

## Avatar 1461

### Chapter 1461: Gusty Garden

On stage, the players competing in the team competition lined up and shook hands.

“Still not scared?” Ye Xiu asked Yu Wenzhou as they shook hands.

“Why should we be?” Huang Shaotian interrupted. He looked to be in high spirits, as if the loss hadn’t affected him at all.

“Why do you always have to butt in!” Ye Xiu looked helplessly at Huang Shaotian as he came to shake his hand.

“You’re about to experience our might very soon,” Huang Shaotian said.

“How come I didn’t see any of it a minute ago?” Su Mucheng replied to Huang Shaotian’s remark with a sly smile, as she came up to shake his hand. Her words held a lot of weight considering she had just beaten Huang Shaotian in the group arena, even if they hadn’t started the fight with the same amount of health.

“Looks like the time for me to take revenge is already here!” Huang Shaotian sighed.

“Isn’t it usually like this for you guys? So sensitive. You must take revenge pretty frequently, huh.” Fang Rui shook Huang Shaotian’s hand.

“What’s this? A round robin?” Huang Shaotian said angrily. The guys from Happy were targeting him one after the other! His fellow teammates were laughing on the side. They seemed to have no intentions of helping him in this verbal war.

“You’re so violent! You were like that when we were setting dungeon records together too. No wonder you’re a Leo.” Steamed Bun was Happy’s fourth player. When he had been setting dungeon records with the rest of the crew, he had no clue what the pro scene was, so he didn’t know how incredible of a background that Flowing Tree had. After hearing his teammates talk about it, he finally understood. When he shook hands with Huang Shaotian, he even connected his remark with feelings from the past, causing the others from Blue Rain to raise their eyebrows.

Setting dungeon records? When did that happen? Huang Shaotian’s teammates looked at him with suspicion.

“Fuck, you bastard. Wait for me, I’ll kill you soon!” Huang Shaotian said.

“Then you’ll have to kill me first,” Happy’s fifth player was their healer An Wenyi. His words were too fitting. If the healer didn’t die, it wouldn’t be easy to kill off a player.

“Even if dies, there’s still me!” This time, Huang Shaotian didn’t even have time to give a reply when Happy’s sixth player followed up. It was Tang Rou, the girl who loved to play fast and aggressive.

“Fuck you guys!” There was no one after Tang Rou. By the time Huang Shaotian responded, Happy’s six players were already on their way out. Blue Rain’s other players were laughing themselves silly.

“Even I wouldn’t be able to bear it if I were in your position, Huang Shao!” His normally unenthusiastic teammate Zheng Xuan added insult to injury.

Huang Shaotian ground his teeth.

“Let’s get ready!” Yu Wenzhou chuckled. He had been watching but didn’t say anything. He knew they were just joking around. Huang Shaotian wouldn’t actually get irritated from this. In the trash talking world, Huang Shaotian would often shoot himself in the foot, but he would never let it affect his playing. Even if he did act out, it was because he could do it in the passing. When he chose opportunities, he always decided based off what was most appropriate.

“I look forward to your performance!” Just as Team Blue Rain was about to leave, Ye Xiu made one last yell from the side. Huang Shaotian turned around and gave him the middle finger.

The two teams went into their respective player booths. The match soon began and the characters loaded into the map.

Map: Gusty Garden.

This was a comprehensive map shaped like a rhombus. There were a total of nine wind sources spreadly evenly across the map. The wind sources would randomly generate different types of wind, e.g. whirlwinds, gales, icy winds, etc., which would affect characters in different ways and could potentially tip the scales in a battle.

Maps with auxiliary features were more fun for players, but added complexity and difficult for pro players. The maps chosen by home teams usually practiced unique strategies unuseable in other maps, making it more difficult for the away teams to adjust.

Pan Lin and Li Yibo gave a brief analysis going over the features of Gusty Garden. The two teams spawned at the usual northern and southern ends of the map. Happy was on the southern end, while Blue Rain was on the northern end. Team Blue Rain immediately set out, as for Happy? The away team was clearly much more hesitant.

“Blue Rain obviously knows the map well, but Happy doesn’t. The first thing they need to do is figure out the positions of the nine wind sources. If I remember correctly, Gusty Garden should be a map released last year. Even if Ye Xiu has seen a lot of things, he probably doesn’t have any in this map,” Li Yibo said.

“Blue Rain might have chosen this map to get around Ye Xiu’s terrifying knowledge of the game,” Pan Lin said.

“Yes, although Blue Rain lost the group arena, they still fully utilized their map advantage. I’m sure they came prepared with this map as well.” Li Yibo said.

“Blue Rain is taking the central path. Huang Shaotian’s Troubling Rain is still with the team. He’s not moving as a lone unit. Happy is moving towards the northeast. It looks like they’re trying to find the wind sources,” Pan Lin said.

As he said these words, the big screen showed a zoomed out map, indicating the location of the nine wind sources. Then, they added in Team Happy’s position.

“Team Happy seems to be moving... very deliberately!” Pan Lin remarked, seeing their movements.

“It’s as if they know the locations of the nine wind sources. It’s not too surprising. Happy may have looked over it briefly before and noted the key features,” Li Yibo said.

“Happy can’t also be familiar with this map, can they?” Pan Lin said.

“This...” Li Yibo wasn’t sure. If Blue Rain decided to choose this map, they must have known that Happy hadn’t used it before. Could this map have been a map that Happy had once planned on using before? The chance of such a coincidence was extremely low. If it really was the case, then Blue Rain was truly unlucky.

All of Team Happy pushed forward. Not long afterwards, they heard a huge gust of wind up ahead. After the projection technology ascertained the region, the only sound that could be heard was the the sounds of wind.

But despite the loud winds, the characters barely seemed to be affected.

This was one of the nine types of winds, loud wind. The effect was sound. In this environment, trying to use sound to make a decision was impossible.

Since the teams were far from each other, Happy wasn’t worried about the effects of the loud wind. They just seemed to be taking a stroll through the region, though they had changed to a different direction.

From their movements, it was certain that Happy knew exactly where the wind sources were. Now, what they needed to do was figure out what each wind source did because that was random. Blue Rain was the same. At first, they went straight for the center, but not to look for the opponents. They were going towards a wind source too. After figuring out what type of wind that source produced, they immediately headed for a different location.

Both sides had the same goal. Their paths were different, but both teams picked the most efficient routes from their starting points.

Pan Lin and Li Yibo had found quite a bit of information by now. Any player could figure out the most efficient route from the starting points. Happy and Blue Rain weren’t doing anything new and went with the most practical path.

It’s just that if these two continued along their routes...

After figuring out their routes from their starting points, they could see that once both sides found four wind sources, they would meet in the center.

The progress of the match seemed to be heading towards this direction.

After Blue Rain went through the south, southwest, west, and northwest wind sources, they headed for the center. After Happy went through the north east, east, southeast, and south, they headed for the center too.

Because both teams knew the exact locations of the wind sources, as soon as they entered a new region, they would immediately head towards a different one.

“The two teams should have expected this might happen, right?” Pan Lin guessed. Since the teams were using a popular route, they should anticipate that the other team might do the same, no?

Just when Pan Lin said these words, Team Blue Rain made a change. As they approached the wind source in the center, they gradually moved into an attack and defense formation. Happy also made a similar adjustment. From Happy’s formation, it could be seen that they knew where Blue Rain was coming from.

“Although both teams have reached this far, the two teams might not meet,” Li Yibo suddenly said.

“Oh?”

“From their route, it looks as if they’re checking the locations of the wind sources, but in reality, they’re not actually going to the wind source itself. Once they reach the edges of the wind region and figure out what type of wind is there, they head towards a different region. That’s why Happy is going towards the center from the south. It’s faster. After finding out what this region’s wind is, they’ll likely head towards the southwest.”

“Oh oh...” Pan Lin thought for some time before understanding Li Yibo’s words.

“But there could also be a change because of the wind in the central region,” Li Yibo said.

“Oh?” Pan Lin stared blankly for a bit.

At this moment, both teams had scouted out four wind sources with five unknown. However, the viewers had the results from both teams, so they had knowledge of seven of them total. They could deduce the possible winds in the central region by process of elimination. Li Yibo probably guessed what changes there might be based on these two possibilities.

By the time, the two teams had scouted out the wind in the center.

Gale!

Of the nine types of wind, gale was the strongest wind. The characters moving headwind would feel a resistance in their movements, while the characters moving tailwind would feel a pushing force.

From their current positions, Blue Rain was moving tailwind.

Use the wind!

Team Blue Rain didn’t change directions and charged straight into the wind. Taking advantage of the wind, they moved at a speed otherwise impossible under normal conditions.

### **Chapter 1462: Downwind Offensive**

“So fast!” countless people exclaimed.

Special battles on specific maps with unique traits didn’t occur too often. Strong wind was common, but Gusty Garden was the only map that had wind sources creating gusts strong enough to change a character’s speed so drastically.

As for how much of a speed increase this wind granted, it was unclear. The wind would have a different effect depending on a character's weight and strength stats. But judging from how rapidly the Blue Rain players were dashing around, the boost seemed to be at least 50%.

And as soon as they entered the wind, the real value of this map to Blue Rain became apparent. The five characters all had different weight, strength, and base speed, but under the complex effects of the gale, they maintained their formation exactly as it was before. It was clear that they had plenty of experience under these conditions and were able to cope with ease.

Meanwhile on Happy's end, they knew the position of the wind sources and could walk a strategic path, which showed that they weren't entirely unfamiliar with this map and had a basic understanding of it. But without specific training, an understanding of this situation was already about as much as they could hope for. To fight in this wind? Never mind the fact that they didn't have training, even if they did, they were currently positioned against the wind, so the wind would be reducing their speed. Compared to Blue Rain, who had a speed boost, the difference between the speed boost and speed reduction could be as much as 100%. Even if they were facing ordinary players, it would not be a good idea to enter the wind zone from this side.

Naturally, Happy didn't try. After figuring out that there was gale here, the whole team began to head toward the next wind source.

But Blue Rain continued to travel downwind, prepared to cut off the path that Happy was taking.

Blue Rain made a decisive and correct deduction.

Blue Rain, traveling downwind, quickly left behind all of the fallen trees and plant life. In the blink of an eye, they'd traversed half of the wind zone, and right in front of them, the silhouettes of Happy's five players had already appeared in their view.

Blue Rain didn't slow down at all, and rushed forward just like this.

Happy's members of course discovered Blue Rain's presence. There was no way they would enter the wind zone to fight an opponent that had the advantage of wind direction.

"Continue forward!" Ye Xiu directed.

But Blue Rain was already attacking them.

The attack came from the unmotivated Zheng Xuan. His Spitfire Bullet Rain could be considered Blue Rain's number one ranged attacker.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh.

A number of grenades flew out simultaneously. There was no way this was from multiple skills used in a row. Without a doubt, this was the powerful Level 70 Spitfire skill, Chaotic Grenades.

Implosion, Timed, Poison Gas, Electric...

Countless grenades were thrown by Bullet Rain. They didn't travel as quickly as bullets, but at this time, they experienced a greater effect from the gusts of wind than bullets would. The sky seemed to fill with shooting stars that were all of a sudden right in front of the whole team. The pressure was upon them.

Boom!

But the sound of this explosion came a bit early, and then within the wind gusts, a wave of energy rippled outward in all directions, carrying a force even stronger than the wind.

The gusts of wind could increase or decrease the speed of a character, but it ultimately wouldn't send characters flying. Compared to the force of an Implosion Grenade that could blast away a character, the wind was still somewhat inferior.

This Implosion Grenade amidst the Chaotic Grenades exploded before even leaving the wind zone. In Happy's formation, smoke trailed from the tip of Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella.

Such a fast grenade traveling in the wind was actually shot down in midair?

A coincidence? It didn't seem like it. Of the grenades, the Implosion Grenade was the most destructive for a team's formation. How could it be such a coincidence, that among so many grenades, this was the one shot down? It was clearly intentional.

It was too frightening.

Ye Xiu's extreme accuracy with his controls was incredible. But Lord Grim's attack didn't stop there – he quickly fired another shot.

