skill by Nightwalkers. But right now, Yu Wenzhou was using it the way it was originally intended: to confuse the opponent.

An experienced player like Ye Xiu definitely wouldn't be tricked by a Shadow Clone Technique. It was just unfortunate that a dumb little summons was easily tricked by a technique like this.

As soon as the Goblin began to chase, Yu Wenzhou had Swoksaar quickly form hand seals. Afterwards, the one the Goblin and Lord Grim were pursuing was Swoksaar's shadow clone.

Then where was the real Swoksaar?

Rumble...

A rumbling erupted, the air split open, and the pitch black Death's Door rose from behind Lord Grim.

Under these circumstances, if Swoksaar didn't successfully take the chance to launch a powerful attack, then Yu Wenzhou wouldn't be worthy of being Blue Rain's captain!

If he could, he would probably have the Death's Door cast on top of Lord Grim. Yu Wenzhou didn't seem to intend to use Death's Door's CC at all. With a Death's Door so close, he was clearly aiming to deal damage as fast as possible.

"That's a wise choice!" Li Yibo praised. "Using Death's Door's control to launch an attack to eliminate Death's Door's ending lag would maximize damage, against a skilled and experienced expert like Ye Xiu, Yu Wenzhou might end up failing to deal any damage and exposing himself instead. Usually, this usage of Death's Door wouldn't pose much of a threat to Ye Xiu. Lord Grim's movement methods and speed

vastly lowered the difficulty of escaping from Death's Door. That's why it was better to just set Death's Door right next to him and aim for a quick round of damage."

Li Yibo's analysis was very reasonable this time, and he was also correct. That was, indeed, what Yu Wenzhou was thinking. He didn't ask for too much, because he knew that it was best to not give his current opponent any chances. His ability to grasp opportunities was on par with Blue Rain's Huang Shaotian. Against this sort of person, you would have to be ready to improvise and counter what he did. If you planned and schemed, then he was sure to trick you into falling into the very trap you set.

Boom!

A Death's Door activated next to its target: the miasma immediately latched onto the character, directly skipping over the part where it dragged its target back and exploding!

Damn cool!

Applause filled the stadium.

This strike struck bone. The damage from the Chaotic Rain and Sandstorm Trap from before was nothing.

Nineteen percent!

That was how much of Lord Grim's health this attack had taken.

Yu Wenzhou's Swoksaar was centered around powerful control and high bursts. His personal style was similar to the cooldown style. Yu Wenzhou was unsuited to chaining long combos to stack damage.

He grasped a chance and unleashed a powerful skill to take out almost one fifth of his opponent's health, swift and resolute. More importantly, Yu Wenzhou didn't expose Swoksaar's position with this attack. Currently, he was hidden to the side, already casting a second skill.

Hexagram Prison!

Just through the distance between Lord Grim and the Death's Door and their relative positions, Yu Wenzhou had managed to calculate exactly where Lord Grim would be thrown to by the Death's Door's explosion. Hexagram Prison was executed so precisely that there was no way to stop it. Ye Xiu was trying to have Lord Grim quick recover to roll back onto his feet when the Hexagram Prison trapped him.

Hexagram Prison didn't do any damage on its own. Damage was only dealt with other skills while the target was trapped. Yu Wenzhou wouldn't miss such an opportunity either, no longer caring if Swoksaar would be exposed or not anymore.

Curse Arrows, Burning Arrows, two low level skills that Swoksaar rarely ever used. Then, a Shadow Flames and Grasping Ghosts, two damage over time skills.

Lord Grim's Myriad manifestations Umbrella had such a large surface area for defense, it made his opponents depressed, but now that he was caught by Yu Wenzhou's Hexagram Prison, it was Ye Xiu who felt depressed.

Since it was too big, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella couldn't open up into its shield form in the Hexagram Prison. Lord Grim could do nothing but take the damage from the four skills.

Swoksaar's position was completely exposed now, but after these four skills, Yu Wenzhou didn't have Swoksaar flee. Swoksaar waved his Curse of Destruction, continuing to cast...

This skill had a visibly longer cast time, and at practically the same time the Hexagram Prison disappeared, Curse of Destruction was jabbed at Lord Grim.

Ye Xiu seemed to have realized something as well, and had Lord Grim raise the Myriad manifestations Umbrella at almost the same time, wanting to use Rotor Wings, but it was too late...

There were no flashes of light, but the ground under Lord Grim's feet had been changed through a curse.

Lord Grim, attempting to use Rotor Wings to escape, was about to jump into the air, but the moment his feet left the ground, he sunk.

Dense forestry, denser mist...

This scenery was creepy enough, but when Ye Xiu looked downwards, he saw that the area under Lord Grim had already been cursed. Strange runes crawled over the ground like squirming maggots, and the area seemed to have a layer of fog over it, making the ground look wet and sticky. The howling of the damned filled his ears as his body sunk. Withered grey hands burst out of the soil, the hem of Lord Grim's pants clenched in their fists. Later on, some heads even appeared, teeth snapping, and others rose up to catch Lord Grim in an iron embrace, all holding on for dear life, tugging at him, as if they wanted to pull him into this curse as well.

Just the special effects alone made it worthy of being a high level skill...

Death Entanglement!

The new level 75 Warlock skill. A skill above even Death's Door.

Before the skill ended or before a target walked out of the affected zone, the skill would deal damage over time to the characters enmeshed. In addition, a powerful slow would be inflicted, and even better, skills like Teleportation, Shadow Clone Technique, even Rotor Wings couldn't be used in the affected area. They would all be interrupted, and the character would be grabbed by the wraiths.

There was no instantly escaping the area cursed by Death Entanglement, unless you were very lucky and started on the edge of the skill's area of effect, able to step out in one step. However, Yu Wenzhou had set the skill so that Lord Grim was in the center. No matter which way he walked, the skill would probably end before he could walk out.

"It seems like you really did manage to trap me..." Ye Xiu was still in the mood to chat at a time like this! After Death's Door and the four consecutive skills, then this level 75 skill... this combo of Swoksaar's was the highest damage he could do in this period of time.

31%!



That was the total damage these skills had dealt to Lord Grim. Death Entanglement was a level 75 skill, but its damage was nothing compared to Death's Door. However, that didn't mean it was at all a weak skill. Its CC far overpowered Death's Door.

31%, added to the 19% from Death's Door, meant that Yu Wenzhou had taken half of Lord Grim's health in one go. This was truly a display of his power.

"Unfortunately, it isn't enough," Yu Wenzhou replied. This was true disappointment. Of course, he hoped that he could skill Lord Grim here and now. However, under the current circumstances, he didn't have any confidence that he would be able to trap Lord Grim so well after the Death Entanglement ended. Exposing his position was an extremely risky move, so he had no choice but to stop his assault and have Swoksaar find a new, better place to hide.

"This performance of yours is more than enough for you to brag about. You can even tell your kids about it after you grow old," Ye Xiu replied.

"I still hope that the story can become a little more spectacular," Yu Wenzhou said.

"Impossible! You're nowhere near good enough!" Ye Xiu said.

"That's no secret," Yu Wenzhou said.

"I planted a fatal trap for you," Ye Xiu informed the other.

"Oh? What is it?" Just as the message sent, Yu Wenzhou paled. Swoksaar really did step into a trap.

Then, Lord Grim appeared right in front of him, face to face, practically no space between them.

"A Shadow Trap. Scared yet?" Ye Xiu asked.

### **Chapter 1435: An Incomprehensible, Godly Turnaround**

After Shadow Trap triggered, the user would immediately appear at the trap's position.

If one were to ask what use this skill had, the short answer would be just one word: Ambush.

This was because the skill allowed the player to abruptly engage in close-quarters combat with his opponent, and at the same time, it also referred to the skill that Thieves most commonly used along with it: Ambush. If the skill Ambush connected, it would deal double the damage to the target while stunning them for three seconds. It had considerable benefits when paired with the Thief's Stealth, or with Shadow Trap.

But to Ye Xiu, he didn't he didn't need Ambush at all, all he needed was an opportunity to latch on to his opponent.

What latching on to his opponent meant was something that everyone was very clear about.

The moment Shadow Trap appeared, the jubilant atmosphere in Blue Rain's home stadium immediately died down. It was as if someone had hit the mute button on the whole stadium, sending it into absolute silence.

But very quickly, the jumping and cheering and laughing began again. In the West wing of the stadium, the Happy fans suddenly became spirited again!

“Godly turnaround!” They shouted loudly.

