

Avatar 1581

Chapter 1581: Three Minute Coincidence

It was as if a tempest had suddenly burst onto the scene, a match between Ye Xiu and Zhou Zekai.

The former versus current number one would be a sensational confrontation. But at first, even the news reporters didn't have high hopes for it happening.

Ye Xiu playing first was a given at this point. On the other hand, Samsara had always acted according to convention, placing their ace player at the third or fourth position. The likelihood of these two encountering each other in the group arena was miniscule. Even if Samsara wanted to break Ye Xiu's legendary win streak, their team had another reliable 1v1 expert: Sun Xiang. Placing Sun Xiang first and then having Zhou Zekai guard the third or fourth position seemed to be a more likely lineup for Samsara.

Sun Xiang and Ye Xiu had a lot of history between them as well, but their confrontation had already peaked at the Challenger League finals last season. Ye Xiu had left Excellent Era and then led Happy to eliminate Excellent Era. It was a fierce slap in the face to Excellent Era and his successor, Sun Xiang.

The story had ended, and the media had been satisfied with the conclusion. Bringing it up again wouldn't bring anything new to the table. But seeing that it was unlikely for a confrontation between the current and former number one player, it seemed like they would have to settle for the next best thing. They could talk about Sun Xiang's growth in Samsara, whether he had walked out from the shadows of his past failures, and so on.

As it turned out, there was no need for any of that, and the media wasn't at all sorry.

Compared to a match between the former and current number one player, who cared about a revenge story for Sun Xiang!

The reporters were ecstatic.

Everyone was excited.

Even the people who felt like Samsara's arrangements might not be the most optimal move were hyped for the match.

Ye Xiu had once been the dominant number one player in Glory, but after his retirement, Zhou Zekai had taken that title for himself. Between the two, who was truly number one? The outcome of a 1v1 between the two players would be the most persuasive support for one side, even if making a conclusion from a single match was rather negligent...

Why hasn't it started yet?

Both players had entered their respective player booths, but it wasn't yet time for the scheduled match to start. Their thoughts showed how hyped they were for this match.

"To think they would send Zhou Zekai to start!!" The pro players were discussing this topic amongst each other as well. They were very curious too.

But today's referee wouldn't be swayed by the hype. He knew that everyone was waiting impatiently to see the fight, but he still followed the schedule strictly, waiting until it was 8 o'clock sharp.

Begin!

All sorts of sound effects and lights came on to hype up the audience.

Was there really a need?

Not really. The finals was hype in and of itself. Lights, sound effects? At this moment, they couldn't hold a candle to thunderous cheers and applause from the crowd.

The characters were loading.

The map was loading.

As for the viewers watching in front of their TV and their computers? They were listening to Pan Lin and Li Yibo talking rapid-fire. There were too many things to talk about, and the two were scrambling excitedly to get their thoughts out. To listeners, it was almost like a bombardment of words.

"Map, Dripstone Cave."

Although the two commentators were fighting to speak, the content of their commentary was on point. The things that they needed to talk about were talked about. The map had finished loading. For this match, Samsara had chosen Dripstone Cave.

"Oh... this map..."

"The stalagmites and stalactites in the cave aren't actually packed together as tightly as a forest, so even Gunners have a good amount of room to maneuver around in." Li Yibo wasn't sure how to describe it, so Pan Lin immediately picked up on the explanation.

"Good doesn't do it justice. The way the stalactites are arranged make it extremely suitable for Gunners. Large open areas aren't necessarily the best for long-ranged classes like Gunners. Terrain that provides cover for them is very advantageous for them too," Li Yibo added, all in one breath.

"For Samsara, who has Zhou Zekai, this map seems to be quite favorable for them," Pan Lin followed.

"Although Ye Xiu's unspecialized can play up close or from afar, the unspecialized is far more threatening up close. As a result, this map isn't as favorable for his unspecialized compared to Zhou Zekai's Sharpshooter," Li Yibo said.

"By choosing this map, Samsara takes the upper hand first," Pan Lin said.

The map was still loading, and the two had already gone back and forth and said so much.

"Okay, it's done loading. The match has officially begun." This sort of announcement was oftentimes Pan Lin's responsibility, so he had more experience timing it. Li Yibo was just about to say it, but in the end, he still fell behind.

Dripstone Cave took place in an enclosed circular cave. Mineral formations were scattered all throughout the area. These were the one special feature of this map.