But this shot missed. Chaotic Grenades in the wind weren't so easy to hit. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim hit one of two shots. Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain only had time for one shot, but she missed as well.

After two gunshots and one cannonshot, the grenades had flown into Happy's midst. Happy's players didn't have the time to split up and dodge, because these grenades had simply come too quickly, and the range they covered was simply too large.

And so they didn't dodge, and instead used this tiny amount of time to contract their formation slightly.

Qi Guard!

In the end, the skill that Happy used to resist was a Qi Guard from Fang Rui's Boundless Sea.

It wouldn't be enough, would it?

In this moment, everyone thought this way, because a Qi Guard could only take so much damage; it wasn't an unbreakable shield. And with so many grenades from the Chaotic Grenades, even though some were primarily effect-based and wouldn't cause much damage, a Qi Guard would be far from enough to block them all.

Boom!

The Qi Guard hadn't even completely formed before a grenade crashed against it with an explosion.

A cloud of green gas spewed outward, diffusing along the outer shell of the Qi Guard.

Poison Gas Grenade, represented by the color green in this game to signify its poisonous property.

The Qi Guard couldn't be Poisoned, but the poison gas still eroded it.

Immediately afterwards, an Electric Grenade exploded, sending currents of electricity sparking along the Qi Guard.

And then a Timed Grenade. If it hadn't hit its time limit, an impact would not cause it to explode, and so when it hit the Qi Guard, it simply bounced along the top.

And then there were ordinary Impact Grenades, Remote Grenades, and others. It seemed like they all hit at the same time, but they were actually slightly staggered as they hit the Qi Guard.

The sound of explosions was nonstop, and the Qi Guard was quickly shattered. But what about the grenades that hadn't exploded yet, that could still attack?

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella swung open, and the grenades that broke through the Qi Guard exploded on the surface of the umbrella. An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands also immediately set up a Great Heal, restoring the health Lord Grim had lost while holding up the umbrella shield.

Facing this Chaotic Grenades that had come from the wind, Happy's members cooperated on all levels without wavering at all.

But Blue Rain's offensive had only just begun.

Troubling Rain, Flowing Cloud, Blue Rain's two Blade Masters were already slashing their way forward. They both used a Triple Slash to open the way, and with the effects of the wind, they moved like twin shooting stars. Close behind the Chaotic Grenades, they had already rushed out of the wind zone, but they were still moving incomparably quickly with the wind's momentum.

Meteor Form!

The two Blade Masters unleashed the same skill, but Flowing Cloud used a greatsword while Troubling Rain wielded a lightsaber, so because of the weapon difference, the two versions of the same skill still showed a slight difference in speed.

Troubling Rain was slightly faster; Flowing Cloud slightly slower.

But this slowness was only relative to Troubling Rain's quickness. With the lingering momentum from the wind, and the fact that Meteor Form was the fastest skill of a Blade Master, this wasn't a speed that a human could capture.

Two silhouettes, two arcs of swordlight, swept into Happy's formation, carrying two trails of scarlet blood. And then in the blink of an eye, coordinating with the teammates that were still in the wind zone, they began to move against Happy from both sides. But at the same time...

"Your face!"

A shout from Steamed Bun flashed in the match channel. Steamed Bun Invasion threw out a Sand Toss, directly toward the faces of Troubling Rain and Flowing Cloud right as they were finishing their Meteor Forms and spinning around.

But both of them reacted extremely quickly. One to the left and one to the right, at the same time as they angled their camera views away, the swords in their hands were already swinging upward.

Upwards Slash.

A skill that couldn't get any more ordinary. Under normal circumstances, Steamed Bun would have no trouble dodging this attack.

But at this moment, the two Blade Masters were coordinating with two Upwards Slashes, one slightly faster, one slightly slower; one from the left, one from the right; one with a short blade, one with a long blade. With this, all of the space where Steamed Bun could dodge was sealed off.

Fortunately, Steamed Bun wasn't the only Happy player here.

Sword Draw!

Lord Grim had just used the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella to block the Chaotic Grenades before their formation was invaded and he was hit by the unimaginably quick Meteor Form. But now, with the momentum he'd taken from that attack, he twisted his body, as though chasing the blood that had been sent flying by the slash. A Sword Draw flashed outward, slicing the threads of blood in two as it slashed toward Troubling Rain and Flowing Cloud.

Clang!

A resounding sound.

Lord Grim's Sword Draw was from a left-handed sword, so it was a slash from right to left. From the point of view of the Blade Masters, Troubling Rain was on the left, while Flowing Cloud was on the right. With this attack from Lord Grim, Troubling Rain suddenly canceled his Upwards Slash, and instead pointed his sword straight upward, using the Blade Master skill Guard just in time to parry Lord Grim's Sword Draw.

Because this Sword Draw was from right to left, when Troubling Rain blocked it, he had no way to continue slashing rightward. Flowing Cloud continued his Upwards Slash unimpeded. And Steamed Bun hadn't reacted to this change yet, so that even though Huang Shaotian left this opening for him, it was too late for him to dodge. In the end, he was still lifted into the air by Flowing Cloud's attack.

And when Troubling Rain blocked this Sword Draw, his body slid backward. Flowing Cloud's Upwards Slash succeeded, and the sliding Troubling Rain was already using a Sky-Plunging Blade.

When that attack came out, it looked like it was getting farther and farther away from Steamed Bun Invasion, but in the end, the glinting sword energy at the tip of the blade was just enough to hit Steamed Bun Invasion.

Flowing Cloud withdrew his Upwards Slash, and after Troubling Rain's Sky-Plunging Blade, he used another precisely-timed skill. There was no pause in the offensive of these two players as they continue to land attack after attack on Steamed Bun Invasion. The skilled coordination between the dual Blade Masters was incredible enough to render the entire stadium silent.

On this end was the invasion of two Blade Masters into the formation; on the other end, Swoksaar and Bullet Rain, who were still in the midst of the wind, were using the wind's momentum for their attacks.

But Swoksaar was a Warlock, and his curses would come out as they were supposed to. They couldn't borrow the wind's momentum. But there was nothing to lose from him standing in the wind, and it



offered him some defensive protection. When Dancing Rain fired a cannon shot toward him, as soon as it entered the wind zone, it very noticeably slowed down and found it more difficult to fly forward. Facing such a long-ranged attack, dodging was a trivial matter. It was as if Swoksaar were standing in some kind of safe zone where he could calmly and steadily cast his curses. Zheng Xuan's Bullet Rain, meanwhile, continued to rely on the wind to greatly boost his own attack rhythm.

Gusty Garden. As expected of a map that Blue Rain chose at their most critical moment. Just using the gusts from the wind source, they were able to play such a thrilling offensive.

### **Chapter 1463: Not So Simple**

Pan Lin and Li Yibo didn't spare any effort on the praise, giving them all to Blue Rain's current assault. The first wave of Chaotic Grenades had perfectly neutralized by Happy's teamwork, but the pincer attack from the two Blade Masters that followed had Happy struggling to cope.

They had slipped up!

The more observant viewers realized that Happy's formation had scattered somewhat. If it was just against Huang Shaotian and Lu Hanwen's two Blade Masters then, no matter how amazing their teamwork was, a 2v5 was practically impossible to win. However, Blue Rain didn't just have just those two. Swoksaar, a Warlock with powerful CC abilities, stood in a windy area. Bullet Rain, a Sharpshooter with high DPS AoE attacks, could inflict all sorts of CC too. These two classes weren't classes whose assaults you could deal with just by relying on a healer for support. The two stood in the windy area, throwing their attacks cheerfully.

Happy was downwind. They wouldn't be able to get any advantage from charging into and fighting in the windy area. If they sent ranged attacks from outside of the windy area, then the attacks would be hindered by the wind and their power would be decreased. As a result, even though they were charging into a five character formation, the two Blade Masters weren't feeling too much pressure. Instead, with the support and CC from the ranged characters in the windy area, the assault went smoothly.

"Happy's in a bit of a mess!" Li Yibo exclaimed.

This was the first time the two sides had really clashed, but Happy seemed to be sliding down a slippery slope already. Their original formation had shattered, their players not cooperating, all of them fighting as individuals... This was a one-sided slaughter!

Was this battle going to be decided so soon?

Swoosh swoosh swoosh....

The sword light from Blue Rain's Blade Master duo shimmered brightly, their swords becoming one deadly system, striking their enemies down.

"Scared yet? Scared yet!" Huang Shaotian was even spamming the chat. Mockery wouldn't affect his performance or judgment, but it didn't mean he didn't mind it. He minded it very much, but the more he did, the more calm he would be, using his actions to express himself. Once his plans had succeeded,

then trash talk was easily within reach. In the blink of an eye, forty-seven “scared yet”s appeared on the screen.

“Not at all.”

Naturally, it was Ye Xiu who was able to reply at such a time. Huang Shaotian glanced towards Lord Grim, but he suppressed the urge to immediately charge over and stab him. He was trying to determine whether going up to teach this guy a lesson was the best choice he had right now.

It seemed like a good idea.

Huang Shaotian swept his gaze over the battlefield. Happy’s five characters were scattered, and Huang Shaotian and Lu Hanwen didn’t have the ability to pursue them all at once, so they needed to lock onto a target. As for Ye Xiu’s Lord Grim? He was right on the edge of the gale wind area. If they pursued, they could force him into the gale and then using their upwind advantage...

Wait a moment!

At this point, Huang Shaotian realized something.

If they pressed Lord Grim into the gale from this position, then the upwind advantage would be something only Swoksaar and Bullet Rain had. On the other hand, Troubling Rain and Flowing Cloud would be downwind just like Lord Grim...

Trying to be clever?

Huang Shaotian immediately reorganized his thought processes, sneering. Ye Xiu was the heart and soul of Happy. If they could wipe him from the game, then it would probably be even more effective than taking out their healer. However, it wasn’t the right opportunity. What about their healer? Huang Shaotian turned to look at Little Cold Hands, but the other was a little too far...

Happy, in the end, understood the importance of healers. Even scattered, they remembered to make sure to protect their healer. An Wenyi’s Little Cold Hands had run off. If they went in pursuit, it would take some effort. Plus... Huang Shaotian looked over the battlefield and noticed something else.

Had Happy fallen into chaos? Yes, but there was a method to their chaos.

Ye Xiu’s Lord Grim was bait. If Huang Shaotian and Lu Hanwen teamed up against him, and pushed him into the windy zone, then using his tailwind advantage, he could suppress them. The others in Happy would probably use this chance to rearrange themselves and take an advantageous position. Thus, they definitely couldn’t go after Lord Grim.

What about Little Cold Hands?

He was a little far, but if Happy really had been thrown into chaos, it wouldn’t be too hard to close in on their healer. However, it might look like Happy was scattered, but they all stayed in range of Little Cold Hands’ position. Little Cold Hands was yet another trap. If Huang Shaotian and Lu Hanwen attacked him, Happy might surround the two of them.

How crafty!

Huang Shaotian saw through two of their tricks in one go and couldn't help but be surprised.. At this point, many people probably thought that Happy was done for. Those who thought that way were underestimating Happy too much.

“Steamed Bun!”

That was when, in the Blue Rain party chat, Captain Yu Wenzhou gave them a clear attack target.

From afar, Yu Wenzhou had a better view of the overall situation.

His thoughts matched Huang Shaotian's. Happy was in chaos, but there was a method to it. They still had tricks up their sleeve. For example, Lord Grim as bait, Little Cold Hands' trap. For someone who hadn't noticed anything wrong, they would probably choose one of these two crucial members of Happy as their primary attack target. However, Huang Shaotian noticed, and so did Yu Wenzhou.

These two characters were temporarily off limits. Happy still had three other characters. Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain was a ranged unit. As soon as the battle erupted, she pulled away as far as possible. Right now, not even Swoksaar nor Bullet Rain could hit her, so what were Huang Shaotian and Lu Hanwen going to be able to do?

Then there was Fang Rui. He was a slippery, hard to catch fellow, and his Boundless Sea would flee from trouble without hesitation. If Yu Wenzhou and Zheng Xuan wanted to effectively attack him, then they would have to move forwards. The further forwards they moved, the less protection they would get from the windy zone, and the less the windy zone would buff their attacks. Who knew if this Fang Rui was yet another bait?