Indeed, it was really a godly turnaround.

But how this godly turnaround was created was something that no one understood.

How was the Shadow Trap placed? How did he know that Yu Wenzhou would step on it at that precise moment?

Pan Lin stared at Li Yibo, Li Yibo stared at Pan Lin, and the commentators fell into an embarrassing situation. Even if they wanted to escape, this question was something that they couldn’t run away from.

It was fortunate that Lord Grim was engaging in an intense offensive, so Pan Lin put on an act and commentated on the current situation, while Li Yibo hurriedly reviewed the replay.

By staring unblinkingly at the replay, he really did manage to find the moment that Lord Grim placed the Shadow Trap. The problem was, finding it was finding it, but Li Yibo couldn’t figure out the reason why the Shadow Trap was placed at that location.

Li Yibo was so frantic that he began sweating. The television directors had sent word that the hotline for the broadcast even had many viewers calling in to ask what on earth had actually happened.

Li Yibo’s cheeks streamed with tears. He really wished that he too could make a call to find out what had happened.

In the past, even after being made a laughing stock for his wrong predictions, Li Yibo was still able to come up with roughly the right answer after looking closely at the situation afterwards. This time, however, he was wracking his brains but couldn’t come up with an answer. How could he explain it? He couldn’t just say it was all luck, right?

Swoksaar fell.

This result came as no surprise. In a close-quarters fight, Yu Wenzhou’s disadvantages were obvious. Even though he had the awareness, the experience, and the judgements, Ye Xiu wasn’t lacking in any of these aspects either. On top of that, the Unspecialized Blitz had an extremely fast tempo, amplifying Yu Wenzhou’s shortcomings even more. Towards the end, everyone had clearly seen his struggles. The die-hard fans in Blue Rain’s home stadium almost couldn’t bear to watch it any longer, but Ye Xiu had no such qualms. From start to finish, the Unspecialized Blitz had an even tighter tempo than usual.

In the first battle, Happy emerged victorious. Nonetheless, when this result became clear, the mood in the stadium had actually become more stable. After all, when that Shadow Trap had been triggered, everyone had already prepared themselves for the worst. The fans of Blue Rain knew that no matter how it appeared, their captain would definitely be fighting an arduous battle. If he could easily take away half the health from Ye Xiu’s character, would their captain really be avoiding the individual competitions?

Applause.

When Yu Wenzhou left the stage, he still received applause. Sure, he had lost, but the fans of Blue Rain were already more than satisfied by what he had managed to achieve. "Fight on!" they shouted, hoping that the players from Blue Rain wouldn't be discouraged by this loss.

Indeed, Blue Rain's players weren't discouraged. They stood up, welcoming their team captain.

"You played well!" Everyone said in succession.

"Being swept away by a single combo is still considered playing well?" Yu Wenzhou laughed bitterly.

"It was nearly you sweeping him away with a single combo," Huang Shaotian replied.

Yu Wenzhou shook his head. The actual circumstances were something that he understood more clearly than anyone else.

"When was that Shadow Trap placed?" Yu Wenzhou asked Huang Shaotian.

"When he summoned that Goblin to chase you," Huang Shaotian said.

"It was at that moment?" Yu Wenzhou thought pensively. In his heart, he already had a general idea of what had happened. Nevertheless, this wasn't the time for careful thinking. Blue Rain's second player had already prepared to leave and was looking at him, waiting for his command!

"It's a shame, I fell into his trap too quickly. Do your best!" Yu Wenzhou said to the second player who was about to go onstage.

Song Xiao, the key player who would always shine during the playoffs.

In the end, in the last round's group arena, he had been firmly suppressed by Ye Xiu. The team competition was an even sadder affair. Despite his confidence, he didn't have any time to put on a good performance before being killed by a slash.

"Watch me!" Song Xiao roused his spirits and entered the stage.

In the group arena, the map didn't change, so it was still Misty Thicket. In the time that it took to change players, Pan Lin and Li Yibo thoroughly discussed the map, going back and forth as if they had an inexhaustible amount of things to say. This chatter was actually a sign of their lack of confidence. In the end, the two of them still weren't able to explain how Ye Xiu knew where to place that Shadow Trap from the last round. At this time, discussing the map was a way for the two of them to embarrassedly change the topic!

The second round of the group arena soon began.

In the previous round, Lord Grim had half his life taken out in one wave of attacks, and when he forcefully killed off Swoksaar, he had suffered a little more damage, putting his total health at thirty-nine percent. As such, when the round began, Ye Xiu first had Lord Grim cast a few healing skills, bringing his total health to fifty percent and causing the entire stadium to begin cursing at him. Only after this did he unhurriedly have Lord Grim set out.

Similarly to the last round, Lord Grim directly took the middle road. What about Receding Tides, who had set out first? Song Xiao had chosen to take a roundabout route to the east. When Lord Grim

reached the center of the map, Ye Xiu stopped moving, but he couldn't find any trace of his opponent. Had he taken a tactical route?

Ye Xiu was simple and straightforward. He stopped guessing, instead directly asking in the public channel, "You want to ambush me again?"

"If not to ambush, then what's the point of choosing this map?" Song Xiao was self-righteous and confident. As an important core player, Song Xiao's resistance against trash talk was outstanding, not needing to avoid chatting here and there with others.

"You have a point! I'm at 24, 58, come and ambush me!" Ye Xiu sent simply.

"Please wait a moment, I'll be there soon," Song Xiao replied.

"The left side or the right side?" Ye Xiu asked.

"Both the left and right side," Song Xiao replied.

"Alright!" Ye Xiu replied. Afterwards, under everyone's watchful eyes, Ye Xiu had Lord Grim leave the spot where 24, 58 was.

Walking straight, towards Blue Rain's respawn point. After charging out for a distance, Lord Grim turned right.

All of a sudden, the crowd was sent into an uproar. With this one turn, Lord Grim had looped behind Receding Tides!

"This... this..." Pan Lin said "this" twice. What he really wanted to ask was "How did he do this," but after failing to figure out the godly turnaround from earlier, Pan Lin forcefully swallowed his question.

How had he managed to make such a precise decision? At this moment, Li Yibo was similarly flabbergasted.

Was it from their conversation earlier? Pan Lin carefully pored over every single one of Ye Xiu's lines. Was there some kind of probing nature to them?

"He guessed it." From Blue Rain's player seats, Yu Wenzhou's conclusion was extremely simple.

"Guessed it?" Some of his teammates were doubtful.

"If not left, then right. A fifty-fifty, just like taking a penalty kick. If he made the shot, then it would be a great success, if not... even if he missed, he wouldn't lose anything. Of course it was worth a shot," Yu Wenzhou said.

"Then his luck is just too good!" Blue Rian's players were depressed, as if they'd just missed a penalty kick.

As they spoke, Song Xiao had already reached those coordinates, but he didn't walk out of the mist to expose himself. Instead, he stopped moving, taking the initiative to call out to Ye Xiu.

"I've arrived," Song Xiao said.

"Liar, I don't see you," Ye Xiu replied.

"I also don't see you, why don't you shoot once or twice and let me find you," Song Xiao said.

"That won't do. That's a privilege reserved for team captains, I can't simply break the rules," Ye Xiu said.

"Then there's nothing to be done, the two of us can just slowly drag things out!" Song Xiao said.

"By selecting this map today, it really seems as if Blue Rain's intentions are to drag things out!" Li Yibo suddenly said.

"With this map, if they don't drag things out, there aren't many other things they can do..." Pan Lin said.

"If they wanted to fight head-on, there's still the option of going directly to the center of the map. But both of Blue Rain's players have been playing tactically, purposefully making use of this map's special features, dragging the tempo of the battle until it annoys everyone, this..." Li Yibo felt as if he had grasped some important point, wanting to organize his thoughts before speaking again, when Pan Lin suddenly shouted from beside him, "He's got it!"

In Ye Xiu's field of view, a faint silhouette of a person had appeared. After wrapping around, he had finally found Receding Tides.

In the end, it was as if Song Xiao had also heard Pan Lin's loud shout, because that faint silhouette disappeared in the blink of an eye. With a Charge, Lord Grim rushed forwards by several body units, but he still couldn't find a trace of Song Xiao. With an omniscient point-of-view, the crowd could clearly see that when Lord Grim had quietly appeared, it unfortunately wasn't a wraparound, but instead, he had circled around Receding Tide's front, and both players had seen each other.

Afterwards, as if he had no intention of fighting whatsoever, Receding Tides hid behind a tree.