As Li Yibo had analyzed, the dripstones – the stalagmites and stalactites – weren't densely packed together. For a practiced Sharpshooter, there was a lot of space to maneuver around in. It could be considered a very technical map.

Zhou Zekai was considered the number one player in Glory at the moment. His mastery over his class didn't need to be said. In addition, Samsara had chosen this map, so there was no doubt about his familiarity with the terrain.

Cloud Piercer walked lightly and quickly. The broadcast switched it over to his perspective to let everyone see how he moved.

As for Ye Xiu? He didn't move as freely or confidently as Zhou Zekai. Starting from his very first step, Lord Grim moved around very cautiously. He would constantly be looking around, taking careful note of where he had already gone. He clearly wasn't as familiar with this map as Zhou Zekai. Under these circumstances, choosing to move in a roundabout manner was standard, and Ye Xiu was no exception. The only notable part was that the detour that he took was very large. It didn't look like he was planning on circling around to get behind his opponent but rather to get as far as away as possible from him.

A minute passed. If the two sides had chosen to go straight towards the center, sparks would already be flying. But right now? A minute had passed, and the fight that everyone had been waiting for was nowhere to be seen. It was all because Ye Xiu's detour was too excessive.

"He probably wants to explore the map first..." Pan Lin said as he watched Ye Xiu's Lord Grim hug the wall and go around in a big circle.

"Ye Xiu might not be familiar with this particular map, but he should have experience with this sort of terrain! He shouldn't need this much time to get used to it. It seems like he's being very prudent with this match," Li Yibo said.

"Of course he needs to be prudent, his opponent is Zhou Zekai!" Pan Lin said.

Zhou Zekai!

Zhou Zekai!

A burst of thunderous cheers erupted from the crowd. Even though nothing had happened for a minute, the passion from Zhou Zekai's fans hadn't diminished. The fight between the former and current number one? They didn't care about it. In their eyes, Zhou Zekai was without a doubt the best. Their excitement for this fight was because they were waiting for Zhou Zekai to win and settle this debate once and for all.

A minute had passed, the hype was still there.

A minute and a half...

Two minutes...

Three minutes...

The hype was still there because the two still hadn't started fighting yet. As for Pan Lin and Li Yibo, they were starting to run out of things to say.

The map wasn't large, so if two had just been randomly wandering around, they would have likely bumped into each other during these three minutes. However, the two seemed to move along parallel lines. Even now, they had yet to meet.

Was he deliberately trying to avoid fighting?

It was hard to tell!

Besides the big detour that Ye Xiu had Lord Grim take in the beginning, he seemed to be actively looking for Zhou Zekai, but the two never seemed to be able to find each other.

Was it all just a coincidence?

Everyone was speechless. The referee wasn't sure either. He didn't see any illegal conduct. An intervention under these circumstances would require a lot of courage. Moreover, this was the finals. His interference could affect who the final champions would be.

He didn't want to make an intervention. He felt like if neither of them were deliberately trying to avoid the other, the two should soon meet, but this had already lasted for three minutes.

Three minutes wasn't that long, but on the Glory competitive stage, three minutes of nothing was enough to extinguish a lot of enthusiasm from the crowd. The excitement for this fight was crumbling by the second. The Zhou Zekai fans had stopped cheering at this point, instead choosing to mock and deride Ye Xiu. In their eyes, Zhou Zekai was not at fault. On the other hand, Ye Xiu's detour at the beginning looked to be the reason. Former versus current number one? What a joke. Anyone who had been hyped for that was truly blind.

"Too naive." The pro players heard the derision from the crowd and disagreed with it, especially the older pros.

How could Ye Xiu be avoiding the opponent? Especially on the competitive stage, avoiding the opponent wouldn't result in anything. Did you think this was the online game? You couldn't avoid a fight forever.

Victory would be decided one way or the other. The two would have to fight. It was just that three minutes of nothing was indeed quite strange.

"Do you think it's a coincidence?" Everyone was asking each other. They were wondering if it was all just a coincidence.

The majority of the answers was "No".

"Look at it from a bird's eye view and pay attention to Ye Xiu's positioning," Zhang Xinjie said.

The projection technology didn't show the match from this view, but the large screen in the stadium displayed it. Apart from the projection technology, the crowd also had a large screen displaying a live broadcast. Besides an exciting live atmosphere, the stadium provided an additional viewing experience that those sitting in front of their computers or TV couldn't get.