Then, there only remained Steamed Bun Invasion.

Was this too a trap? Yu Wenzhou had, naturally, considered this. However, he tossed the idea aside after careful consideration. Steamed Bun Invasion was Happy's most unpredictable and out-of-whack member.

He was, after all, a rookie, and a rookie that would occasionally roll straight off the tracks, Yu Wenzhou thought to himself.

Speaking of which, their team, Blue Rain, could integrate all sorts of strange players, but what about this Steamed Bun? Would they be able to integrate him into their strategic system? This was something Yu Wenzhou had considered before, in his spare time. It was clear that he never underestimated Steamed Bun.

Yet after thinking it over, Yu Wenzhou hadn't thought of any way to integrate Steamed Bun into Blue Rain's strategic system.

Like Ye Xiu, Yu Wenzhou had no way of completely understanding and predicting Steamed Bun's behavior on the field. Blue Rain's style revolved around making up for one another's faults to create a stronger whole. For any two members of Blue Rain, they could form a complete whole. However, this Steamed Bun, his crazy moments weren't something anyone else could get any warning of. How would they form any synergy like that? How would they form a strategic whole with that?

Perhaps, Yu Wenzhou thought, Steamed Bun wasn't a team competition kind of player. Yet, today, he saw Happy arrange for Steamed Bun in their team competition lineup. To Yu Wenzhou, this was a daring and risky move.

It was hard to say if Steamed Bun's unpredictability would be more of a hindrance to his enemies or his teammates. In the playoffs, where a single mistake could lose them everything, no team would dare arrange for a ticking time bomb like that to play.

But Happy dared, and it wasn't as if they had no other choice. That player called Qiao Yifan was much more stable than Steamed Bun, much more reliable. There was also Wei Chen. It wouldn't be impossible for him to set alight his passions and give another spectacular performance. Or what about that Luo Ji? He wasn't as skilled, but his style was very detailed and methodical. A player like that would be much safer as a part of the tactical system than Steamed Bun, no? There was also Mo Fan. Though his style was too individualized, but with training and practice, he would be able to adjust and play a solid part of the strategy.

It was only Steamed Bun, whose unpredictability wouldn't be able to be compensated for with tactics. However, it was Steamed Bun who was chosen for this team competition.

Well, since this was how things were, then why not go for it? Yu Wenzhou didn't think any further. Steamed Bun couldn't be predicted, so he told everyone to be on their guard and focus, so that they would be able to react appropriately no matter if this guy acted as a god-like opponent, or a pig-like teammate.

So far, Steamed Bun had yet to become godlike, and was out of tune with the rest of Happy, thus he became Blue Rain's breakthrough point. Yu Wenzhou didn't hesitate. After he made this judgment, he immediately told the entirety of Blue Rain to target Steamed Bun Invasion.

Collapsing Mountain!

Lu Hanwen charged fearlessly, throwing out a Collapsing Mountain at its longest range. This use of Collapsing Mountain let him leap further and created a greater impact, but it was slow to act and had a longer ending lag. Pro players rarely ever used it to initiate a fight.

But right now, Lu Hanwen had Huang Shaotian cover for him. Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain would be the follow up to this rarely used form of Collapsing Mountain.

No one knew if Steamed Bun had noticed such a deeply thought out cooperative arrangement. Either way, he didn't receive this Collapsing Mountain. With two consecutive back jumps, he dashed out of range. He could tell that Blue Rain was going to concentrate their fire on him from what he saw of their actions.

"Holy crap, so many people ganging up on me!" Steamed Bun exclaimed in the match chat. The tone that belied these words, it was almost like he couldn't comprehend why a team would do something so common to team competitions.

"1v1 me! Do you dare to fight me 1v1?" Steamed Bun yelled.

Blue Rain thought he was trash talking. They naturally ignored him, going in for the kill.

“Where’s that Leo? Come and fight me! Didn’t you cry and scream about wanting to fight me 1v1 back then?” Steamed Bun continued.

Everyone exchanged looks.

What on earth was going on? Leo? That was referring to Huang Shaotian, right? Team Blue Rain’s hardcore fans were naturally familiar with their ace’s star sign.

But... Huang Shaotian screaming and crying about wanting to fight Steamed Bun 1v1?

Everyone was suddenly very interested in this piece of gossip.

“What the hell are you going on about!!” Huang Shaotian immediately bristled. He had wanted to fight, but it wasn’t directed at Steamed Bun! And screaming and crying? Not even in your dreams.

“I’m giving you a chance now.” Steamed Bun was still going on.

“KILL HIM!!!” Huang Shaotian yelled. At this point, the target of his anger and their team’s attack target overlapped perfectly.

This... they could feel real killing intent here! Everyone thought to themselves.

#### **Chapter 1464: Bomb Disposal Specialist**

“Scaredy-cat Leo!” Steamed Bun sternly reprimanded Huang Shaotian in the chat.

Huang Shaotian was pissed!

There was no way anyone would ever agree to a 1v1 duel in the middle of a team battle, right? So why was this guy so seriously insisting on this? That brimming hostility, it was unbearable!

Downwind Sword Slash!

The swift sword light well represented Huang Shaotian’s current mood. He would never lose his cool over the mockery of trash talk, but as it happened, the one who spewed trash talk right now was the optimal attack target, so without any pressure, he could use his official role to satisfy his personal interests. His mood was beautifully expressed, and the timing, angle, and speed of this Downwind Sword Slash reached the peak, completely flawless.

Hit!

No one could have dodged or blocked this kind of attack.

The bladelight scattered fresh blood outward. Steamed Bun Invasion was sent pathetically tumbling onto the ground. But with this, he was really rolling quite far!

“Not bad, kid!” Huang Shaotian sent in the chat. Pro players were very sensitive to distance, because that was how they chose the most suitable skill to use at any given moment. Steamed Bun seemed to be helplessly rolling along the ground as a result of the ferocity of the Downwind Sword Slash, but in reality, he was using the momentum of this strike to put some distance between himself and his attacker. The posture was a bit ugly, but he achieved the goal he wanted.

This Downwind Sword Slash on its own was indeed executed impeccably. But a good offensive was like a banquet, composed of many different dishes. It couldn't rely on just one.

Steamed Bun Invasion used this Downwind Sword Slash to increase the distance. If the close-range Blade Master wanted to close in again, then the Brawler could use mid-range techniques to counter him. From this, it could be seen that even though this Downwind Sword Slash was flawless, it couldn't become a banquet. The attack landed, but it didn't consider the follow up.

In the end, had Huang Shaotian been too impulsive?

This Downwind Sword Slash, displaying Huang Shaotian's annoyance, would lead people to think this way. But those who thought this way were overlooking the fact that this was a team battle, not individual. Huang Shaotian wasn't the only cook for this banquet. By itself, this Downwind Sword Slash might have left an opening, but in a team battle, there were teammates that could cover this opening. Huang Shaotian used this skill, not because he had lost his judgment in a fit of anger, but because this was a team battle, and he trusted that there were enough people next to him that could cover this opening.

Curse!

Bullets!

When Huang Shaotian's Blade Master could no longer attack because of the distance, the long-range attackers Yu Wenzhou and Zheng Xuan immediately gave firepower support.

After the Downwind Sword Slash, the two skills of the two characters immediately followed, and there was even cooperation between them as well.

Steamed Bun's reaction speed and control was good, but the attacks of these two characters cut off all space he had to dodge.

The curses of a Warlock and the firepower of a Spitfire.

Of the two skills, he would have to choose one to be hit by in the end. Steamed Bun was very decisive, and he twisted his body toward the bullets that Bullet Rain fired toward him.

Under typical circumstances, players would want to choose to take the skill that damaged them less, but the problem was that the attacks from these two classes both had more painful effects than just damage.

Swoksaar had used a Binding Curse. It wouldn't cause any damage at all, but it would imprison the target character.

What about Bullet Rain? He had fired Freezing Bullets, which carried the Freeze effect. It only had a certain chance of activating, but all of the Gunner subclasses, aside from Launchers, could attack with consecutive, continuous shots. The Spitfire's Freezing Bullet could be considered a buff, and the action to use it was changing the magazine. After changing the magazine, normal fired bullets would become Freezing Bullets. Under the Spitfire Classing skill Ammunition Expansion, this magazine could hold as many as twenty Freezing Bullets.

If one bullet had a certain probability of causing a Freeze, with twenty bullets, it would be very difficult to avoid every single one. When all bullets hit, it was fairly common to become entirely Frozen.

Right now, Steamed Bun Invasion forcefully headed in this direction, and was swiftly hit by a series of bullets. Freeze took effect, and his movements instantly slowed down. But for now, he hadn't been completely Frozen. This was also the reason to choose this direction instead of going toward Swoksaar's Binding Curse. Moving more slowly was always a bit better than being unable to move at all.

But this was such a shallow reasoning, so of course, Blue Rain had thought of it as well. When Yu Wenzhou and Zheng Xuan launched their pincer attack, they had already calculated that Steamed Bun Invasion would choose to head toward the area covered by the Freezing Bullets.

sword light flashed.

When Troubling Rain used his Downwind Sword Slash, Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud was rushing forward to cooperate. The light of his blade ultimately fell upon the area where Bullet Rain's bullets pointed. Blue Rain's offensive wasn't conducted by one person, it was a combination of four people landing upon Steamed Bun Invasion.

But while Blue Rain had four players, Happy had more than just Steamed Bun Invasion as well. Even while focusing on Steamed Bun Invasion, Yu Wenzhou hadn't overlooked Happy's other four players, either. The fire from Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain could cover the whole map, and she immediately began giving support. And her judgment overlapped with Blue Rain's actions very well – the cannonfire was already covering the position toward which Flowing Cloud was charging.

What an incredibly accurate prediction.

A prediction of Blue Rain's coordination as a team, a prediction of the awareness of Blue Rain's players.

Su Mucheng's attack landed at the same time as Lu Hanwen's attack, but Su Mucheng's target was precisely Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud.

Boom!

The explosion sent waves of energy rippling outward, and that sword light from Flowing Cloud wavered. All of this happened so quickly, just in the span of a few seconds, so precisely that it seemed as though everyone had rehearsed it beforehand. Flowing Cloud arrived, the cannonfire arrived, there was no chance at all for Lu Hanwen to dodge.

An opening!

Flowing Cloud's attack was destroyed by Dancing Rain, and Steamed Bun Invasion immediately had an opening before him. But Yu Wenzhou, who was cool-headedly paying attention to the entire field, had noticed Dancing Rain's attack and anticipated that Flowing Cloud's attack would be broken. So, Swoksaar cast another spell, covering this opening in advance.

Claws of Darkness!

From the void, black claws gleaming with demonic power extended forth, snatching toward Steamed Bun Invasion. This attack was also a predictive attack, a prediction of the opponent's movements.

But, unfortunately, this was Steamed Bun that Yu Wenzhou was trying to predict.

The Claws of Darkness snatched downward, the flowers of the devil were blooming, but where was Steamed Bun Invasion?

With a roll, Steamed Bun Invasion had actually rolled back to where he was before.

The so-called opening was that, using the cover from Dancing Rain's fire, he could continue in the same direction to break free from Blue Rain's attacking him. But Steamed Bun didn't head in that direction, and instead went back toward the position where he had been surrounded and trapped.

Had he also predicted Swoksaar's attack against him?

Those who liked to overthink situations would of course consider this situation. But even those who were familiar with Steamed Bun, couldn't determine how he had had that shining eureka moment.

"Maybe that was just convenient for him?" In Happy's player area, those who weren't onstage speculated.

But even though this was an unexpected movement, aside from avoiding this Claws of Darkness from Swoksaar, there wasn't anything particularly shining about this.

The Freeze effect on Steamed Bun Invasion's body hadn't worn off yet. If he was hit by another attack with a Freeze effect, the chances of him becoming completely Frozen would greatly increase. Bullet Rain hadn't finished firing his twenty Freezing Bullets yet, and with Steamed Bun Invasion returning to his former position, it was very easy for Zheng Xuan to fire at him. The Freezing Bullets immediately chased him.

He just acted a bit unexpectedly...