Lord Grim charged out, but Receding Tides took a long detour behind the tree, running far away from Lord Grim.

"This..." Pan Lin didn't quite understand. Song Xiao hadn't been ambushed, the two players had noticed each other at the same time. If you were to say that Yu Wenzhou immediately ran after being discovered, everyone would be able to understand that. But Song Xiao? He had indeed been suppressed to death by Ye Xiu in the previous round, but when all was said and done, he didn't draw as short a stick as Yu Wenzhou, he could still put up a fight! If he still wanted to run under these circumstances, then what did he plan to do? Do the same as Yu Wenzhou, and wait for an opportunity when he had complete control over his opponent before making a move?

But Swoksaar was a Warlock, with many controlling abilities, allowing Yu Wenzhou's plan to come to fruition. Song Xiao was a Qi Master, so wouldn't it be difficult for him to create such a beautiful opportunity for himself? Could it be that this guy was planning to play dirty and launch ambushes non-stop?

Just as Pan Lin thought this, Song Xiao really did have Receding Tides move up for an ambush again.

Ye Xiu had a rich amount of experience, so even after charging over and not seeing Receding Tides, he still remembered where his silhouette had been, and after taking a look at the position, he already had some inferences about where Song Xiao might be hiding, so Lord Grim had already begun striding in that

direction. In the end, just as everyone thought that Song Xiao was ready to run, he suddenly had his character strike a sudden blow.

Sky Piercing Strike!

Just as Ye Xiu had Lord Grim wrap around that tree, trying to guess where Song Xiao had run off to, Receding Tides sent out a Sky Piercing Strike towards him.

### **Chapter 1436: Wearing Down**

The attacks made from the ethereal qi from a Qi Master were actually more visible than usual on this map, where any movement disturbed the thick fog. Even though Song Xiao had launched this Sky Piercing Strike very quickly, it didn't pose any difficulty for Ye Xiu.

Charge!

Even though he clearly saw the attack coming for him, Ye Xiu chose not to hide behind a tree, but to ferociously charge forward.

Boom!

Part of the qi from the Sky Piercing Strike slammed into the tree, giving off a muffled sound, followed by the rustling of the tree's leaves and branches. Ye Xiu hadn't chosen the safer method of dodging the attack – he seemed almost in a rush as he chased after Song Xiao.

"It looks like Ye Xiu has lost some of his cool?" Pan Lin shouted, his voice full of surprise. He'd been commentating Glory matches for a number of years now, so he'd commentated for the old Battle God One Autumn Leaf Ye Xiu as well as the current unspecialized Lord Grim Ye Xiu. For Pan Lin to become so distinguished in the Glory commentary circle, he was at a solid level. He had always felt that this new Ye Xiu, after returning to the professional scene this season, was somewhat different from before.

Pan Lin hadn't experienced the years when Excellent Era had swept the Alliance, but from the seasons afterward, in the matches where Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng built their reputation as Best Partners, he could imagine just how ferocious that dominating Battle God had been. Even though Excellent Era's scores had been in a steady decline in the following years, Pan Lin could still tell that all of the powerful teams in the Alliance still viewed Excellent Era as a difficult enemy. And Ye Xiu had always been the target that all of the Gods and experts had aimed to defeat.

Ye Xiu had always been this pinnacle existence.

All the way until he departed in Season 8. Just like that, a God had fallen. In the days of his absence, though, the Alliance continued to develop. The king of the new generation, Zhou Zekai, lived up to expectations as he won two championships and continued to charge toward Excellent Era's record of three consecutive championships.

The times had changed, and in the eyes of many younger viewers, Zhou Zekai was the one who was worthy of being called Glory's number one. The returned Ye Xiu was no longer the pinnacle presence of before, no longer that lofty goal that everyone wanted to challenge and defeat. This time, he had

become a challenger. Those people who had once looked up to him now all had beautifully powerful teams behind them. And this Team Happy that Ye Xiu now led could only look up to them.

No longer was he the one being challenged. Now, he was the challenger!

From the beginning, Pan Lin had felt that looking at Ye Xiu and Happy from this angle would be very interesting. But... Ye Xiu hadn't cooperated at all! Right after they'd barely managed to defeat Excellent Era, they were already hollering about winning the championship. Where was the attitude of being the challenger?

But Pan Lin understood. This was probably the principle of not letting yourself be intimidated by the opponent's identity, while still being cautious of the opponent's abilities and tactics.

Season 10, 38 rounds. The television broadcast wouldn't choose Happy's matches every week, but Pan Lin still watched every single one of Happy's matches.

As a commentator, he couldn't demonstrate emotional bias. He could only praise those that performed well, or express regret for those that didn't. Even though he would also sometimes forget himself while a particularly thrilling performance onstage, on the whole, the emotions of a commentator had to be almost mechanical. Their emotional expression was trained, or in other words, it was... a performance.

In reality, Pan Lin had paid very close attention to Happy this season. Like many others, he was very curious about that weapon in Lord Grim's hand, and he was very curious about how this team, a team that had come from who-knows-where but had miraculously defeated Excellent Era in the Challenger League, would ultimately perform in the professional circle.

The people who had paid this kind of attention to Happy had reaped quite some satisfaction this season.

Happy, this patchwork team, had done extremely well.

And those who had been paying attention to Happy were, of course, paying attention to Ye Xiu as well.

Thirty-seven consecutive wins! To be able to watch this record built from start to finish, this was an incredible reward for those paying attention to Ye Xiu over the course of this year.

But in the process of watching these consecutive victories, Pan Lin felt a few other things.

Thirty-seven consecutive wins. Even in Ye Xiu's pinnacle years, he had never had such a perfect performance before. Part of this was of course because Lord Grim was unspecialized, but separating the character from the player, Pan Lin felt that Ye Xiu was different as well.

The Ye Xiu of the past, who had led his account to earn the title of Battle God, was domineering on the battlefield, invincible.

But today's Ye Xiu? He'd won thirty-seven consecutive battles, which still seemed invincible. But Pan Lin felt that, even though his results were incredible, the returned Ye Xiu didn't seem to have that same brash, dominating air that he'd had as a Battle Mage.

Was his temperament different because his class was different?

At the beginning, Pan Lin had thought this was the case. But after seeing many matches, it didn't seem quite right.

It wasn't until the end of the season, and he saw the adjustments and changes that Team Tyranny had made, that Pan Lin finally understood.

Ye Xiu, like those three old generals of Tyranny, wasn't young anymore! That brash and sharp air of the Battle God had slowly bled away with the flow of time. Before, because Ye Xiu had always been present and everyone was always watching his matches, they hadn't noticed the feeling very clearly. But after leaving and then returning after a year and a half, the scars left by the passage of time were suddenly in stark clarity.

He hadn't wantonly squandered his youth, nor had he willfully tried to compete with the years. He had simply been continuously adjusting and perfecting his own technique, using whatever style best suited him at the time to engage in battle.

Calm, elegant, and then old. From the very start, he had never planned to lament this inevitable fact of life. Just like how he faced the championship, he faced this saddening situation with vigor.

This season, quite a few people discussed the pressure that Ye Xiu faced, leading a team like this. They discussed just how exhausting it was for him, all for the sake of victory.

But Pan Lin didn't agree.

Ye Xiu had indeed been working very hard. Without him, this Team Happy definitely wouldn't be what it was today. But over Happy's thirty-eight matches, whether they won or lost, Pan Lin had always seen an air of joy.

Yes, joy!

The sort of joy that came from playing from the heart.

Glory was, after all, a game. Pan Lin wondered whether many people had forgotten this point. After last round, many commentators criticized Happy's brutally utilitarian style of play. After reading them, Pan Lin found them laughable.

Utilitarian?

Had they not realized that the Glory Alliance itself was the most utilitarian?

The implementation of all sorts of rules, the requirement that the battles be splendid, this and that, all of it revealed the utilitarianism.

In comparison, Pan Lin felt that Happy's performance wasn't utilitarian at all. It was purely a pursuit of victory. Pan Lin had always thought that those who wanted both victory and a beautiful battle were the real utilitarians!

Victory and loss. A very straightforward thing, and yet so many details had to be bickered over. The utilitarianism revealed a sort of hypocrisy.

The battle wasn't pretty?



But the thing was, who was going to contribute a pretty battle for you? The players were on the battlefield, they cared about victory, and certainly not appearance. You thought the battle was ugly, but didn't you know just how happy the players were while playing?