A bird's eye view had always been an advantage that the live audience had over the viewers watching from home.

And this bird's eye view revealed the secret behind these three minutes of nothing.

Chapter 1582: Web

Positioning.

Zhang Xinjie reminded everyone, and so everyone took a look at Lord Grim's position.

Because the map cave was an enclosed space, the bird's eye view showed two layers. The cave ceiling was depicted as a translucent layer that overlapped with the ground underneath. For normal viewers, it was easy to get confused, but the pro players had no trouble distinguishing between the two layers. After finding Lord Grim's position through the bird's eye view of the map, everyone quickly realized what they should be paying attention to.

The dripstone surrounding Lord Grim.

The pro players quickly understood the reason why Ye Xiu and Zhou Zekai had yet to encounter each other.

Luck was a part of it, but the foundation for this luck was purposefully constructed by Ye Xiu. Lord Grim had been taking advantage of the surrounding dripstone to hide himself. It wasn't as simple as just hiding behind a piece of dripstone. He was carefully keeping track of what sort of cover the surrounding dripstone could provide him. As a result, the surrounding ten units of dripstone formed a sort of net that blocked the enemy's vision. Lord Grim would always move towards the area in the net that provided him the most cover.

Under this protection, if Zhou Zekai wanted to find Lord Grim, his Cloud Piercer would need to fortuitously be in a few specific positions. However, what was more depressing for the viewers was that Ye Xiu clearly knew where these positions were, so he would constantly be adjusting his positioning.

After recognizing this point, Zhang Xinjie turned to look towards his teammate, Qin Muyun.

Qin Muyun understood his vice-captain's intent and slowly shook his head: "I wouldn't be able to do it."

Qin Muyun was a player with exceptional talent as positioning, but he didn't hesitate to reach this conclusion. He wasn't able to move around like Ye Xiu could in this map.

"This sort of positioning requires a lot of experience to do," Han Wenqing explained why Qin Muyun wasn't able to do it.

"What about you, captain?" Song Qiying asked.

Han Wenqing stared blankly for a moment before shaking his head helplessly: "I wouldn't be able to do it as meticulously as him."

Experience. Han Wenqing didn't lack experience. Positioning was a fundamental part of Glory, and after so many years of playing Glory, his fundamentals couldn't be lacking either. Experience alone wasn't enough to do what Ye Xiu was doing though. Ye Xiu's positioning required careful calculations, and that wasn't Han Wenqing's strong point.

“What about you, Wang Jiexi?” Zhang Xinjie asked the person next to him.

“Hard to say,” Wang Jiexi shook his head. He understood how Ye Xiu was positioning himself, but unless he was there himself, he couldn’t be certain.

“There’s no bird’s eye view while playing,” Wang Jiexi pointed out where the difficulty lay. This made many of the players, who thought that they could do it too, wake up from their glee.

“But so what if he can do it?” No one knew who asked the question, but there was no lack of spite in it. This person was right, though. So far, it hadn’t seemed to amount to anything.

What was Ye Xiu planning?

They began trying to figure out Ye Xiu’s intentions. However, they weren’t the first to figure it out because they didn’t know what the two teams had planned out before the match.

On the sidelines, Samsara’s Jiang Botao noticed Ye Xiu’s actions and quickly realized his goals.

Finish him off in a burst of energy!

Samsara’s Zhou Zekai had come onto the stage with this goal in mind. Samsara wanted to try overwhelm Happy mentally.

But Ye Xiu used this sort of evasive positioning to destroy their plans.

Three minutes. The two sides hadn’t even crossed blows yet, but even if Zhou Zekai won in the end, the momentum that Samsara had wanted to ride all the way through the group arena had already been put to a stop.

Only the two opposing teams could understand the subtlety in Ye Xiu’s actions. The current Happy looked calm and relaxed. As for Samsara? It was as if a knife had stabbed through their hearts, their spirits dampened.

“As expected of Ye Xiu.” Jiang Botao had no choice but to accept the outcome. They had sent Zhou Zekai out first to put mental pressure onto Happy, but Ye Xiu had already dispelled it. Next, they would just have to wait and see how the battle would turn out.

Lord Grim continued to wander around, using the same positioning tactics. During these three minutes of avoiding, Ye Xiu became more and more familiar with the map, and Lord Grim began to move a lot faster. But for a moment, it didn’t seem like he would be encountering Cloud Piercer any time soon.