Even Yu Wenzhou thought this way. Someone acting unexpectedly didn't automatically guarantee that they could win the initiative. If a sword came down on an opponent and that opponent didn't dodge at all, that would also be very unexpected, but could that cleaved opponent really be said to have the advantage?

Steamed Bun Invasion's action, aside from dodging the Claws of Darkness, was truly a disastrous movement.

But the bullets that Bullet Rain fired were actually completely blocked in midair.

Prediction. Again, prediction.

And this time, the one who made an accurate prediction was Ye Xiu.

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella blocked all of the Freezing Bullets, and suddenly, a large path was opened before Steamed Bun's eyes.

This time, Steamed Bun didn't trip up, and he immediately controlled Steamed Bun Invasion to charge onto this path. The still half-Frozen Steamed Bun Invasion seemed to be moving in slow-motion, and it was very amusing to watch. But the cover of his teammates allowed him to resolutely walk forward. Lord Grim helped blocked the attacks from Bullet Rain, while Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain blasted a Firing



Line next to him, causing a great deal of trouble for the two Blade Masters controlled by Huang Shaotian and Lu Hanwen if they wanted to catch up and attack.

A suicidal trip, ultimately inviting a turnaround. Why?

Yu Wenzhou's gaze landed upon Lord Grim.

He had never understood why Happy wanted to use Steamed Bun, such an unreliable player, for such a crucial match, but now, he was beginning to see why.

The reason was very simple: it was all because of Ye Xiu's presence.

Even though he also had no way of predicting Steamed Bun's actions, his experience and awareness allowed him to maximally cover Steamed Bun's openings.

This was perhaps a way of turning the rotten into the miraculous, or perhaps he was only barely able to control the situation. But this ticking time bomb that was Steamed Bun – Happy had their bomb disposal expert, but on Blue Rain's side, which of them could take care of the danger that Steamed Bun posed at any moment?

Ye Xiu's all-class experience and awareness was not something that everyone had.

Steamed Bun was a player that often exposed vulnerabilities, but Happy purposely took advantage of this fact. Under the unpredictable rhythm of battle that this guy led, which side would ultimately take control?

In Yu Wenzhou's mind, behind Steamed Bun Invasion appeared, with unparalleled clarity, the figures of Lord Grim and Ye Xiu.

Would they once again be beaten at their own game?

### **Chapter 1465: Attack the Core**

During the regular season, Blue Rain was one of the few teams that defeated Happy twice in the team round. No, more accurately, it was three times. During their last match in the playoffs, even though Blue Rain had lost in the end, they had defeated Happy in the team round.

Three victories against Happy. Logically, they should be relatively experienced in dealing with them. But, as Blue Rain's commander, Yu Wenzhou didn't have that feeling at all.

Two meetings in the regular season, and then their last meeting during the playoffs. Three battles against Happy, and they had all felt different.

This wasn't just because of Happy's adjustments in terms of players and tactics. Over the course of these three battles, what was even more clear to see was Happy's growth.

Ever since entering the pro scene, Happy's players were recklessly absorbing experience and growing up at a crazy rate. Every year brought new teams, and these new teams, after entering the high-end refinery that was the pro scene, all demonstrated clear improvement. But Happy was the only one that had reached such heights so fast.

Most people looked at Ye Xiu, Su Mucheng, and Fang Rui. They felt that because Happy had three All-Star level players, they weren't a typical new team, and that was why they could have such a strong performance.

But was that the only reason?

Consider Happy's three All-Star level players.

Ye Xiu had left the pro scene for a year and a half and was now playing a new unspecialized class; Su Mucheng had left the pro scene for a year; Fang Rui had been standing at the pinnacle of Thieves before switching classes.

These three people all had their own problems. In fact, it could be said that they were among Happy's weaknesses. For Happy to become such an unusual new team, it definitely wasn't only because of the presence of these three All-Star level players.

Improvement. This was the key word shared by Happy and all other new teams. And the biggest difference between Happy and these other new teams was that Happy was able to completely turn their improvement into capability.

As long as the players became stronger, the team's capabilities would increase, right?

This logic seemed obvious. But in reality, even though this logic worked in 1v1s, in team battles, this statement wasn't so certain.

A team needed cooperation, needed understanding, needed mutual adaptation.

When a new team's players began to grow, quickly or slowly, could the team stay whole and adjust appropriately to this kind of growth?

This wasn't a simple matter. The biggest difference between Happy and the others was that Happy achieved this point very well. They were adjusting nonstop in response to the improvements made by the individual players.

In the end... it was still because of that guy, the one at Happy's helm, Ye Xiu. He accurately grasped the fabric of Happy, and he let all the teams that only faced Happy once in the span of months feel the leaping growth of their battle ability. They were able to completely take advantage of that exceptional growth that characterized new teams.

And when they stood on the battlefield?

Countless scenes from Happy's battles flashed through Yu Wenzhou's mind.

The immature Happy had many weaknesses, but when opponents tried to charge toward Happy's so-called weaknesses, how many teams were actually able to use that to crush Happy?

Happy had areas where they had yet to mature; they had areas where they weren't good enough. But Happy themselves knew all of this, clearer than their opponents did, and so they had ample preparations to counter those who tried to attack their weak areas.

It all came back to Ye Xiu...

In Yu Wenzhou's mind, the image of Ye Xiu and Lord Grim continued to sharpen, and what he covered was no longer simply Steamed Bun and Steamed Bun Invasion – it was the entirety of Happy!

If we don't defeat this guy, we have no way of truly defeating Happy!

Those so-called breakthrough points, weaknesses, could all turn into reversals because of the presence of one person.

To defeat Happy, Yu Wenzhou discovered that what he had to do was so simple, yet not at all.

Defeat Ye Xiu.

Yes! That was all.

Beat Ye Xiu, and you can beat Happy.

This goal simply sounded like nonsense. Because this sentence could be applied to any team.

Beat Wang Jiexi, and you can beat Tiny Herb.

Beat Zhou Zekai, and you can beat Samsara.

Beat Han Wenqing, and you can beat Tyranny.

Every team had its core, and if the core was defeated, the chances of victory would greatly increase. But a core was a core because it was the most difficult person to beat in the entire team.

To beat them, you would have to pay an unusual price.

Just like that Happy versus Tiny Herb match, where Happy forcefully took down Wang Jiexi, trading two for one. And in the end, their plan worked, and they beat Tiny Herb.

The battle had been thrilling, but Yu Wenzhou didn't agree with the reliability of that method. In that battle, it could be said that they won because they defeated Wang Jiexi, but it would be better to say that by defeating Wang Jiexi, they destroyed the confidence of the rest of the Tiny Herb players.

That was the main reason why Tiny Herb had lost. If the other players hadn't wavered because of this, the fact was that the core player had traded themselves for two players and achieved the advantage of numbers. Many teams probably wouldn't find that a difficult trade at all.

Happy targeted Wang Jiexi not for a strategic victory, but a psychological victory. That was why they could strive for this without worrying about the cost.

And this had been possible because of the problem with Tiny Herb itself.

If it had been Samsara, and they'd tried to trade two players for Zhou Zekai; or if it had been Tyranny, two for Han Wenqing, the result likely would not have been the same.

Then right now, against Happy, against Ye Xiu, could they use this kind of method?

In Blue Rain's team channel, the captain's directions suddenly appeared: Attack Ye Xiu.

They could!

After reflection, this was the conclusion that Yu Wenzhou ultimately drew.

To Tiny Herb, Wang Jiexi was the backbone of their spirit; to Happy, Ye Xiu was the backbone of their strategy.

In those scenes from Happy's battles that had flashed through his mind, Ye Xiu was like a foundational rock. Wherever he was needed was wherever he was moved.

Without his support, Team Happy wouldn't be able to tie together into a whole. And on this battlefield, the ticking time bomb that was Steamed Bun Invasion would lose his bomb disposal expert.

Defeat Ye Xiu! That would destroy the structure of Happy's strategy, and without that linchpin, Happy would show many openings. At that time, it was likely that no one would be able to patch them up well enough.

Yu Wenzhou gave this direction, and Blue Rain immediately began to carry it out.

Troubling Rain, Flowing Cloud, one fast blade and one slow, suddenly flung off Steamed Bun Invasion and pointed toward Lord Grim.

"Damn!" Steamed Bun immediately started mocking them. "You can't even take care of me and you still want to take care of our boss?"

Steamed Bun's words were only because he was still alive. To be honest, this powerful offense that Blue Rain had launched against him had rendered him quite helpless.

"Little guys move aside!" Huang Shaotian rudely replied. His lightsaber Ice Rain had already pierced toward Lord Grim's heart.

Whoosh whoosh, Lord Grim's silhouette flashed like a ghost, and suddenly he had already moved to Troubling Rain's side.

Ice Rain hit air, but Troubling Rain immediately turned, and the slightly slower Flowing Cloud bolstered the attack as he continued to stab toward Lord Grim.

Lord Grim tried to move again, but Swoksaar's curses and Bullet Rain's firepower together sealed his paths of retreat.

Lord Grim, without anywhere to run, instantly became a crowd of shadows.

Shadow Clone Technique!

Lord Grim left behind a fake body while his real body was taken away. The first phase of Blue Rain's offensive ultimately missed.

But the whole team adjusted its offensive very quickly and continued to attack. Happy's scattered formation had yet to restabilize.

Yu Wenzhou continued to carefully watch the whole situation. When they began focusing all their attack on Ye Xiu's Lord Grim, how would Happy adjust? Yu Wenzhou didn't dare let down his guard. Especially since they were attacking Ye Xiu, it would be very easy for this guy to lead him into a trap. He had to pay careful attention to the development of the battle as a whole.

Yu Wenzhou's gaze passed over Happy's players, one by one.

Someone's missing!

Yu Wenzhou suddenly discovered.

"Where's Fang Rui?" Yu Wenzhou asked in the chat.

"Circling around," said Zheng Xuan.

Yu Wenzhou let out a breath. He'd missed one character, but fortunately, he had his teammates.

Fang Rui circling around, that was almost certainly to take advantage of the wind. The force of the wind didn't affect a Warlock's curses or a few other spells, but fire-type magic and a Qi Master's qi could be strengthened by the wind's momentum.

Knowing the opponent's intent, naturally he could counter it. But Blue Rain didn't do anything for now, because if they defended too early, then Fang Rui would withdraw his plan. Might as well use the opponent's move against him, let him circle around, wait for him to try and attack before discovering that he was thwarted.

Blue Rain continued to chase Lord Grim, until their heads hurt.

Lord Grim's movement was simply too fast – it was like he was leading them on a train ride. From afar, Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain showered them in cannonfire.

But all of this was within Yu Wenzhou's expectations. Swoksaar's skills now were like a guiding beacon. Under his adjustments, Blue Rain's chase was not impatient. The two Blade Masters Troubling Rain and Flowing Cloud didn't attack hand in hand; Troubling Rain chased more tightly, while Flowing Cloud lagged slightly behind. Zheng Xuan and Yu Wenzhou's characters were still in the wind zone, moving parallel, and their healer was also closely keeping up with the team's rhythm.

Lord Grim hadn't been chased down, but inadvertently, Fang Rui's plot to circle around was already interrupted. Blue Rain, in chasing Lord Grim, had changed their position drastically, so their back was no longer their back. Where Fang Rui's Boundless Sea entered the wind zone, he was now at a crosswind with Blue Rain's players, so that neither side had the advantage.

Fang Rui controlled Boundless Sea to move, because he still wanted to pull out the angle to get the wind advantage, but he ended up running this circle in vain.

In the wind zone, Happy's few players were helping Ye Xiu as much as they could.

It was about time.

Yu Wenzhou coldly assessed the situation.

Another message appeared in the team chat: 1, Ye Xiu, cut Steamed Bun.

The offensive changed again.

Steamed Bun. Blue Rain's target was still Steamed Bun. But one player was left next to Ye Xiu's Lord Grim.

Troubling Rain, Huang Shaotian.

The “1” referred to BOX-1. Team Blue Rain was using Huang Shaotian to execute BOX-1 against Ye Xiu.