In Pan Lin's eyes, Ye Xiu was undoubtedly this kind of person. He never cared about the opinions of those around him. Using the best method to obtain victory, this was what he had always done. This was one thing that had never changed about him, from age 17 to age 27.

So now, Ye Xiu's decision had caught him somewhat off-guard. This sort of action, eager to show a certain attitude, didn't suit Ye Xiu's character!

"He does seem a bit rushed..." Li Yibo hadn't thought as much as Pan Lin. Just from technique, Ye Xiu's forced charge was a bit impatient. Even if he was anxious to lock onto Receding Tides' position, the risk was a bit too much. Song Xiao, after all, wasn't Yu Wenzhou. Coming into close range wasn't an immediate guarantee of victory.

Right now, Lord Grim rushed into close range and the two began to fight. But could he really take him down with this?

No one thought he had a good chance. The only reason Li Yibo didn't dare say so was for fear of getting slapped in the face.

Lord Grim's charge earlier had really been a bit of a struggle, but an arrow once fired couldn't be recalled. He had charged forward, so he had to see this through. But Lord Grim's rhythm never managed to stabilize, and in his exchange with Song Xiao's Receding Tides, he failed to gain the upper hand. Instead, he presented an opening to Song Xiao.

But Song Xiao didn't have Receding Tides pursue this opening. He actually chose to retreat, and instantly hid himself once again within this foggy forest. It appeared that Blue Rain had made thorough preparations on this map. Song Xiao's control when controlling the path of Receding Tides was no inferior to Yu Wenzhou's.

"They really are planning on dragging this out!" Pan Lin was stunned.

"They're playing an endurance battle!" Seeing this, Li Yibo's tone became much more confident than before.

"What are they wearing down? Lord Grim's health? Mana?" Pan Lin said.

"And Ye Xiu's energy," said Li Yibo.

Pan Lin paused, and then looked at the time. Indeed, today's group arena had been dragging on for quite a while. Normally, by this time, the group arena would already be on the third or fourth battle. Blue Rain's Yu Wenzhou had been defeated and replaced by Song Xiao, but Happy's first player Ye Xiu still hadn't gone down! Blue Rain wasn't giving him the chance to end a match quickly. Even when there was a chance to counterattack, Song Xiao had chosen to back off. The intention was all too clear: they wanted to play a long endurance match.

And this Song Xiao wasn't like Yu Wenzhou, he didn't have to worry so much about the opponent closing in. Just after escaping, he was able to come back and harass him again as if it were nothing.

Once, twice, three times...

Song Xiao's steadiness and ability to perform under pressure was, in this match, used entirely on running around. Every time he'd come to harass Ye Xiu for a bit, and as soon as the situation became slightly unfavorable, he'd instantly run away. Again and again, he actually succeeded in getting away every time. This struggle continued on for another five minutes, and in that time, the health of both players had dropped less than ten percent. This rhythm was almost disastrously slow.

"How will this match turn out?" Pan Lin said weakly. The first or second time when Song Xiao had rushed back, he had gotten excited and shouted a bit, but after that he wasn't fooled again. From Song Xiao's current attitude, it seemed that the only way Song Xiao would relax would be if Lord Grim completely stripped off all of his equipment and just stood there waiting to be attacked.

Clutch player? Pan Lin didn't feel it. The feeling that Song Xiao gave him now was more like that of a frightened songbird.

### **Chapter 1437: Can't Follow You**

Everyone in the stadium was starting to feel sleepy.

This was Blue Rain's home game, but Blue Rain was entirely at fault for this boredom. It was their players who were waging guerrilla warfare. It was their players who were refusing to confront Ye Xiu directly. It was their players who were dragging this game out.

This was practically a test to see whether the fans truly supported them...

Scattered all around the stadium, the loyal Blue Rain fans responsible for hyping up the crowd had encountered the greatest obstacle for a cheerleading squad: the game was dragging out for so long that even they were having trouble keeping themselves motivated.

"This is our team's strategy!" They could only inform everyone sincerely. Trying to get everyone to cheer loudly for this sort of game would be too forced. Then, as if Song Xiao had caught on to the crowd's feelings, his Receding Tides rushed forward. Everyone was excited. They waited, saving their energy for the explosive confrontation to come, only to be met with Song Xiao's Receding Tides running away.

This was too hurtful to them!

The crowd in the stadium were doing the same as Pan Lin. After crying out twice for false alarms, Pan Lin wouldn't fall for it again. Everyone could only pray that the match would end! Was there really any point in doing all of this?

"What's the point?" Ye Xiu represented the thoughts of Blue Rain's fans and questioned Blue Rain's strategy in the chat.

Song Xiao used actions to reply back. Receding Tides rushed out again.

"How many times has he done it?" The audience members whispered to each other. This was already the only topic they could think of.

“The fifth?”

“I think it’s the sixth.”

“Isn’t it the sixth?”

“If I’m remembering it correctly.”

“Alright, it’s the sixth then!” The audience members clearly didn’t care much about this topic.

Sky Piercing Cannon!

Even a skill used to initiate battles wasn’t anything exciting anymore. Everyone was completely numb to it at this point.

“Song Xiao’s Receding Tides has rushed out once again. Let’s see what he’ll do this time,” Pan Lin forced himself to sound energetic. But because the same scene had repeated itself over and over again, he couldn’t bother to think of new ways to word it.

“Sky Piercing Cannon, Landmine Earthquake... Oh, he has Qi Flowing Cloud activated... Spiral Qi Kill missed. It hit a tree. He’s starting to retreat. Lord Grim is chasing after him,” Pan Lin calmly described the scene. It was as if he wasn’t talking about a battle.

“Receding Tides has turned around behind the tree. He’s turning again...” The commentary stopped. Ye Xiu had lost sight of Receding Tides. It looked like the chase stopped here again.

But then, Lord Grim suddenly retraced his steps, and Receding Tide appeared in his sights again.

“Ah!” Pan Lin wasn’t prepared for such a sudden change and couldn’t find the right words. Fortunately, Li Yibo had been quietly thinking during the seemingly endless loop. When Lord Grim retraced his steps, his eyes immediately lit up.

“He’s caught on!”

“Yes, Song Xiao had escaped from Ye Xiu in the same way the last few times. This time, Ye Xiu has caught onto him,” Pan Lin clarified.

Anti-Tank Missiles!

Boom boom boom, three missiles flew out.

“Ah, why’d he attack so hastily! Get closer!” Pan Lin felt that it was a pity for Ye Xiu. In his eyes, Ye Xiu had seized a rare opportunity. From his omniscient view of the match, he could see that Song Xiao wasn’t aware that Lord Grim had retraced his steps to a different angle. Ye Xiu could have sneaked closer. But instead, as soon as he found a new angle, he had Lord Grim attack.

Song Xiao was startled by the artillery fire. He was just about to dodge out of reflex, but he stopped himself at the last moment.

This was bait! A sudden attack to bait him into jumping up and exposing himself.

The thought had flashed through his mind, but then he realized that the direction wasn’t correct.

By the time he realized it, it was too late.

Boom boom boom!

Three Anti-Tank Missiles exploded, all of them hitting Receding Tides. Song Xiao immediately rolled to reduce the knockback from the explosions, while also adjusting his line of sight to see Lord Grim.

“It hit! It actually hit!” Pan Lin cried out.

Although it was a sneak attack, Launcher skills made noise. At this distance, Song Xiao could have reacted in time to dodge it, but he was still unexpectedly hit.

“He probably thought the attack was a trap,” Li Yibo said.

“He misjudged the situation.”

“It’s not just that,” Li Yibo said.

“What else is there?”

“Ye Xiu has started taking advantage of the terrain,” Li Yibo sucked in a deep breath of air.

“Oh, these past few minutes...”

“He’s been running around this place in circles the entire time. Not only was Ye Xiu familiarizing himself with the terrain, he’s been familiarizing himself with Song Xiao’s thoughts,” Li Yibo said.

“So he’s already grasped Song Xiao’s escape route!” Pan Lin was pleasantly surprised. This surprise wasn’t from his bias towards Happy, but rather, there was hope that this battle would finally end!

Collapsing Mountain!

After the Anti-Tank Missiles, Ye Xiu didn’t conserve his skills. Lord Grim sprinted over and then crashed down with a Collapsing Mountain.

Song Xiao had suddenly been hit by a strike and now his opponent was in front of him. However, he didn’t panic and saw through this Collapsing Mountain’s momentum. Receding Tides took a step forward and then let out a palm.

Qi Break!