Just when everyone was wondering how long this grind would last, they suddenly heard a gunshot.

Without any warning, Lord Grim raised his umbrella and fired a shot into the air.

The sound of the gunshot echoed through the cave. Zhou Zekai clearly heard it. Cloud Piercer stopped, turned around, and then headed towards the direction of the sound.

How precise!

The crowd cheered. The gunshot had broken through the previous silence, invigorating everyone’s spirits again.

Cloud Piercer was already moving toward the direction of the gunshot.

Lord Grim didn't move though. He simply stood there, looking around.

Most people just thought that Ye Xiu was taking the initiative to lure Zhou Zekai here. Right now, he was looking around to find his target.

They weren't wrong. Ye Xiu was indeed doing this, but there was an even deeper level.

With how Ye Xiu positioned himself, he knew exactly which spots Cloud Piercer could come from. As a result, when he looked around, he was only paying attention to these few spots. He was ready to attack the moment Cloud Piercer appeared.

Some of these spots were farther than others. The farthest one could be considered mid-range. Ye Xiu hadn't fired the gunshot at any random moment. He had specifically picked this location. At this position, when he and Zhou Zekai finally found each other, the two would be at a relatively close distance, which was more advantageous for his unspecialized.

These three minutes of avoiding Zhou Zekai hadn't just been to get rid of the psychological pressure from Samsara, but also to pull the snake from its hole and seize the initiative.

Cloud Piercer appeared!

Of the several possible spots, Cloud Piercer rushed out from one that was neither the farthest nor the closest.

Bang bang!

Two gunshots. Ye Xiu had carefully thought up plans for each of the several spots. As soon as he saw Cloud Piercer, he immediately attacked. After firing twice, Lord Grim rushed out. But suddenly, the glimpse of the gray windbreaker that he had seen disappeared from his sight....

Zhou Zekai had seen Lord Grim, but he didn't immediately attack. Cloud Piercer seemed to be in a hurry, quickly dashing past that spot. He had only appeared for an instant before disappearing.

Ye Xiu had tried to seize the initiative, but Cloud Piercer was unexpectedly already gone.

Chapter 1583: Fake Shield

The average viewer wasn't able to catch this subtlety. From what they saw, the two had finally come across each other. Ye Xiu made the first move, while Zhou Zekai nimbly evaded it.

On the other hand, the pro players also knew that Ye Xiu had tried to create an opportunity through careful positioning. However, the only ones who truly understood the subtleties within this interaction were Ye Xiu and Zhou Zekai.

Two shots!

The moment they saw each other, Ye Xiu fired two shots at him before he could even react.

Zhou Zekai didn't only possess outstanding mechanic prowess. He wouldn't become arrogant because people were calling him the number one player in Glory, but he wouldn't be too modest, either. Modesty and arrogance could both lead to errors in judgement.

Zhou Zekai was confident in himself and could notice the discrepancies in a situation.

His opponent had fired two shots before he could react!

This wasn't a coincidence.

This was the conclusion that Zhou Zekai reached. He didn't have a bird's eye view like the pro players spectating the match, so he didn't know about Lord Grim's tactical positioning. However, he was able to use his own way to determine that "Ye Xiu had the initiative."

As a result, Cloud Piercer didn't stop to counterattack. Without even the slightest bit of hesitation, he dashed right by.

As for Ye Xiu, after firing two shots, he immediately lost his target.

What a guy!

Ye Xiu internally praised him.

Through that single exchange, Zhou Zekai was able to get a clear grasp on the situation. The title of Glory's number one player wasn't purely subjective. Zhou Zekai's mechanical prowess, intuition, awareness, and mentality were outstanding even within the pro scene. Ye Xiu understood this point clearly.

Because it wasn't as if he was unfamiliar with Zhou Zekai. Starting from Season 5, apart from his year of retirement in Season 9, the two had fought countless times on stage. He understood Zhou Zekai's capabilities and how hard he was to deal with.

Relying on a single carefully thought out positioning to seize the initiative and win the match? The thought hadn't crossed Ye Xiu's mind. However, he was still caught off guard by the outcome. He hadn't thought that the opportunity he had created would disappear so quickly. All of the plans that he had prepared instantly fell through.

But the experienced Ye Xiu couldn't be intimidated so easily.

Change directions!