Because Ye Xiu was the core of Happy’s strategy, then BOX-1 was the perfect strategy to use. But Ye Xiu was a demon, and if they tried to do it directly, there was probably no one who would be able to directly restrict him. And so Blue Rain first used a powerful all-around attack, relying on their numbers to advantage. They let Fang Rui go so that Happy’s side over here would be even weaker, like luring the tiger off the mountain. And when the time was right, Huang Shaotian would hold down Ye Xiu, and the others would attack Steamed Bun.

This time, if Ye Xiu wanted to defuse the bomb, it wouldn’t be so easy.

### **Chapter 1466: Qi in the Wind**

“Hey! What was that for!” Steamed Bun cried out in the chat. Even though he wasn’t as chatty as Huang Shaotian, he was still far more talkative than most players. Rookies, in particular, would almost always play careful, completely focused on their playing. There were truly very few rookies who trash talked during a match.

Not only was Steamed Bun talkative, his words were good at catching the attention of other people. It was a normal many-against-few situation, yet he was scolding the enemies as if they were in the wrong. Blue Rain’s sudden change in targets cut off Steamed Bun’s connection with Ye Xiu and angered him. It was as if Blue Rain had offended the heavens, and he needed to give them justice.

“What are you guys thinking!” Steamed Bun shouted.

No one in Blue Rain answered back. The three characters focused on Steamed Bun. However, for this BOX-1 strategy to work, the conflict between Ye Xiu and Huang Shaotian was the key point.

“Can you get past me?” Huang Shaotian wasn’t idle. He quickly joined the chat. Although Steamed Bun was a strange one, he couldn’t outshine Huang Shaotian. The disparity in word count was too big.

“Annoying,” Ye Xiu replied back with a single word. Lord Grim twisted his body in an attempt to get past Huang Shaotian.

Huang Shaotian reacted extremely fast. Troubling Rain turned around and lifted his sword, Headwind Strike!

Headwind Strike was originally a circular attack, but under Huang Shaotian’s control, it spun around into a flat ellipse, covering quite a bit of horizontal distance.

Jump back.

Not only did Lord Grim fail to get past Troubling Rain, he was forced back a step.

Boom boom boom.

Artillery fire descended.

Su Mucheng didn't support Steamed Bun, who was in a more dangerous situation. Instead, she prioritized Troubling Rain.

2v1, 3v1.

Were they planning on making a trade? Or did Su Mucheng want to help Ye Xiu break free from Huang Shaotian.

The viewers weren't sure, not even Pan Lin or Li Yibo dared to make any conclusions. The fight between the two teams was changing at a rapid pace. What's more, Blue Rain was playing abnormally aggressive today, unlike their usual defensive counterattack style.

"Could it be because of Happy's Bao Rongxing? Perhaps it's easier to take the initiative by playing aggressive." Pan Lin and Li Yibo could only guess.

The battle was developing on two ends. At this moment, the camera switched over to a character that hadn't yet entered the fray.

Boundless Sea.

Fang Rui's Boundless Sea.

He had tried to circle around to Blue Rain's rear, but Blue Rain noticed him and prevented it from happening. Fang Rui wasn't willing to let the matter go and continued to try different angles. It was as if he had to use the gale to attack Blue Rain no matter what.

"Fang Rui... is gambling a bit..." Pan Lin said, seeing Boundless Sea stubbornly try to find a way in.

Li Yibo didn't say anything.

It was a crucial match. Fang Rui was an incredibly experienced and crafty player, would he really make a gamble?

He probably has something else in mind. Li Yibo carefully observed Fang Rui's movements.

Even Li Yibo was suspicious, how could Yu Wenzhou not be either?

The situation on one side of the battle was clear. Ye Xiu was being BOX-1ed by Huang Shaotian, while Su Mucheng was helping him break free. Huang Shaotian could be considered as being in a 1v2, so it looked like a BOX-2. However, Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain was a Blade Master, a melee class. Dancing Rain was long-ranged, so she could fire from afar. She was taking the initiative to attack him, not Troubling Rain restricting her movements. The BOX-2 was weak. If Su Mucheng wanted to leave, she could leave. Huang Shaotian had no control over her.

He could only stop Ye Xiu, and that was his goal.

It was a 1v2 though, and he was facing the former Best Partners. The difficulty of doing so didn't need to be said. What Huang Shaotian was doing reminded people of the previous Blue Rain vs Happy match.

In that team competition, Blue Rain's former captain, Wei Chen, had accomplished a 1v2, no? He stalled Blue Rain's Yu Wenzhou and Lu Hanwen by himself.

In the end, Wei Chen sacrificed his character to achieve these goals, but what about Huang Shaotian?

Huang Shaotian was different because he wasn't focused on dragging down both players, but rather only Ye Xiu's Lord Grim. As long as Dancing Rain's attacks didn't affect his end-goal, he wouldn't care.

He was very focused.

He didn't care if he was being harassed by Su Mucheng.

Yu Wenzhou was overjoyed at this turn of events. He hadn't expected the BOX-1 to last this long because after shifting their focus onto Steamed Bun Invasion, Happy's other characters were free to do what they wanted. It would be easy for Happy to break Huang Shaotian's BOX-1.

That was the reality. Su Mucheng decided to prioritize breaking the BOX-1.

But who would have thought that Huang Shaotian would be so tenacious?

This sort of opportunity couldn't be wasted.

The rest of Blue Rain understood this and attacked Steamed Bun Invasion even more fiercely.

Steamed Bun didn't even have time to type into the chat. Steamed Bun Invasion was beaten up left and right.

Although was in a sorry state, he wasn't completely trapped.

How troublesome!

Blue Rain looked towards Happy's other character.

Little Cold Hands, An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands.

While they were busy with Steamed Bun, Happy's healer was providing Steamed Bun with as much support as possible.

No one was disturbing him, and he was only focused on a single target. Under these circumstances, An Wenyi, who had exceptional timing, had God-level healing. What's more, his character Little Cold Hands had the highest heal crit in the game, making it even harder for Steamed Bun Invasion to die.

Blue Rain had no choice but to make some adjustments. Under Yu Wenzhou's orders, Zheng Xuan took care of Little Cold Hands. Although both were long-ranged classes, Spitfires were faster than Clerics. No one else was more suitable than him to suppress the healer.

But when Zheng Xuan fired at Little Cold Hands, he discovered that his Bullet Rain's attack range wasn't quite enough.

With no other choice, Zheng Xuan could only have Bullet Rain move forward. Little Cold Hand's healing needed to be suppressed. If not, their DPS would be drastically reduced, and Huang Shaotian was dealing with a lot of pressure. His BOX-1 could be broken at any moment, so they needed to hurry.

But when Bullet Rain moved forward, Little Cold Hands moved back.



An Wenyi was aware of the enemy side's intentions. Thus, he moved back to get out of Zheng Xuan's attack range.

Zheng Xuan could only continue to speed up Bullet Rain's pursuit. After Yu Wenzhou noticed the change, he suddenly felt a bad premonition. He hastily turned his head back...

Sky Piercing Strike!

Fang Rui's Boundless Sea finally made his move. Amidst the strong winds, the qi looked hazy. However, its speed was extremely fast. It seemed to meld together with the wind, and in an instant, Bullet Rain was swallowed up by the qi. Bullet Rain was sent flying as if he had been Blown Away.

Yu Wenzhou wanted to warn him, but he was too late.

He hadn't been ignoring Fang Rui. It was just that with his original position, Fang Rui was temporarily no threat. He had planned on doing the same as before. He would pretend to ignore him and then neutralize whatever his intentions were at the last moment. As a result, Fang Rui had always seemed invisible.

But An Wenyi suddenly tilted the scales.

Little Cold Hand's retreat backwards made Zheng Xuan instinctively chase after him.

It wasn't that Fang Rui had moved Boundless Sea into the correct position, but rather, Bullet Rain had gifted himself to the enemy.

All of this had taken only a split second, and all of it was because of An Wenyi's bait.

Even Yu Wenzhou reacted to it too late.

Bullet Rain was blasted away by the Sky Piercing Cannon. Along with the momentum of the wind, the blow away effect was even stronger. Bullet Rain was directly thrown outside of the wind zone.

And when he had moved to pursue Little Cold Hands, he had stopped attacking Steamed Bun Invasion. An opening immediately appeared in Blue Rain's assault on Steamed Bun Invasion as a result of the sudden interruption.

Steamed Bun Invasion immediately rolled and escape through the opening.

Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud attacked with his sword, but Steamed Bun Invasion responded with a Brick.

"Take this brick!"

This guy was still chatting! Who knew if it was because of his early contact with Huang Shaotian, but Steamed Bun liked to call out his moves too. He couldn't speak in the chat, so his only choice was the chat. It had always annoyed him.

The "Take this brick!" had been sudden, but Lu Hanwen's reaction speed was astonishing. Flowing Cloud turned his head and dodged it. The sword light continued forth, but after noticing Swoksaar's movements, he adjusted.

“Haha, scared?” Steamed Bun noticed the change in Flowing Cloud’s attacks. Delighted, Steamed Bun Invasion took the chance to counterattack.

But little did he know, Lu Hanwen had intentionally left an opening. And this opening wasn’t for him, but for Swoksaar.

Hexagram Prison!

Pillars of light descended. Steamed Bun tried to dodge, but it was too late.

“LET ME OUT!!” Steamed Bun cried out in the chat. His Steamed Bun Invasion had been trapped by Hexagram Prison.

Having seen the situation change, Yu Wenzhou decided to stop their assault on Steamed Bun Invasion. But because of the Hexagram Prison, it was as if they pressed pause on their previous offense. First stop, resolve the issues, and then continue...

Boundless Sea!

The invisible Boundless Sea was now a threatening presence because he had finally gotten onto the tailwind of the wind zone. And the strong winds made his qi attacks even faster.

After sending out a Sky Piercing Cannon at Bullet Rain, Fang Rui’s Boundless Sea headed towards Yu Wenzhou’s Swoksaar.

Yu Wenzhou didn’t panic. Swoksaar moved and maintained the same angle with Boundless Sea.

Fang Rui was trying for a certain angle, not just because he wanted to strengthen his attacks with the wind. More importantly, at a certain angle, Qi Masters would be suppressed by the gale. For example, if the wind and his attacks were perpendicular to each other, unless he was right next to his opponent, his qi energy would be blown away by the wind, and he would have trouble aiming his attacks.

Fang Rui probably knew this point too, but Yu Wenzhou knew it better than him.

Blue Rain had chosen this map, and Blue Rain also had a Qi Master.

This was why Yu Wenzhou dared to let Fang Rui’s Qi Master loop around them because he knew exactly how the gale helped or hindered a Qi Master.

Bullet Rain was blown back. It had been too fast for Yu Wenzhou to respond, but if Fang Rui wanted to target his Swoksaar, then he wasn’t going to let another accident happen.

### **Chapter 1467: Breakthrough**

The battle was a blur to the viewers.

This team competition had too many changes happening too quickly.

Neither side had a fixed strategy. In other words, when facing each other, there was no single path that could go all the way. It could only go back and forth with both sides constantly adjusting to each other’s reactions.

Who was winning? Who was losing?

In terms of offense, Blue Rain had the greater initiative. Happy's formation was somewhat in disarray. However, the more attentive viewers may have realized that Blue Rain had started with the tailwind advantage, but now?

Not really.

Swoksaar's curses wouldn't be strengthened by the gale. In fact, Swoksaar was positioned more defensively. Their healer, Xu Jingxi's Soul Speaker, was also positioned more defensively.

The impact of the wind on Blue Rain's offense was practically zero. On the other hand, Happy's Boundless Sea was taking advantage of the wind for his attacks.

Yu Wenzhou had Swoksaar move to not give Fang Rui any opportunities to attack him. But Boundless Sea simply waved his hands in a different direction and shot out a Qi Bullet as fast as a meteor.

Zheng Xuan's Bullet Rain dodged in a flurry. After getting sent flying by Boundless Sea, he had paid great attention to his existence! That guy knew how to put on an act. He looked like he was moving to attack Swoksaar, when he suddenly turned and fired at Bullet Rain.

Zheng Xuan wanted revenge. Bullet Rain fired back at Boundless Sea.

But because of the effects of the gale, Bullet Rain's gunshot...