A powerful high-level skill, yet it looked so gentle. There was no ear-piercing sound or flashy visual effects. All of the surging power was contained within the character. Until the final moment, no one would know what would happen. Qi Masters were filled with hidden meaning.

“See! Qi Masters are meant to be played dirty!” When one looked at things from a different perspective, what one concluded would be different. Happy’s Fang Rui didn’t think about the hidden meaning behind this powerful skill. Instead, he thought about sneak attacks and playing dirty...

His palm pushed against the side of the descending Lord Grim. Song Xiao had calculated the distance and direction. Even if Ye Xiu adjusted the angle of this attack, he wouldn’t be able to hit him. It was too late for Ye Xiu to switch to a different attack. Every skill attacked at a certain angle. At this point, there weren’t any possibilities left, were there?

Shing!

A sword light slashed through Receding Tides.

Sword Draw?!

Song Xiao was shocked.

You can do that?

Amidst the spray of blood, Receding Tides was knocked back. His Qi Burst had been interrupted. The Sword Light seemed to splash onto Receding Tides as Ye Xiu continued his onslaught.

“What’s going on? What just happened?” Pan Lin cried out.

“If I’m not mistaken... that Sword Draw was from his left hand,” Li Yibo said.

The battle was still ongoing. It wasn’t convenient to put out a replay. As a result, the cameraman played the previous clip on a smaller screen in slow motion. From the smaller screen, everyone finally saw that it was a Sword Draw from the left hand!

Lord Grim’s Collapsing Mountain had been executed using his right hand. While in the air, he switched hands and used Sword Draw. For a normal player, they would have to cancel Collapsing Mountain and then position the sword to the correct angle. But Lord Grim? They didn’t know if he cancelled Collapsing Mountain or not, but in that instant, Lord Grim’s left hand grabbed the end of the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella and performed a Sword Draw...

“This... Collapsing Mountain should have been cancelled, but because of Lord Grim’s umbrella, he doesn’t need to waste time adjusting the angle of his weapon. At that instant, he probably positioned his weapon for the left hand... letting him use his left hand to perform the move,” Li Yibo analyzed.

“A surprise attack! No wonder Song Xiao was caught off guard!” Pan Lin shouted.

At this moment, Song Xiao had been grabbed by Ye Xiu and caught in an onslaught of attacks. But the so-called Mister Clutch wouldn’t panic so easily. Song Xiao remained calm and defended, while looking for an opening.

Finally, an opportunity came!

Receding Tides seized this opening and tried to escape using the terrain. But when he made a turn around the tree ahead, Lord Grim cut him off.

“You’ve done this same move so many times. Aren’t you bored yet?” Ye Xiu asked.

“Sure enough, Song Xiao’s been completely seen through!” Pan Lin shouted.

“Even in this terrain, there are very few ways to completely escape Ye Xiu’s pursuit. Song Xiao had scurried around so many times, yet still wanted to keep doing the same thing. It’s as if he’s regarding Ye Xiu as a dead person,” Li Yibo said.

“It looks like I can’t run,” Song Xiao defended and answered Ye Xiu.

“Feel free to try again if an opening appears,” Ye Xiu said.

“No need. Let’s fight!” Song Xiao said. He switched up his fighting style. He was no longer as careful as before, always looking for an opportunity to escape. Receding Tides had gotten into a fighting posture, ready to confront Lord Grim.

“You should have just done this a long time ago,” Ye Xiu said.

“Do you even have enough health left to fight me?” Song Xiao was quite arrogant in front of God Ye Xiu.

“More than enough. I’ve been healing myself,” Ye Xiu typed.

While playing hide-and-seek with Song Xiao, Ye Xiu had Lord Grim heal himself every now and then. He couldn’t completely use up his mana just to keep his health up, after all, Lord Grim needed mana to fight! He hadn’t used Wish Prayer, which meant that he had most likely added a different skill onto his Myriad Manifestations Umbrella.

“Come!” Song Xiao shouted.

“I’m coming!” Ye Xiu replied. Lord Grim turned around and vanished.

“This is...” Pan Lin was speechless. The entire Glory world was speechless.

“What is the meaning of this!” Song Xiao stamped his feet.

“Did you think I’d fight just because you wanted to fight? I need to save my strength for the team competition!” Ye Xiu replied in the chat. Lord Grim traversed through the forest as if he were extremely familiar with it. Ye Xiu had already played on this map for dozens of minutes.

“I’m coming!” Ye Xiu suddenly shouted. Song Xiao wasn’t disturbed, but Lord Grim really did come.

Shua shua shua, several fast attacks; Song Xiao raised his spirits. Shua shua shua, several movement skills. Lord Grim was gone.

Lord Grim was matchless in terms of speed. Appearing and disappearing like a ghost was too easy in this sort of map.

“He’s playing... the cooldown style...” Li Yibo said as he saw Lord Grim search for an opportunity to attack.

### **Chapter 1438: Professional Sandbagging**

Song Xiao finally stopped conducting guerilla warfare and prepared to engage in a direct confrontation. However, it was Ye Xiu who refused to cooperate. Ye Xiu started conducting guerrilla warfare instead, continuing the tedious pace of the match.

“Shouldn’t Ye Xiu be trying to hurry and end it. Why’s he dragging things...” Pan Lin said.

“He holds the initiative by being the one dragging the match. In terms of energy, it’s more relaxing for him. If he fought with Song Xiao directly, it would be a contest of reaction speed and mechanics. For Ye Xiu, who’s already played for ten or so minutes, keeping up the speed and precision required for the

overwhelming blitz of an unspecialized is difficult and tiresome. Blue Rain's intention to tire out Ye Xiu in the group arena is already very obvious. Ye Xiu isn't going to let them have their way..." Li Yibo said.

"But if he plays conservatively, it'll be rather hard for him to beat Song Xiao..." Pan Lin said.

"That's what it seems like..." Li Yibo had noticed Ye Xiu's sneak attack attempts. He was playing just like how Song Xiao did. He never went in too deep. As soon as the situation seemed slightly unfavorable, he would immediately retreat. He wouldn't brute force it. As a result, the damage dealt by both sides was extremely low. When Song Xiao held the initiative, he two sides had fought for 5 minutes, yet had only taken down 10% of each other's health. Ye Xiu held the initiative now, but it was no better than the previous game of hide-and-seek.

"Even if he keeps this up, he'll still get tired!" Pan Lin said. This playstyle put less of a burden on Ye Xiu, but if the match went on long enough, exhaustion would still slowly build up.

"Yes... Song Xiao is aware of this point too," Li Yibo said.

Song Xiao had been surprised by Ye Xiu's sudden retreat from a direct confrontation, but after realizing Ye Xiu's intentions, he calmed down. He had no intentions of reversing the situation. He calmly put on a defensive posture and carefully dealt with Ye Xiu's attacks. If Ye Xiu wanted to run, he would let him. He was in no hurry to chase after him. However, he couldn't let him run around too freely, so he would occasionally put some pressure on him. The intensity of the match needed to be maintained to a certain extent. If not, Ye Xiu could just find a spot to sleep, and Song Xiao wouldn't know. How would that tire out Ye Xiu?

"Coach Li, this is attacking by defending!" Pan Lin said.

Song Xiao's sturdy defense made it so that Ye Xiu wasn't getting much from his multiple sneak attacks. If this scenario repeated enough times, Ye Xiu would still get tired.

"Ye Xiu still holds the initiative though. I presume he probably has a plan in mind," Li Yibo said.

Time passed minute by minute. The stalemate continued for another ten minutes. The second round of the group arena had already taken over ten minutes. Including the first round against Yu Wenzhou, Ye Xiu had been playing for nearly twenty minutes...

"Ye Xiu is... picking up a rock and smashing his own foot with it!" Pan Lin sighed. From his perspective, Ye Xiu's decision was incorrect. Did he not think Song Xiao could be so tenacious? But Song Xiao is famous for being clutch! He never dropped the ball in the playoffs. Ye Xiu was waiting for him to make a mistake, yet ten minutes had passed, and he had nothing to show for it. His repeated attacks had only grinded down 20% of Receding Tide's health. On the other hand, under Song Xiao's persistent pressure, Lord Grim had lost 15% of his health.

Song Xiao was very satisfied with this outcome. Not only had he achieved the original strategic goal, if these trades continued, this match would easily be his.

17 minutes...

Song Xiao looked at the time. This 1v1 had unexpectedly gone on for so long. And at this pace, playing until 20 minutes wouldn't be a problem. 20 minutes! Song Xiao almost felt that it was inconceivable. Before today, he had never thought it was possible for a 1v1 to last 20 minutes.