Lord Grim had initially planned on rushing towards Cloud Piercer right after firing those two shots, but with his plans having gone awry, he turned around and quickly moved away to widen his vision. Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer immediately appeared in his sights from a different angle.

Bang bang bang bang!

Sparks flew.

Such dense gunfire couldn't be produced by Lord Grim's unspecialized. This sort of burst could have only been done by a Sharpshooter!

Wildfire in his right hand, Shattered Frost in his left.

The gray windbreaker on Cloud Piercer flapped as he moved.

Ye Xiu's movements had instead given Zhou Zekai the initiative. This scene was eerily similar to the previous scene where Cloud Piercer had stepped into Ye Xiu's trap.

Zhou Zekai didn't completely understand Ye Xiu's tactical positioning, though, so this wasn't returning a tooth for a tooth. These two top players were simply taking advantage of the terrain.

Ye Xiu had done it through careful observation and precise calculations.

As for Zhou Zekai? Samsara had chosen this map, so how could he not be familiar with it?

Gunfire roared.

Ye Xiu was at gunpoint. That was exactly the situation that Ye Xiu now faced.

Shua. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella opened. The bullets struck the canvas like a tempest, causing it to shake uncontrollably.

The gunfire was too fierce!

The stadium screen as well as the broadcast picked out data on the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella.

The durability.

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had a durability of 23. For a Shield, this was a very low number. Because of how Shields were used, its durability should be much higher than other weapons.

A durability of 23 was the durability of a normal weapon. The umbrella could transform into a Shield, but its durability didn't change.

How low of a durability was it for a Shield? Using a comparison was best.

Glory's lowest-level shield, a Level 5 Wooden Shield, had a durability of 20, which wasn't far from the Myriad Manifestation Umbrella's.

In the Heavenly Domain, many Knight players had the Level 70 Purple shield, "Drenched Thorn," which had a durability of 85.

And the strongest shield in Glory, the "Sighing Wall" owned by Tiny Herb's Knight Angelica, had a durability of 135.

A high-level shield with a durability of 23? There was no shield with a durability lower than that.

The stadium screen had displayed the umbrella's durability because Cloud Piercer's fierce assault was causing its durability to rapidly decrease.

22, 21...

The number was decreasing at a visible speed, showing just how powerful Cloud Piercer's offense was.

“Run!!” Chen Guo shouted anxiously from Happy’s bench. The durability on the umbrella wasn’t just for the shield form, but for the umbrella as a whole. If this continued, its durability would soon drop to 0, and when the durability of an equipment dropped to 0, it would be destroyed and become useless.

20, 19...

After just a few seconds, the durability on the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had dropped by 4. Facing Cloud Piercer’s burst, the shield appeared frail and weak.

But Lord Grim didn’t run.

During these few seconds, Ye Xiu’s Lord Grim continued to hold up his umbrella shield.

It wasn’t that he didn’t want to run, but that there was nowhere to run to!

By widening his vision, Ye Xiu wanted to seize the initiative again, but Zhou Zekai already knew where Lord Grim would likely appear from, and now, Zhou Zekai had the upper hand.

He was just one step faster.

Ye Xiu could only defend against the attacks. There was currently nowhere closeby for Lord Grim to take cover.

As a result, his only choice was to prop up his shield.

For the durability on his shield to be decreasing so rapidly, this sort of dense gunfire couldn’t be avoided through just movement.

There was nowhere to retreat, nowhere to hide, and his umbrella shield wouldn’t be able to last much longer.

Then, his only choice was to push forward and advance under this barrage of bullets!

Charge!

The shield form was considered a Priest weapon, thus, using a Knight’s Charge wasn’t a problem.

Amidst a hail of bullets, Lord Grim charged towards Cloud Piercer.

Zhou Zekai had Cloud Piercer move horizontally in an attempt to find an angle where he could directly shoot Lord Grim behind his umbrella shield.

As Cloud Piercer moved, his guns stayed steady.

In an instant, he had found the angle, and the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella hadn’t moved to adjust to his movements.

Fire!

Bullets flew behind the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella.

But there was no one there!

Chapter 1584: Gunshot

Using the Myriad Manifestation Umbrella's large canvas to hide Lord Grim's movements was a trick that Ye Xiu liked to use. There was no way Team Samsara wouldn't know about it.