"Hahahaha," Fang Rui laughed in the chat. Boundless Sea slid his palms across.

Qi Blade!

Qi Blade was a difficult-to-react-to skill in the first place. The gale only made it even harder. Zheng Xuan didn't have time to think. Before even seeing it come out, he had Bullet Rain roll.

Did the Qi Blade come?

Zheng Xuan didn't notice any changes in his surroundings. Suddenly, Swoksaar stumbled and nearly fell to the ground.

What's going on?

Everyone was dumbstruck. Lord Grim? Dancing Rain? Steamed Bun Invasion? None of them had attacked Swoksaar. That meant it could have only been Boundless Sea.

"Don't underestimate me!" Fang Rui's Boundless Sea had intentionally kept the same posture as when he had sent out the Qi Blade. His two hands weren't facing Swoksaar.

But from the wind, they realized what had happened.

Boundless Sea had accounted for the effects of the winds in his calculations. He knew the Qi Blade would fly diagonally from where he was aiming towards Swoksaar.

The strong winds could shift the movements of the Qi Blade, but it could not disperse the qi itself. With the wind, the Qi Blade's momentum was even stronger.

It was just that this sort of calculative ability... this was clearly the map that Blue Rain had chosen. If their Qi Master, Song Xiao, had been the one to make such an accurate shot, it wouldn't have been too surprising. But, Fang Rui...

Fang Rui had been completely invisible before. The broadcast had given him very little screen time.

At this moment, the director went back to check Fang Rui's movements from before. He realized that Fang Rui's Boundless Sea hadn't just been moving. He had been sending qi out as he moved.

Fang Rui had been measuring the effects of the wind on his qi. His accuracy wasn't without reason. However, figuring out the wind in such a short amount of time couldn't be done without talent.

The invisible Fang Rui and Boundless Sea immediately became the star of the show.

Amidst the winds, Boundless Sea assumed his dirty pose, half-crouching. His hands were raised to his chest, gathering swirling qi from the surroundings. Fang Rui's incomparably dirty Qi Master suddenly looked to have the air of a great scholar again.

This was...

Qi Master Level 75 skill, a skill that had a cast time. It could be charged. At this point, Blue Rain no longer had time to interrupt it. Even so, they still had to do something. If they couldn't interrupt it, they couldn't just let Fang Rui's Boundless Sea keep charging it, right?

Thousand Chants in Full Bloom!

Before Blue Rain attacked, Boundless Sea released the skill. It was only one palm, but all of the qi that had accumulated burst out, similar to Flash Burst. However, Flash Burst only a single burst of qi, while Thousand Chants in Full Bloom was like a flower.

Numerous bullets sprayed out and then scattered throughout the field because of the wind.

Bullet Rain, Swoksaar, and Soul Speaker were all within this rain of qi. Thousand Chants in Full Bloom originally didn't cover a large area, but because of the wind, using the word scattered to describe these bullets of qi was perfectly appropriate.

Of Blue Rain's three characters, Swoksaar was in the center of the meteor shower. There was no place for him to dodge. The bullets of qi along with the added force of the wind forced Swoksaar back.

The other two, Xu Jingxi and Zheng Xuan, had to give up what they were doing before to dodge the attack.

For a moment, Fang Rui's Boundless Sea had stopped all three alone!

It was only for a short moment, but these opportunities didn't come by easily.

Boom boom boom!

The sounds of cannonfire suddenly became even more compact.

Bullet Rain and Swoksaar had been pinned down in succession. Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain had suddenly shifted targets. Her target was no longer Troubling Rain, but Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud.

Lu Hanwen wasn't too bothered by it. He had noticed the attacks and dodged them.

Steamed Bun Invasion now had room to breathe and immediately became more boisterous.

"Leo, let me fix you up!" Steamed Bun shouted in the chat. He had received Ye Xiu's orders. Once he found an opening, he would immediately attack Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain.

The crowd booed.

Who are you? You say you're going to fix up the Sword Saint? Even if the battle had taken a turn, haven't you heard the phrase "having an unfair advantage"?

The crowd couldn't admire Steamed Bun's delight at all. But they could see that with Steamed Bun Invasion move towards Huang Shaotian, the connection between him and Lord Grim had been reestablished.

"He's all yours, Steamed Bun!" Ye Xiu immediately called out in the chat. Afterwards, Lord Grim tried to retreat.

"Leo, do you dare to fight 300 exchanges with me?" Steamed Bun challenged, while throwing a Brick towards the back of Troubling Rain's head.

Huang Shaotian had been checking his surroundings. When he saw the Brick, he had Troubling Rain tilt his head. It seemed like he had no intentions of letting Lord Grim go.

But then...

Pai.

Not a brick, but a slap on the face.

If it was a Brawler's Slap, Lord Grim could do it too. He had pretended to retreat. Taking advantage of Huang Shaotian dodging Steamed Bun Invasion's Brick, he suddenly came out with a slap.

As soon as the attack hit, the combo began.

With a hook, Troubling Rain was sent flying into the air. As for the follow-up attacks, not even the fastest mouth could narrate every attack.

Unspecialized Blitz!

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella kept changing forms, keeping Troubling Rain tumbling in the air.

This combo couldn't last that long though. After all, Fang Rui's Boundless Sea couldn't just spam Thousand Chants in Full Bloom. Blue Rain's three players had been positioned scattered apart. No matter how well Fang Rui took advantage of the wind, he couldn't keep all three under control.

Bullet Rain's rescue soon arrived. Huang Shaotian used the opening to escape. But what should they do next? For a moment, Blue Rain didn't seem to have a direction.

Happy's broken formation had now been re-formed.

Lord Grim and Steamed Bun Invasion were together alongside each other. Su Mucheng had the long-ranged support. An Wenyi was in the middle as the healer, getting protection from two sides. And although Fang Rui was deep in enemy territory alone, he had the wind on his side and had nothing to fear.

What should they do?

Quite a few viewers were looking at Team Blue Rain's chat.

At this moment, Blue Rain should have some idea on what to do, right? Their previous plans seemed to have been broken apart one by one.

Some people looked at the health on both teams. After comparing them, they saw which side had won the exchange.

"Coach Li, what are your thoughts?" Pan Lin asked Li Yibo this question.

"It's still too early to say, but what Blue Rain does next will be crucial to how the rest of the match plays out," Li Yibo said.

"Of course," Li Yibo immediately added, "It's also important to see how Happy is able to take advantage of this situation."

Sure enough, Happy didn't disappoint Li Yibo. After breaking apart Blue Rain's tactics one by one, it was time for their counterattack.

Even though Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain had been rescued from Lord Grim's combo because of his teammates, Happy had no plans of letting him escape.

Troubling Rain became Happy's focus point. Lord Grim's attacks became the lead for the entire team.

"Take my fist, Leo!" Steamed Bun continued to shout. Previously, he had been ridiculing Blue Rain for teaming up on him, but he had no problems teaming up on Huang Shaotian.

Blue Rain's fans had already started booing. They were worried for Huang Shaotian!

But at this moment, Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud broke through Su Mucheng's zoning, his greatsword coming to the rescue.

Meteor Form!

Flowing Cloud's greatsword, Flame Shadow, was fast. Along with the explosions from behind, he blazed across the field into the enemy lines.

"Wow, this kid's pretty impressive," Steamed Bun was put in a difficult situation because of the attack.

They couldn't bother trash talking Steamed Bun. Lu Hanwen could actually be considered a senior. They were amazed that Steamed Bun could actually dodge that sudden attack.

"If he had been wielding a lightsaber..." Li Yibo spoke halfway through before stopping himself. He realized that he seemed to say those words a bit too much. It was like he was criticizing Lu Hanwen for choosing a greatsword over a lightsaber. In reality, Lu Hanwen used his greatsword to great effect,

accomplishing things that couldn't be done by a lightsaber. Li Yibo only felt it was a pity that the attack speed was slow.

"Kid, I admire you! You've at least got more guts than that Leo! You're a worthy opponent!" Steamed Bun continued to chatter.

"Fuck, you bastard, I've endured long enough. Come here and let me hack you into pieces!!!!" Insulted without even being in the conversation, Huang Shaotian finally couldn't bear it anymore.

### **Chapter 1468: Double Image**

Was he enraged?

Seeing Huang Shaotian rant so angrily that he didn't even bother to use punctuation, many people thought this way. But just as many weren't fooled at all. Huang Shaotian's fighting existed on a completely separate channel from his trash talk. His trash talk didn't reveal any of his cold, brutal, opportunistic style at all.

So, seeing him yell in the chat that he couldn't endure Steamed Bun any longer, at least half of the audience didn't believe him all.

It looked like Steamed Bun didn't believe him either. He completely ignored Huang Shaotian, and instead focused on controlling Steamed Bun Invasion to fight Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud.

This was simply too normal of an action. The opponent in front of him was strong, how could he simply turn around to go and fight someone else just because they yelled something?

But, everyone who saw this scene couldn't help but think: Steamed Bun looked down on Huang Shaotian and didn't want to bother with fighting him anymore.

What was up with that?

Those who thought this didn't know whether to laugh or cry. This was such an important playoffs match, with such a fast rhythm, so many changes, endlessly wonderful. But as soon as the scene focused in over here, how come it seemed like it was hiding this unseriousness?

Were these two people really treating this match seriously?

Even Blue Rain's own fans couldn't help but begin to question their Sword Saint.

And what was the Sword Saint actually doing?

After shouting at Steamed Bun, Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain actually dropped the opponent in front of him and prepared to kill his way toward Steamed Bun Invasion.

"He lost his cool?"

Seeing this, countless people began to shout. Shock, disappointment, delight in disaster, all sorts of emotions were pulled forth by this one action of Huang Shaotian's.

Such a strong retreat was obviously unwise. Even the chaotic Steamed Bun, in these conditions, didn't lose the opponent in front of him, Lu Hanwen. And Huang Shaotian, who was supposed to be more mature, actually did such a childish action, and the opponent he dropped was Ye Xiu! An opponent even scarier than Lu Hanwen.

As expected, Ye Xiu didn't miss this opportunity. Lord Grim immediately went for the opening that Troubling Rain exposed as he forcefully retreated.

At that moment, swordlight violently burst forth.

Formless Phantom Blade!

The Level 70 Blade Master skill, the skill that still dealt the highest damage, Formless Phantom Blade. Troubling Rain retreated and went after Steamed Bun Invasion, but before he got there, the skill was already activated.

And then, one step, one turn.

The opening that Troubling Rain had exposed while retreating was suddenly completely covered by swordlight.

Ohhhhh!!!!

Blue Rain's Xiaochuan Stadium was instantly filled with the cheers and hollers of Blue Rain's fans.

They were simply too moved, because their core, their ace, their idol, their Sword Saint, hadn't let them down in the end.

He hadn't lost his cool. This was a trap, a trap inviting the gentleman to enter the funeral urn.

But Ye Xiu wasn't without defense.

Facing the sudden turn and explosion of swordlight, Lord Grim swiftly retreated, the sword chasing him.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh... ding... whoosh whoosh...

The interwoven arcs of swordlight flashed through the air, punctuated with the occasional sounds of contact. Huang Shaotian's Formless Phantom Blade was simply this fast, so fast that no one could see how he was actually attacking. It seemed as though it was just that one moment, swordlight burst forth, dazzling the eyes, drawing attention, and then in the next moment, the light was gone, and all was still...

It looked like it was all over. Troubling Rain, Lord Grim, the two characters stood in their original positions.

What happened?

While too many people were still in a daze, Lord Grim suddenly rushed forward.

And Troubling Rain? Troubling Rain didn't move. Huang Shaotian actually just stood and watched as Lord Grim came at him with a Double Stab, impaling his body.

And he still maintained that pose.



Formless Phantom Blade, the pose after retracting the final slash...

Huang Shaotian had unleashed the final slash of Formless Phantom Blade, but he hadn't managed to hit the target.

An opening, this was undoubtedly a huge opening. Many Blade Masters, if they felt they didn't have full grasp of the situation, would rather give up on the last and most powerful slash of the Formless Phantom Blade.

Huang Shaotian unleashed this slash, but this slash hadn't managed to hit. Any Glory player could stand up and tell Huang Shaotian what that meant.