For such a long match, no matter if it was an intense match or not, just playing a competitive match for this long must be tiring, no? He was just defending, and he was feeling somewhat tired. And Ye Xiu? How long was he planning on continuing this stalemate? He was probably riding a tiger that he couldn't get off. He probably didn't think that he could defend for this long without exposing any openings.

Mr. Clutch. The nickname hadn't come about for no reason. No matter how important of a responsibility he was given, he never dropped the ball.

It didn't matter if it became 20 minutes, 25 minutes, or even 30 minutes! As long as Ye Xiu could still play, then Song Xiao could as well!

Song Xiao didn't relax and focused even harder. But by concentrating, he suddenly realized that he had missed something.

This isn't right... why would I need to suddenly focus even harder? I've always been focused! There's no reason to step it up a notch. Could it be that just before, he had become lax?

"Hey, how long are you going to keep this up?" At this moment, a message from Ye Xiu suddenly popped up.

"As long as you want!" Song Xiao replied.

"Really? But unfortunately, I can't accompany you the entire way through," Ye Xiu said.

What? Song Xiao was startled. Had Ye Xiu given up? Was he going to type GG?

"One last time! I'm coming!"

The moment the message came out, Lord Grim rushed out. Song Xiao reacted fast, and Receding Tides immediately moved to receive him.

Is he planning on putting up one last fight? The likelihood of Ye Xiu directly going GG was small. From Ye Xiu's actions, it seemed that he had finally realized he couldn't continue dragging things, so he was planning on ending it as soon as possible?

A pity! You only made this decision now. Even so, I won't let you have your way so easily!

Song Xiao had a plan in mind long ago. When he had prepared to fight Ye Xiu directly, he had no intentions of ending it quickly. His ultimate reason for standing here in this match was to drag things. Whether it was through hit-and-runs or through direct fights, he would do his best to drag this match. Right now, Ye Xiu wanted to settle it, but Song Xiao wasn't going to let him end it so easily. He would continue defending tenaciously for as long as he could.

Come!

Song Xiao prepared himself. Suddenly, a light appeared in his sights. Sword light!

This fast?



Song Xiao was startled. He hadn't been mentally prepared for an attack this fast.

Roll!

Song Xiao instinctively rolled. Receding Tides immediately rolled backwards, but soon afterwards, Receding Tides spun around into the air.

What happened?

Song Xiao was dumbstruck.

The attack had come out faster than he had expected. He had planned on making a counterattack after the roll, but before he could even finish the roll, he was launched into the air.

"Ye Xiu has suddenly launched an all-out offensive! Only two attacks, and he's broken through Song Xiao's defenses! What's going on?" Pan Lin was dumbfounded. He almost couldn't believe what was happening in front of his eyes.

Eleven minutes. An entire eleven minutes.

During these eleven minutes, Ye Xiu had launched who knew how many of these attacks, but every time he did so, Song Xiao would block them all. Then, Ye Xiu would retreat. The scenario would repeat itself, and it just looked like Ye Xiu was helpless.

But this time... how did he suddenly break through Song Xiao's defenses?

"Take a look at this," Li Yibo suddenly said. A smaller screen appeared on the broadcast. This smaller screen didn't show a replay, but rather a graph. The curve went from high to low and then stayed low for a long time before a sudden spike.

"This was Ye Xiu's APM during these 11 minutes," Li Yibo said.

"How low!" Pan Lin noticed the long length of time. It was a valley that lasted seven minutes. And before hitting this valley, there was a gradual downward drop.

40!

An APM of 40 appeared in a pro match. And this APM had lasted for 7 minutes.

No matter how effective each action was, 40 APM was nowhere near enough in a pro match. Someone with such a low hand speed should have been eliminated long ago, yet he had unexpectedly lasted 7 minutes with an APM of 40.

What was his opponent doing in these 7 minutes?

Everyone knew the answer. During these 7 minutes, Song Xiao had been defending earnestly, defending against an opponent with an APM of 40.

"How did it turn out like this?" Despite seeing the data, Pan Lin couldn't believe it. They had been watching from an omniscient view, how come they hadn't noticed Ye Xiu sandbagging to such a degree?

"Song Xiao's been completely tricked," Li Yibo said.

“In the first four minutes, it could be said that Ye Xiu had injected an anaesthesia into him. Using these four minutes, he had gradually lowered the intensity of his attacks, making small but careful adjustments to his pace such that Song Xiao wouldn’t notice. After these four minutes, Lord Grim’s attacks became much more terse than before. However, Song Xiao had been maintaining his 100% to defend the entire time... He had assumed he had been tiring out Ye Xiu, but he hadn’t noticed that Ye Xiu had actually been sandbagging the entire time. He was the one tiring himself out...” Li Yibo said.

“You can do that?” Even though Li Yibo explained it clearly, Pan Lin felt that it was inconceivable. However, when he thought about it again more closely, Ye Xiu hadn’t tricked just Song Xiao, but the viewers watching as well.

Sandbagging...

To think this phrase could be used to describe a pro match. And in a 1v1 too, a sandbagging that lasted 7 minutes.

Pan Lin didn’t know what to say. He watched as the match proceeded. Lord Grim’s onslaught had sent Receding Tides into a complete mess. When the first attack had struck, Pan Lin had initially thought that Song Xiao had reacted a bit slow and believed it was because Ye Xiu had distracted him with his message. He thought that Song Xiao would quickly recover. But now he knew, the reason Song Xiao had reacted slowly was because Ye Xiu had been conditioning Song Xiao for the past seven minutes. The sudden acceleration was too abrupt for Song Xiao to react in time. Song Xiao hadn’t been sandbagging those eleven minutes. He had been focusing the entire time; he was tired...

“But I don’t think Ye Xiu can win,” Li Yibo suddenly said.

“Why not?”

“His mana. Lord Grim doesn’t have enough mana,” Li Yibo said, “But Ye Xiu’s already done everything he could. He didn’t let Blue Rain’s strategy tire him out and dealt as much damage as he could to Receding Tides. Afterwards, he’ll be leaving an exhausted Song Xiao for his team’s next player... Ye Xiu is truly terrifying.”

### **Chapter 1439: Not Easy**

The second round of the group arena finally ended. As Li Yibo had predicted, Song Xiao had won.

Ye Xiu had been limited by his mana. After sandbagging for seven minutes, he leaped out and gave Song Xiao’s Receding Tides a fierce beating. He used up all of his mana, though, and lost in the end.

Song Xiao won, but even so, Team Blue Rain’s braindead fans weren’t excited. If this were an individual competition, the outcome would have been worthy of celebration. But this was only a part of the group arena. Ye Xiu had not only defeated Yu Wenzhou, Song Xiao’s Receding Tides only had 28% of his health left. How could they be excited?

When Ye Xiu walked off from the stage, the Blue Rain fans didn’t know what sort of attitude they should display. Applause? Not possible. Boo? They couldn’t do it. The reason the match had turned out this way was because of Blue Rain’s own strategic arrangements. Not only did they fail to accomplish their goals,

Ye Xiu had sandbagged and fooled them. If they booed Ye Xiu, Team Blue Rain would be the ones losing face.

“This match went on for 19 minutes and 21 seconds, which is probably a new record for a 1v1 on the competitive stage,” Pan Lin said.

“Probably,” Li Yibo nodded his head.

They just mentioned this record in the passing. They didn’t actually care too much about it because it wasn’t a record worthy of being proud of. In a 1v1, the faster the match ended, the more impressive it was. Only those sorts of records were worthy of being remembered.

“Ye Xiu had the dominant position in the last parts of the match. I feel like if he had conserved his mana a bit better, he might have been able to beat Song Xiao,” Pan Lin said.

“Uh... I think he probably held back intentionally, so he wouldn’t waste too much energy in this match!” Li Yibo said.

“He was that in control?” Pan Lin muttered in disbelief.

“Nice job.” The members of Team Happy got up to welcome back Ye Xiu.

“Sit, sit. That must have been exhausting?” Chen Guo was worried. Blue Rain’s intentions had been obvious. Even though Ye Xiu had been able to relax for 7 minutes, the two 1v1s he played had lasted nearly half an hour. He had played for a long time.

“I’m good,” Ye Xiu smiled.

“No need to be worried. He’s definitely fine,” Wei Chen said.

“How do you know?” Chen Guo said.