Knowing about it and playing against it were two entirely different matters. When Lord Grim held up his umbrella in front of him and used Charge, Zhou Zekai had recognized this possibility. He had observed that Lord Grim should still be behind his umbrella. After all, his umbrella was mid-Charge!

Yes, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella was still mid-Charge!

But when Cloud Piercer moved horizontally so that he could attack Lord Grim unobstructed, Lord Grim was gone.

Zhou Zekai was confused for a moment, but he quickly figured out what had happened.

Spirit Guidance!

This was the Exorcist's Spirit Guidance. Ye Xiu used this skill and threw out his umbrella to make it seem like he had used Charge.

In theory, any Priest class could do this, but no one ever did because no one had a shield that completely covered them like the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella.

Even Zhou Zekai wasn't able to keep up with the endless skill combinations from the unspecialized. Figuring out that it was Spirit Guidance so quickly was already very impressive.

Lord Grim wasn't there. Where was he?

Cloud Piercer used Random Firing as he searched his surroundings. Bullets flew in all directions, creating a protective net around himself. Zhou Zekai had unexpectedly adopted a defensive stance.

However, he wasn't able to locate Lord Grim. He had searched everywhere around him, but no one was there.

How?

How did Lord Grim run so far away in such a short amount of time?

Shadow Clone Technique? Teleport?

There was no shadow clone left behind, but it wouldn't have been possible anyways. Because his Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had been thrown out with a Spirit Guidance, Lord Grim could only use Priest skills. Spirit Guidance wasn't discarding the weapon. The thrown weapon was still considered equipped even if it wasn't in the user's hands. Thus, Lord Grim was stuck as a Priest, and Priest classes didn't have instant movement skills.

There was only one possibility!

Cloud Piercer leapt to the side. While in the air, he turned around and fired two shots towards the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella. A change had already occurred over there. The moment Cloud Piercer

turned around to search his surroundings, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella retracted, and Lord Grim appeared. Then, he lifted his umbrella and sprinted towards Cloud Piercer.

Everyone except for Zhou Zekai saw this change.

Yes, it had indeed been Spirit Guidance. Zhou Zekai had guessed correctly. Lord Grim had feigned a Charge by using Spirit Guidance.

Priest classes didn't have instant movement skills. What Ye Xiu used wasn't a skill but simply basic movement. He used his stamina to sprint.

He hadn't moved far, maybe two or three steps. However, with these two three steps, he just happened to be outside of Cloud Piercer's vision. When Cloud Piercer moved to an angle behind the umbrella, Lord Grim had moved to an angle in front of the umbrella.

It looked like two kids playing a game, but even the normal players knew what terrifying skill was needed to pull it off.

The angle of the umbrella, the timing of the sprint, and the timing for stopping the Spirit Guidance. All of these details were crucial, and the slightest misstep meant failure. Connecting all these parts together was already very difficult, but Ye Xiu had done it all perfectly. It was through this perfect execution that he was able to catch Zhou Zekai off guard.

The moment Zhou Zekai realized what Ye Xiu had done, he had Cloud Piercer leap to the side to dodge. But it was too late. With a Shining Cut, Lord Grim instantly closed the distance, faster than Cloud Piercer could shoot.

Blood splattered into the air.

The Shining Arc cut Cloud Piercer. His guns were aimed in the wrong direction.

Bang bang bang bang!

Cloud Piercer's dual guns still went off. He wasn't able to stop himself from firing in time.

But he immediately responded to the current situation, Knee Strike!

Cloud Piercer sent a Knee Strike towards Lord Grim. This skill had a knockback effect, which would help pull apart the distance between them. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim dodged to the side. At the same time, his Myriad Manifestations Umbrella split into two swords, creating two intertwining arcs of light.

Cross Slash!

It was a low-level Assassin skill, which had different effects depending on the weapon. When two swords were used, the swords criss cross, cutting off the target's movement options.

However, when these intertwining arcs of light flashed out, an opening appeared.

Bang bang bang bang...

Gunfire continued to echo. And just like this, Cloud Piercer was able to make his way past Ye Xiu. After Cloud Piercer had been sliced by the Shining Cut, he was still able to pull away from Lord Grim.

Aimed in the wrong direction?

Unable to stop himself from firing?

Anyone who had these thoughts was gravely mistaken.

Zhou Zekai hadn't made a mistake. He had been aiming toward where the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had previously been. Miss?