So how could Huang Shaotian not know this principle? And with his skill, how could he have let this happen?

This was why everyone was so shocked by this situation. The doubt was so strong that even the televised broadcast decided not to play the currently unfolding battle at full screen. Instead, they split to a small window, and in slow motion replayed the Formless Phantom Blade exchange between Ye Xiu and Huang Shaotian just now.

What kind of exchange had it been?

Even though it was slowed down to a quarter of the speed, everyone could still clearly sense how fast it was.

Formless Phantom Blade was that fast. But Ye Xiu's responses seemed to be even faster.

Lord Grim, with almost miniscule movements, dodged the slashes that this skill sent at him one after another. The tip of the sword, the blade of the sword, it all seemed to go right past him, without a single one landing. The audience watched as one slash looked like it was about to hit, and they felt their hearts leaping into their throats – and this was watching a slow-motion replay!

Then, they saw that the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella in Lord Grim's hand suddenly elongated, and that slash that seemed undodgeable was parried just like that.

He parried a Formless Phantom Blade?

Aside from dumbstruck, was there any more suitable emotion?

Everyone had only ever seen this kind of thing in performances before. Two pro players, both using Formless Phantom Blade, and then ping-ping-pong-pong clashing again and again, until it looked like there were flowers blooming around them from all of the sparks flying. But that was practiced beforehand, where both sides knew from what angle and with what speed the other player would come at them. Yet now, this was the playoffs battlefield, and the one behind the Formless Phantom Blade was the number one among Blade Masters, the Sword Saint!

And his Formless Phantom Blade had actually been parried by the opponent...

After that, Lord Grim continued to retreat, continued to dodge.

His one parry, of course, couldn't interrupt the Formless Phantom Blade attack, and the skill steadily reached the end. Just the fact that he'd been able to last this long was already breathtaking. No matter how they looked at it, though, there was no way for him to dodge or block the next slash, and this next slash just happened to be the most powerful, final slash of the Formless Phantom Blade!

The sword lifted!

Carrying an incomparably sharp swordlight. Those sword shadows that had been all scattered earlier now seemed to gather and accumulate upon the blade, and the final gleaming blade of light flashed forth!

What was that?

And then everyone looked at where the swordlight had travelled, and they blinked, or rubbed their eyes.

Had their vision gone fuzzy?

Everyone thought this, because in their view, in that one moment, it looked like there had been a double image of Lord Grim. An instant later, it had vanished.

The scene rewound and replayed in slow motion, this time at one-eighth the speed.

This time, everyone saw clearly.

Shadow Clone Technique!

It was Shadow Clone Technique. Lord Grim's two hands moved so fast as to be undetectable. He'd completed the seals in the span of time of the already incredibly fast Formless Phantom Blade...

What kind of handspeed was that?

Everyone searched for a number on the screen, hoping it would tell them, but there was none...

No number, they could only rely on their feeling. But for this sort of inhuman thing, how could an ordinary person rely on their feeling?

The Shadow Clone Technique didn't send the original body far away, so the real and false bodies stood very tightly together. The final slash of the Formless Phantom Blade arrived, and at one-eighth speed, everyone could finally clearly see that the instant this skill had activated, the clone had been broken by this final slash. At one-fourth speed, everyone finally identified this double image that they'd mistaken for their eyes going blurry, because it really had only appeared for an instant.

And even at one-fourth speed, it had only been there for a moment, allowing everyone to realize that that was the only way he would have been able to dodge that slash. Normal movement couldn't be made faster with faster handspeed. Only the hand seals of a Ninja would, with an increase in handspeed, release a skill faster.

Ultimately, Ye Xiu succeeded.

Using a method that surpassed everyone's imagination.

And no one could forget that Ye Xiu was an old general of ten years. This sort of unbearably fast handspeed, wasn't that supposed to be something that only the youth had?

The final slash of Huang Shaotian's Formless Phantom Blade hadn't landed, but at this time, no one felt that he had made a mistake.

He had already done very well, using blade after blade to attack the defending Ye Xiu, forcing him back until he had nowhere to dodge and nowhere to block. What happened afterward couldn't be called Huang Shaotian's fault. That sort of transcendence of natural human limits, how could that be treated as a miscalculation?

It wasn't Huang Shaotian's fault, but no matter what, his Troubling Rain once again fell into an unfavorable situation as Ye Xiu controlled Lord Grim to unleash another flurry of attacks at him. But those who had just been watching the small window reply found that for now, they couldn't re-immense themselves back in the normal battle. That moment, that instant, they still weren't sure if it had even been real. They needed to watch it a few more times.

In comparison, the live audience was better off.

The screens suspended at the center of the stadium were large enough to replay that moment over and over... but in truth, they didn't replay it for too long. After all, this was Blue Rain's home stadium, and that wasn't a thrilling moment that belonged to Blue Rain.

But just once was enough to render the entire audience speechless.

Xiaochuan Stadium, at this moment, was dead silent. This was a moment that belonged to Happy, but even Happy's diehard fans sitting on the west side were so shocked that they forgot to cheer.

Beyond all belief.

That was perhaps the only way to describe that scene. Pan Lin and Li Yibo, in the broadcast, were reciting those words as well.

But on the battlefield, a Chaotic Rain silently fell at this moment. The initiative that Ye Xiu had gained with his unbelievable controls was immediately broken by this silent Chaotic Rain.

"No matter how exciting, he just dodged one attack." In Blue Rain's channel, Captain Yu Wenzhou spoke calmly.

Huang Shaotian's calm was to help him clearly and accurately seize killing opportunities. But in Blue Rain, the one who was truly as calm as an unmelting glacier of a thousand years was still their captain.

### **Chapter 1469: This Is The Strategy**

Seeing Yu Wenzhou send this message in the chat, Xiaochuan Stadium was suddenly filled with thunderous applause.

When Huang Shaotian's valiant Formless Phantom Blade was broken by the opponent like that, never mind the players on the field, even the watching audience couldn't help but feel unsettled.

But now, one sentence from their captain was enough to reassure everyone.

That was right!

It was nothing more than dodging one attack. No matter how clever the method was, the final result wasn't anything special. It was simply a dodge.

It was like kicking a goal in soccer. There would always be those super-difficult, inimitable shots, but with regards to the match itself, no matter how exciting, it was only one goal and one point, nothing more.

Don't pay it too much mind. Keep your spirits up.

Even the Blue Rain fans watching from off the field understood the meaning of their captain's words.

The Chaotic Rain splashed upon the ground, and even Ye Xiu couldn't continue to control his character under the Confused state. He could only try to get out of the skill's range as early as he could.

"Sorry," Su Mucheng said in Happy's chat.

Swoksaar didn't have any close-range opponents covering him, and she was the only one who could have used an attack to disrupt him. But she hadn't noticed the casting of this Chaotic Rain. From a certain angle, it could be called her mistake.

"Don't worry," Ye Xiu replied.

He didn't have any intent of blaming anyone. The Launcher had the longest attack range of any class, and often had the ability to target any opponent during a battle. But did that mean that every attack interrupt would be left to the responsibility of the Launcher? Of course not.

Even a Warlock, a character that was important to target and interrupt, could not always be interrupted in this kind of chaotic battle.

"Leave him to me!" Fang Rui shouted in the chat.

Blue Rain was avoiding the location occupied by Fang Rui, and by this time, they had spread outside of the gale area, trying to go as far away as possible. Fang Rui felt a bit sad leaving behind his advantage, but right now Boundless Sea didn't serve any purpose by staying in the wind area, so he also controlled Boundless Sea to travel with the wind and flew like a shooting star toward Swoksaar.

"Huh, how come you're not crawling anymore?" At this moment, a message from Steamed Bun suddenly appeared in the match chat.

What?

Blue Rain's players all had a double-take. What was that supposed to mean?

And then, very soon, they saw Fang Rui reply, "Crawl your face!"

Fuck!

Everyone was shocked. Steamed Bun's mockery didn't discriminate between friend and foe? He would mock even his own teammate?

But while Happy's two players bickered, their characters on the battlefield were cooperating. Steamed Bun Invasion, currently fighting Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud, suddenly turned and tried to leave. Lu Hanwen, of course, wouldn't let him go easily, but Lord Grim, who had managed to escape from the Chaotic Rain, was just passing by. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella waved, and with a clang, it parried Flowing Cloud's attack.

Guard!

Lord Grim used the Blade Master skill Guard. Flowing Cloud's Silver weapon Flame Shadow was extremely heavy, so his attacks had much knockback. After Lord Grim blocked, the force of the attack sent him crashing in the direction of Steamed Bun Invasion.

"What a mistake!" Pan Lin shouted, as the two characters slammed into each other.

Players on the same team couldn't harm each other, but because Lord Grim was sent flying by the force of Flowing Cloud's attack, this crash was considered an attack. It wouldn't have been a big deal if the opponent had purposely used knock back to blow the opponent away, but this was Ye Xiu controlling Lord Grim to voluntarily help cover Steamed Bun Invasion. Flowing Cloud had hit two birds with one stone, which was truly somewhat embarrassing.

"No, wait!" But at this moment, Li Yibo suddenly shouted.

After being hit, Steamed Bun Invasion staggered, but because of it, his charge suddenly accelerated. He and Fang Rui's Boundless Sea were trying to use a pincer strike against Swoksaar, but because their plan was obvious, Blue Rain was already on the defensive. Yu Wenzhou was paying attention to the movement speeds of the two characters, and Zheng Xuan's Bullet Rain was already opening fire to block Steamed Bun Invasion.

Zheng Xuan chose to block Steamed Bun because he saw that Boundless Sea was still in the wind zone, and attacks in that direction would be affected. Originally, it had all been calculated very clearly, including Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud catching up from behind to coordinate and close in. but in the end, because Ye Xiu's Lord Grim passed by, it was all blown to pieces.

Steamed Bun Invasion, with a sudden burst of speed, broke through Bullet Rain's cover. Yu Wenzhou, who had been controlling Swoksaar to change positions, was clearly unprepared for this abrupt change.

"Prepare your face!" Steamed Bun once again gave a shout before attacking. Steamed Bun Invasion arrived in front of Swoksaar and threw a Sand Toss his way.

What Yu Wenzhou feared the most was such moments of unpreparedness.

His awareness, reaction, judgment, they were all sufficient to respond to whatever happened. But always, in the last moment, when it was time to turn his awareness and reaction into controls, he was too slow.

Yu Wenzhou had long since grown accustomed to this awkwardness. He was unperturbed, and already began calculating for what would happen after he was hit.

But this time...

A gold-colored shield of light suddenly surrounded Swoksaar. Steamed Bun Invasion's Sand Toss, after hitting this shield, was swallowed into nothing. Swoksaar didn't take any damage, nor did he lose his sight.

Holy Shield Technique!

The Paladin skill.

When Yu Wenzhou was faced with a situation he couldn't handle, his teammates knew as well. Xu Jingxi didn't begrudge using his skill, and Soul Speaker cast Holy Shield Technique to protect Swoksaar within.

Unlike the Qi Master's Qi Guard, which didn't move once cast, Holy Shield Technique was a protection centered around a character and would move with the character's movements.

Yu Wenzhou was already in the process of dodging in the aftermath of the attack, but with this Holy Shield Technique, his controls went more smoothly.

Yu Wenzhou didn't slow down as a result of this. The Holy Shield Technique was equivalent to giving a character some extra health; it couldn't completely block all of the opponent's skills. For example, some of the Grappler's grab attacks would throw the character along with the Holy Shield Technique; it wasn't like the golden shield would prevent the grab.

So Swoksaar still had to dodge. Yu Wenzhou couldn't let his character be controlled by the opponent.

As for where he would go, Yu Wenzhou had already calculated. There was no safe zone in a battle, of course, so he wanted to go in a direction where it was convenient for Blue Rain's players and characters to support him. As for where Steamed Bun might intercept him, he swiftly calculated those as well.

Here!

Yu Wenzhou chose a direction that was inconvenient for Steamed Bun and was good for cooperation with the Blue Rain players. But Steamed Bun's view didn't even glance his way – he just continued charging straight forward.

What was he doing now?