“He’d played the online game day and night for a year, yet he was still able to maintain his skill level. How he could he not know how to conserve his energy? To think those youngsters at Blue Rain would actually employ this sort of strategy! They definitely messed up. If they wanted to tire him out, they should be fighting him directly,” Wei Chen said.

“That... seems to make sense!” Chen Guo thought about it for a second. In the regular season, in their second match against Wind Howl, Tang Hao had fought a 1v1 against Ye Xiu in the individual competition. The two sides had fought each other in a direct confrontation. That 1v1 hadn’t lasted long, but Ye Xiu had clearly looked exhausted after winning the match against Tang Hao. Using a direct method was a better way of tiring out Ye Xiu.

“If we knew those guys would make this sort of arrangement, I should have gone up to play too,” Wei Chen joked.

Everyone laughed. After knowing that Ye Xiu wasn’t too tired, everyone felt more relaxed. Happy’s second player was Mo Fan. This map was clearly suitable for him. After seeing this map, everyone already had high hopes for Mo Fan. It was just that no one could see any sort of enthusiasm or excitement from him. Mo Fan mumbled a “mm” and then went up on stage.

When the third round of the group arena began, Pan Lin and Li Yibo could tell that this map was rather suitable for Mo Fan. As expected, Mo Fan didn't hesitate to take a roundabout route. However, he went along the west path, while Song Xiao's Receding Tides went along the east path. Thus, the two characters passed by each other. When Song Xiao approached the central path but didn't see Mo Fan, he said a few words in the chat. Mo Fan did not respond though. When he didn't see Receding Tides on the west path, he directly cut to the east path.

Song Xiao's Receding Tides only had 28% of his health left. He didn't dare be as bold as Mo Fan. Receding Tides went in a circle and cut across the center. When the viewers saw their movements, Song Xiao running around randomly might really end up with him circling behind Mo Fan.

"Ah, this... I'm not sure if I should say that Song Xiao's luck is rather good, or if Mo Fan is being too careless!" Pan Lin said.

"Careless? If you look closely, Mo Fan is being very careful," Li Yibo chuckled.

"Oh?" Pan Lin took a closer look after Li Yibo's reminder and soon noticed the hints. Mo Fan's Deception wasn't just rushing forward mindlessly. When he made the horizontal cut across, he borrowed the dense forest as a cover.

"Mo Fan's this familiar with the map?" Pan Lin was surprised.

"I remember you saying that Ye Xiu had picked up a rock and smashed his own foot with it?" Li Yibo joked, "I think those words are more suitable for Blue Rain!"

"What? Oh..." Pan Lin suddenly remembered, "Blue Rain wanted to tire out Ye Xiu, but after playing for so long, not only did they fail to do so, by dragging on the match, Happy had a lot of time to familiarize themselves with the map through the spectator omniscient view."

"Correct. Mo Fan is only a first-year rookie. How could he coincidentally be familiar with the map Blue Rain chose? His understanding of the map is because of the nearly thirty minutes of time Blue Rain had gifted him!" Li Yibo said.

"Today, Blue Rain has truly... miscalculated," Pan Lin sighed.

"It looks like Ye Xiu might have had a method to finish the match quickly, but he intentionally went along with Blue Rain's pace to give his teammates time to understand the map," Li Yibo said.

"This... is that true?" Pan Lin was astonished.

"Beating them at their own game, isn't that his usual style?" Li Yibo said.

"But it didn't feel that excessive during his time with One Autumn Leaf!" Pan Lin said.

"Probably because he didn't have as much pressure on him before!" Li Yibo said.

Pan Lin stared blankly and realized that it was true. Ye Xiu wasn't as young as before to the extent that Blue Rain would intentionally try to exhaust him. The current him probably couldn't charge forward fearlessly like before. He needed to use his brain more in these matches. In addition, Team Happy was not a powerhouse like Team Excellent Era. Although the sudden appearance of a bunch of Level 80 Silver equipment in the first round had given everyone a fright, after observing them in real combat, the pro

teams could see that Happy's Level 80 Silver equipment seemed rather superficial. The equipment didn't reach their theoretical might.

They were at best as good as Level 75 equipment.

The R&D departments of the participating playoffs team all had talented people. Before the first round of Happy versus Blue Rain had ended, there were already people who had reached this conclusion.

Happy was trying to catch up to everyone else. The level that their equipment could reach could only approach the level of these powerhouses. Level 80 Silver equipment weren't miracles. They were tricks. They could only approach but not exceed.

For Happy to reach this stage was already impressive. People were perhaps no longer surprised by Happy's outstanding performance to the extent that they had forgotten how Happy had achieved such incredible results under such disadvantageous conditions.

And how much effort had Ye Xiu put in during these hardships?

Leading a powerhouse and leading a new team, there was no need to explain which one was more difficult, no?

Leading this new team, Ye Xiu had beaten Team Excellent Era in the Challenger League. He had won 37 1v1s in the regular season. Team Happy finished sixth in the regular season and entered the playoffs and had the lead right now against Team Blue Rain.

Was Ye Xiu truly not as good as he used to be?

None of that could be seen!

The current Ye Xiu might be the best Ye Xiu.

He was able to utilize all of his talents in Glory to lead Team Happy to such heights! Many people should open their eyes and look again more clearly.

Li Yibo's nonchalant remark made Pan Lin suddenly feel emotional. Ye Xiu had built Happy up from nothing, starting from that Internet cafe all the way to the playoffs stage, step by step, difficult yet brilliant.

"He really has gotten behind him!" At this moment, Li Yibo shouted, bringing Pan Lin back to the match. Pan Lin saw that Song Xiao's Receding Tides had taken a roundabout path, making an arc behind Deception's horizontal cut across. But...

"He doesn't know!"

Song Xiao repeatedly looked in all directions, but he didn't seem to notice Deception.

"How unfortunate," Pan Lin said. His heart had swayed towards Happy, but he had to maintain a professional attitude.

At this moment, Mo Fan's Deception suddenly stopped.

"Has Mo Fan sensed something? What keen intuition!" Pan Lin shouted.

“It’s probably because while he cut across, he had traversed quite a bit of distance yet still didn’t meet his opponent. From this, he was able to deduce that his opponent had chosen a different route. What do you think he deduced from that?” Li Yibo said.

“Turn around and retrace his steps!” Pan Lin said excitedly.

“If Song Xiao doesn’t make any large adjustments, they’ll soon run into each other,” Li Yibo said.

“But Song Xiao needs to pay attention to where he looks! If he doesn’t focus and misses it, he’ll be on the defensive,” Pan Lin said.

“That will depend on what he thinks Mo Fan is doing,” Li Yibo said.

The two had started talking faster, matching the increasing tension in this life and death match.

“They’re getting closer, closer, closer!” Pan Lin shouted non-stop.

“Song Xiao... ah!” Li Yibo sighed. Because Song Xiao wasn’t looking at where Deception was coming from. And after Mo Fan discovered Receding Tides, he had Deception hide behind a tree. By the time Song Xiao turned towards his location, all Song Xiao could see was dense fog.

#### **Chapter 1440: Sixteen Leaves**

Where had Deception gone?

Of course, with their omniscient view, the audience couldn’t be clearer about this. The Blue Rain fans present were more concerned about whether or not Song Xiao knew the answer to this question.

But it seemed that... he didn’t. Song Xiao’s pace didn’t change in the slightest, Receding Tides still cautiously walked along the thicket, while continually adjusting his field of vision. The moment that Deception’s silhouette had appeared happened to be when he was looking away, a stroke of bad luck for him.

Nonetheless, by continually adjusting his field of vision, it meant that Mo Fan couldn’t easily find a position from which he could mount a sneak attack. After Deception had concealed himself, he very carefully and very patiently followed Receding Tides, gradually closing the distance between the two. With the environment of Misty Thicket, being able to see the opponent meant that the two players were in fact already very close to each other. Even so, this was still a very long process. Sometimes, because he wasn’t able to find a suitable route to approach, the distance between Deception and Receding Tides even increased.

But no matter what, Deception still hid behind Receding Tides, not being discovered from start to finish.

One minute, two minutes.....

Normally, this was a distance that could be crossed in an instant, but Mo Fan had unexpectedly used more than two minutes to close the distance. The extreme caution that he showed was purely to avoid Song Xiao discovering him.

With one player at full health, while the other only at 28%, to most people, the opportunity earlier when he had first encountered Song Xiao was already more than enough. If he had just charged up and forcefully fought him head-on, he could perhaps have already concluded the battle, but unexpectedly, Mo Fan still cautiously prepared a sneak attack.

The broadcasting department was practically crying already. If this went on, would today's group arena be fought for two hours? Unexpectedly, the rounds were actually being played in such a dragged-out manner.

After using two minutes and forty-one seconds, Mo Fan seemed to have finally reached a distance that he was satisfied with. When Song Xiao turned around again to look in another direction, Deception put the Ninjutsu · Disappearing Body Technique to full use, forming seals with both hands at a rapid pace.

Ninjutsu · Shadow Dance.

More than ten Shadow Clones of Deception had already surrounded Receding Tides in the blink of an eye, raising their Ninjatos, which gently fell towards Receding Tides like leaves.

Ninjato, Silver Weapon: Sixteen Leaves (十六叶 shí liù yè).

The moment that this Silver weapon was revealed to the world, everyone was startled. The Silver Weapon of the number one Ninja in the professional circle, Team Misty Rain's Dark Forest, was called Sixteen Nights (十六夜 shí liù yè), only differing by one word from Deception's weapon, but overall, it sounded the same.

The names for all Silver equipment was system-generated, but as a way of generating publicity, clubs would often ascribe their own meaning to the name of a piece of Silver equipment. For instance, Dark Forest's Ninjato, Sixteen Nights, had a chance of inflicting Blind as an additional effect, so this could be the origin of the word "Night" in the equipment's name. But then, what about Sixteen Leaves?

Unlike the bigger clubs, Happy didn't have established systems in place. As a result, since they focused purely on training well, playing well, and achieving good results, other aspects such as publicity weren't particularly well-honed. Even if they had some sponsors to help with publicity, they wouldn't sponsor the likes of Deception, a character who hadn't appeared many times in Happy's games.

Since Mo Fan hadn't appeared very much, the various teams didn't have a clear idea of what properties Sixteen Leaves possessed.

At this moment, after Ninjutsu · Disappearing Body Technique was quietly used, Shadow Dance immediately surrounded and attacked Receding Tides. As they attacked, more than ten Ninjatos gently floated down, fluttering like long leaves that had been curled up by the wind.

Sixteen Leaves? Was this what it was named after?

The audience may not have thought of so much in an instant, but the broadcast's explanation had to be more acute. In that instant, they had immediately been given a speaking point for Happy's Deception.

"Sixteen Leaves!" Pan Lin shouted loudly. As he shouted, he saw Deception's Ninjato floating like leaves, and then he saw the fresh, red blood that had instantly filled everyone's field of view.....

“Everything hit!” Pan Lin shouted again.

Truth be told, whether or not everything connected was impossible for anyone to determine in that instant, but it was just that the blade’s edge spraying fresh flowers of blood in that instant was far too dazzling a sight. Even in the online circle, there might not be many Shadow Dances in which every single Shadow Clone managed to hit their mark at the same time. This wasn’t something that could be achieved by the opponent simply being unable to guard against it. Even using a wooden dummy, having a player control that many Shadow Clones to find the appropriate angles to attack at the same time was a difficult feat. In Glory, it wasn’t possible for characters to physically overlap with one another. Even though teammates couldn’t damage each other, they would definitely still block each other’s paths. Of course, the Shadow Clones from Shadow Dance were no different. In this instant, for Shadow Dance to completely connect in such a spectacular fashion, it wasn’t just because Song Xiao couldn’t defend well enough. It was also a matter of Mo Fan’s skillful character control.

“Beautiful!” Li Yibo matched Pan Lin praise and shouted. However, in this moment, the television broadcasters were actually somewhat conflicted. It was indeed an exhilarating moment, but when directly observed, it was a little bit too bloody.

But that bloody moment passed by in an instant. Just as the television directors were distractedly considering whether or not to quickly cut out that scene, the bloody moment had already passed. Those eye-catching flowers of blood fluttered and scattered on the ground, like the shedding of dead leaves, creating a poignant scene.

In the end, just as everyone was shouting and praising Mo Fan’s brilliant ambush, Receding Tides, with countless blades in his body, suddenly raised both his arms and started to spin. A skill that shouldn’t have even appeared in a Qi Master’s arsenal was used, and as both his arms rotated, the surrounding trees and leaves had already started to spin in the air from the centrifugal force. The Deceptions that had closely surrounded Receding Tides also started to sway.

Spinning Cyclone Kill!

Some people immediately recognized the skill. This wasn’t a Qi Master’s ability, instead, it was from another Fighter subclass. It was a Grappler skill! Using centrifugal force, the Grappler would attract and then crush everything in his surroundings using his two hands, a powerful Level 70 skill!

Of the ten Shadow Clones of Deception, no matter which one was the heart, none of them were able to escape from Receding Tide’s control. The priority of grab skills had always been the highest in all of Glory.

In the whirlwind, Receding Tides quickly rose up, and his arms continued to spin wildly in the air. As a result, the qi from the attack also gradually brought those ten immobile Deceptions away from the ground.....

Boom.....

A deep explosion rang out from within the thicket. Spinning Cyclone Kill didn’t originally have this sort of audio effect, but at this moment, the effect of the Spinning Cyclone Kill that had been added onto Receding Tide’s weapon was really too shocking. He had managed to completely grab all ten characters at once.....



If there was only one target, the Grappler would entangle the target, jump up, flip, and fall, creating huge amounts of damage. But at this moment, there were simply too many targets, so this one Spinning Cyclone Kill seemed to falter. As he jumped, he was already teetering on the verge of collapse, and the targets weren't entangled within his hands, instead, he was using qi to gather his targets. Of course, when he flipped over, there was no flip, and when Receding Tides had barely jumped up, he had already started to fall, and those Deceptions that had been forcefully gathered by his ability also immediately started to fall.

Nonetheless, this one move had the priority of a grab skill. The Deceptions hadn't been launched high, and they hadn't been flipped, meaning that the damage output from the skill would be somewhat lower, but even so, a hit was a hit.

Boom boom boom... boom!

The ten Deceptions fell to the ground first. Receding Tides brought the qi from Spinning Cyclone Kill to the ground last, sending out a final heavy sound. The resulting shockwaves spread out and immediately collided against the pile of Deceptions on the floor from all directions.

The whole stadium had been silent for a long time, and in that moment, it finally exploded in enthusiastic cheering and applause.

"Song Xiao wasn't completely defenceless!" Li Yibo sighed, deeply moved.

"Song Xiao really focused his attention. Even though Mo Fan's ambush succeeded initially, it was quickly defused by him," Pan Lin said.

"Exactly!" Li Yibo immediately added, "Spinning Cyclone Kill's startup isn't fast, but Receding Tides still managed to use it in that instant, meaning that he must have made that decision ahead of time. In the first instant that Shadow Dance was used, Song Xiao immediately made a precise judgement and controlled his character accurately. But under the suppression of Shadow Dance, he had no way of escaping, so he straightforwardly took the attack, but quickly responded with a Spinning Cyclone Kill!"

"And even though Spinning Cyclone Kill is slow, it has high priority. Even though so many Shadow Clones of Deception were attacking Receding Tides, it still didn't manage to interrupt the usage of this skill!" Pan Lin added.

"Exactly, so after forcefully taking this blow, the offensive that Mo Fan launched was broken by Song Xiao," Li Yibo said.

"The defensive capabilities of Team Blue Rain's players are indeed impressive..." Pan Lin said.

The two of them went back-and-forth, clearly analyzing the present situation, but this wasn't because the two players had reacted slowly afterwards. On the contrary, Mo Fan's next reactions were extremely fast. The moment Spinning Cyclone Kill hit the ground, a pile of Deceptions staggered unsteadily, but amongst them, several took advantage of the opportunity, got up, and scattered in all directions.

Song Xiao had no way of figuring out which of those fleeing Deceptions was the heart of the Shadow Dance, and even if he knew, there was no use. The heart of the Shadow Dance could be transferred.

At the end of the day, it was because his Spinning Cyclone Kill was only level one, so the strength of the centrifugal force was insufficient. There was no way it could fully control that many characters, and in the last instants of the skills, there were still some gaps left.

Mo Fan was extremely agile, and using these small gaps, he immediately controlled Deception to dodge the attack.

Poof poof poof poof.....

As the Deception with the heart of the Shadow Dance escaped, the Shadow Clones immediately turned into a cloud of smoke.

Mo Fan's Deception escaped, immediately escaping into the dense thicket. With that many escaping figures, Song Xiao had no way of knowing which was real.

Deception had escaped, but he was still behind Receding Tides, and he immediately charged out once more!