Yu Wenzhou didn't understand Steamed Bun's plot, but it also didn't interfere with his own escape, so even though he didn't understand, it was better for him to first just get as far away as he could. Swoksaar dodged to the side, and Steamed Bun Invasion really didn't attack him at all, he just passed right by Swoksaar just like that.

Yu Wenzhou's heart jumped as he suddenly realized something. Alarmed, Swoksaar turned around, pulling his camera view, and as expected...

Steamed Bun Invasion was charging straight. Over there, Fang Rui's Boundless Sea had adjusted his movement direction. The true target of these two's pincer attack wasn't Swoksaar, but Soul Speaker, Blue Rain's healer!

The audience members with the omniscient view didn't react much faster than Yu Wenzhou. It wasn't until the thing actually happened that there were shouts of surprise.

Li Yibo's brain just wasn't enough.

He had started as a pro player, playing in countless real battles. Later, he became a professional commentator, watching countless battles.

But in Li Yibo's memory, there had never before been a match where the rhythm was this fast. How long had this battle lasted so far? It had barely been a few minutes, right? But everything was happening so suddenly. It was like being on a speeding train.

For any match, whether the home or the away team, there would always be a general overall strategy they followed. But in this match? Up to now, Li Yibo had yet to figure out what the main goal of either team was.

This match felt like two enemies meeting randomly in the Heavenly Domain, neither side having prepared beforehand, and then breaking out into a fight. All of the responses followed from the immediate, real-time changes. All strategic thoughts were formed spontaneously on the field.

What was going on?

Li Yibo was truly lost, completely lost. In this match, maybe the yelling in the chat was a bit unprofessional, okay, but right now, had the two sides prepared strategy beforehand? What were the methods they'd prepared to win this match?

Especially Team Blue Rain. This is your home match, your map. Did you not think beforehand how you were going to use it?

"The offense and defense is so fast that Blue Rain has no way of using their home field advantage!" At this moment, Pan Lin suddenly exclaimed this sentence, and Li Yibo felt as though he suddenly saw the light.

"What did you say?" Li Yibo cried out.

"Ah?" Pan Lin, alarmed, thought that he had said something wrong.

"The fast offense and defense prevents Blue Rain from using their home field advantage..." Li Yibo repeated the sentence to himself.

"Ah... so far, aside from predicting Happy's path at the very beginning, and then attacking Happy from the advantageous position in the center wind zone, Blue Rain hasn't really used the map!" Pan Lin said.

"You're right!" Li Yibo nodded his head sharply. He figured it out.

The two sides didn't have any strategy?

How was that possible! This was a playoffs match. If time permitted, no amount of preparation was too much. Who would slack off?

Blue Rain had used the map from the start, attacking downwind and instantly scattering Happy's formation. Their opening was successful.

Then what about Happy?

Happy's strategy, Happy's battle plan for this match, was what everyone saw now!

Play fast, play chaotically! Using a fast and changing rhythm, keep Blue Rain's hands and feet tied, make it so that they had no way of using wind zones on this map as they had practiced.

Both sides looked like they were lacking in preparation, turning this into a mess.

In reality, Blue Rain had prepared, but they had no chance to display it. Happy? The situation right now was what they had prepared for. Their goal was to chase victory in the midst of chaos.

### **Chapter 1470: Wild Happy**

After looking over the clues and reviewing the contents of the previous rounds in this match, Li Yibo was even more confident in his views. When the two sides first clashed, it had been extremely unfavorable for Happy. At that time, they could have evaded Blue Rain's downwind assault, but Happy stubbornly chose to stay and face them.

Li Yibo wanted to say he didn't understand their choice, but didn't have time to because the pace of the match had been too fast, especially with one side getting a speed boost from the strong winds.

But then, the situation had unwittingly unfolded into the present state. Along the way, there were simply too many details worth talking about.

"To think Happy would actually use such a strategy... uh... speaking of which, does this count as a strategy?" Pan Lin said after listening to Li Yibo's analysis.

Li Yibo forced a smile. A strategy usually entailed structure, but Happy's strategy changed depending on the situation. It was completely chaotic. It couldn't really be considered as a strategy. But the important part was that Happy succeeded at least for now. Blue Rain wasn't able to display their home game advantage.

"If they win like this..." Pan Lin didn't know what to say.

If just randomly fighting could win, then the win wouldn't just be over Team Blue Rain. It could be considered a slap to the term pro-level playing. Were strategy and tactics actually meaningless in a competition?

"Haha, this isn't something that can be accomplished just by playing around randomly," Li Yibo laughed.

"Oh?"

"Think about Team Happy's background," Li Yibo said.

The current Happy was no longer an unremarkable grassroots Internet cafe team. They were a top eight team that had made it into the playoffs.

There were no weak teams in the playoffs. Because anyone that could stand here had experienced the test of an entire season. Perhaps winning the Challenger League could be done by a fluke of luck because that was an elimination tournament format. But there was no luck in the regular season. It was 38 rounds of back and forth. How could it be so convenient as to always be lucky?



In a competition of skill, the skilled teams would receive attention, especially for a team like Happy, where there was always something to talk about. As a result, the media had pretty much dug up all there was to know about the members of Team Happy.

“Team Happy’s background?” Pan Lin stared blankly. He had always followed Team Happy closely. With Li Yibo’s reminder, he immediately thought of all the details of Happy’s team roster.

Compared to the teams that went through the Alliance’s investigation to make it into the league, Team Happy didn’t suddenly become known in a single day. Their team had history which could be traced back all the way to the opening of the tenth server.

Yes, the opening of the tenth server.

Too many people remembers how in the first day of the tenth server, the name Lord Grim kept popping up in the world chat, which could be checked. Many of the First Kill records in the tenth server’s Beginner Village were held by Lord Grim.

The opening of the tenth server was the day of Ye Xiu’s retirement.

The story could be easily pieced together. Many tenth server players could describe the terrifying dungeon record wars that followed. And in this war, the name Lord Grim could not be missed. He held countless spots on the leaderboards, a member of one guild one day and then a different guild the next day.

Whether it was Tyrannical Ambition or Blue Brook Guild, there were traces of Lord Grim. The members of these guilds had leaked out that at that time, Lord Grim had already been holding that crazy transforming Myriad Manifestations Umbrella. They also stated with certainty that Ye Xiu had two partners by his side, Soft Mist and Steamed Bun Invasion.

Later, Concealed Light and One Inch Ash joined...

Pro characters were stored in Glory’s in-game servers too. Happy’s characters could be searched and verified as created in the tenth server.

Team Happy was a new team from head to toe. Almost all of their members had come from the tenth server.

And how had they grown throughout this journey?

Pan Lin knew. Li Yibo had wanted him to think of this point.

Happy’s players had grown together through chaotic fights. From a trusted information source, in the tenth server, Lord Grim had become a public enemy of all the top guilds. These top guilds weren’t just random player guilds, but Club guilds, guilds with a powerful background.

Because Ye Xiu’s investment into the tenth server had disrupted the balance between the guilds. When he reached Level 50 and entered the Heavenly Domain, the top guilds had allied together and went on a hunt for him. According to another trusted information source, Deception had appeared besides Lord Grim at that point.

Happy left behind a very clear trail in history. And this trail was made up entirely of the blood and tears of the big guilds.

And Happy's players had trained and grown in these sorts of fights. 5v5 team battle? Too small scale! In the game, five players was just half a team. A team was ten players, and a group consisted of ten teams, a hundred players!

Even if the skill levels of those 100 players couldn't compare to a pro-level, it was obvious which one would be more chaotic, no?

Making the fight chaotic wasn't because Happy had no idea what to do against Blue Rain in the home game, rather it was because it was their best way of facing Blue Rain and the playstyle they were most adept at.

How long had it been since pro players had experienced chaotic fights like those in the game? They were used to logical and structured 5v5 fights. Such wild chaos hadn't been seen in so long. Perhaps even many of the players who came from the Club training camps didn't have these types of experiences.

If pro teams were thrown into the game, they could deal with any in-game matter without a problem. But the pros would be relying on their superior intuition and technique to bully in-game players. However, Blue Rain wasn't playing against normal players. Blue Rain was facing Team Happy, a playoffs team.

Happy had been a mess at the start, and now, Blue Rain was also in a mess.

But Happy was happy being in a mess. Amidst this chaos, there was rhythm and synergy. But Blue Rain was truly a mess. They couldn't find the appropriate rhythm, or perhaps, it could be said that they weren't able to establish one.

Boundless Sea and Steamed Bun Invasion had feigned a pincer attack on Swoksaar, but then suddenly turned to pincer attack Soul Speaker instead. Team Blue Rain was in disorder. Swoksaar turned to cast a curse, but this time, Su Mucheng locked onto him. She fired a shot at him, forcing Yu Wenzhou to avoid it.

Details such as Ye Xiu using Guard to crash into Steamed Bun Invasion and helping him accelerate were lost by the viewers. The match was developing simply too fast. Right now, Ye Xiu was violently attacking Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud, pushing him back. On the other end, Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain wanted to get past him, but his attempt didn't escape Ye Xiu's notice. Lord Grim suddenly swept across the field with a Shining Arc, cutting Troubling Rain off. After two quick swipes, Huang Shaotian had no choice but to have Troubling Rain retreat.

Paladins wore plate armor. Although their defense was much higher than Clerics, their movements were much slower. Boundless Sea and Steamed Bun Invasion made his way to him practically unimpeded.

Xu Jingxi saw them clearly. He obviously had no intentions of being a sitting duck. Soul Speaker readied a Halo Smash. Whoever first reached him would receive a hit back, creating an opening for him.

Which one?

Xu Jingxi's Soul Speaker retreated two steps, so he could see the attacks from his left and right more clearly.

They're here!

On his left side, Boundless Sea raised his two hands, letting out a blast of qi. Xu Jingxi immediately acted and readied a Halo Smash, but...

Cloud Grasping Fist!

Boundless Sea had unexpectedly used a Cloud Grasping Fist.

This skill grabbed the target. It dealt no damage, so it wasn't something Halo Smash could reflect back. Xu Jingxi was depressed! He didn't know if he should blame luck or if it was because Fang Rui had seen through him. Then, what about Steamed Bun Invasion?

As he moved to make it more difficult for Boundless Sea to grab him, Xu Jingxi looked towards Steamed Bun Invasion and saw something coming towards him. He immediately tilted his head.

Hu!

A Brick whistled by. There wasn't enough time to activate Halo Smash!

"To think you dodged it," Steamed Bun was surprised, "Blue Rain's players really are amazing!"

Steamed Bun finally said a few kind words to Blue Rain, but Blue Rain's players nor fans could feel excited about these words in any way. From what he was saying, dodging his Brick was an incredible feat.

Blue Rain's two Blade Masters were blocked by Ye Xiu. Yu Wenzhou was busy dealing with Su Mucheng and didn't have time to help. Only Zheng Xuan was left.

The spiritless Zheng Xuan didn't dare be negligent. His Bullet Rain rushed towards Soul Speaker, with his sights locked onto Steamed Bun Invasion and Boundless Sea. Then, Zheng Xuan personally witnessed a kidnapping take place.

Could this even be called a fight?

Zheng Xuan felt his mind go hazy. Steamed Bun Invasion and Boundless Sea, two Fighter classes were surrounding their healer, punching and kicking him! You would expect a few skills to be used, no? But the two enemies were just swinging their arms and legs. You couldn't even tell whose arm or leg it was! And as Soul Speaker was beaten up, it looked like he was being forcefully dragged towards an area.

An area?

The wind zone!

Those two guys wanted to kidnap Soul Speaker and bring him into the wind zone! If that happened, Blue Rain would have trouble taking advantage of the terrain to rescue him.

How stressful!

Zheng Xuan had become the team's only hope, and he couldn't help but mutter his catchphrase. Then, he charged forward resolutely.

"Let go of our healer!" To motivate himself, Zheng Xuan gave a shout in the chat.

"Someone's here! What do we do!" Steamed Bun said. From the way he phrased it, it really did sound like they had been caught in the middle of a kidnapping.

"Pretend we didn't see him," Fang Rui said.

"How smart!" Steamed Bun said.

Zheng Xuan was infuriated. Did he really pose no threat to them?