His goal wasn't to attack. If his Random Firing from before had been him playing defensively, then his Cloud Piercer was currently playing the run-away game. He hadn't fired his dual guns to attack, but rather to use the recoil to help him move.

Zhou Zekai was using Aerial Fire!

People still didn't realize it even after Cloud Piercer pulled away from Lord Grim. They thought that Zhou Zekai had done something miraculous, when in reality, it was simply a result of his immediate response to not finding Lord Grim during his search.

Cloud Piercer had pulled away from Lord Grim, but it was no more than three body-lengths away. After Lord Grim's Cross Slash missed, he readjusted himself and attacked again with Teleporting Stab!

In Happy's match against Tyranny, Ye Xiu had chosen to put Flickering Stab on his Assassin weapon form, giving everyone a deep impression. This time, he used a similar skill to Flickering Stab: Teleporting Stab!

The distance was instantly closed!

But this move wasn't considered a teleport.

No matter how fast it was, Lord Grim still had to turn around and take a step. It was just that it was all done extremely fast.

But Zhou Zekai was faster!

Before the Flickering Stab could be completed, a pitch-black muzzle was already aimed towards Lord Grim's head.

The body of the gun was very long. It wasn't a revolver.

Sharpshooter Level 70 skill: Thunder Snipe.

He had actually used Thunder Snipe at such a close range!

The crowd was in chaos. The Zhou Zekai on stage and the Zhou Zekai off-stage were like two different people. Off-stage, he was silent and invisible. But on-stage, he was always so flashy.

Bang!

Chapter 1585: Despair and Hope

The open gunfire seemed to be right on Lord Grim's forehead. It was true that long-range attacks were at a disadvantage at close range, but at such close range, shots could be fired with extreme accuracy. Dodging would be impossible, something that no one could do.

Poof!

The bullet broke through the skull, and the sound of it entering the flesh was exceptionally clear. Lord Grim's head exploded with blood.

Just from the power and movement of this attack, those watching felt that it wouldn't be unfair if this one attack was able to directly kill him. But this was a game, after all, and everything had to follow the rules of the game. Lord Grim's head was still there even after being hit, but the sharp drop in his health was unavoidable. Cloud Piercer, as the Great Gunner, had an extremely high attack stat to begin with, and as a headshot, the damage was doubled. This one attack took one-third of Lord Grim's health, enough to hurt the heart. With the skills available to an unspecialized, who knew how many attacks would need to land in order to do that kind of damage to the opponent.

He can't go on?

At this moment, even Happy's most loyal of fans couldn't help but wonder. Even though the two hadn't exchanged blows for too long, even though Lord Grim's health was far from depleted, the might that Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer demonstrated onstage could generate this kind of despair.

A Thunder Snipe unleashed at close-range. Such an unthinkable thing spread despair offstage, and all those who stood opposed to Samsara felt it.

Not only did this one attack deal so much damage, the momentum carried by this powerful shot affected the character's balance. The head that remained amidst the blood jerked back, as though punched, and it carried the rest of the body with it.

But, he didn't fall!

Lord Grim's right foot stepped back, supporting the rest of this body.

Perhaps most people wouldn't have noticed this detail, but this was a powerful demonstration of Ye Xiu's skill. A snipe at this distance couldn't be avoided, but stepping back in time to support the rest of the body required reaction and response to the extreme. With this step, Lord Grim stabilized himself in the fastest way possible, and from here he could counterattack in the shortest time possible. After all, no matter how fierce or destructive, Thunder Snipe was only one attack. To switch the long gun for the revolver again, the character still needed to move, and this short span of time was a window for Ye Xiu to counterattack. Without this step backward, he would have no way of seizing this opportunity.

Amidst despair, hope arose. But only experts would be able to detect this kind of hope. Before this hope could spread to everyone, another wave of despair came crashing down.

Ka...

A light sound, clear, crisp, but uncommonly powerful.

Thunder Snipe... bullet reload?

No one dared believe their ears. Glory's Thunder Snipe only had one shot. Firing again required the skill to come off cooldown. But now, Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer, right after using one shot, was already reloading a second shot? Where did his skill cooldown go?

Skill cooldown?

As soon as they thought of this game terminology, a number of players reacted.

Dual Load!

This Sharpshooter skill could allow a skill that was currently in cooldown be ready for immediate use. Zhou Zekai must have used this skill. That was why, right after using a Thunder Snipe, it could be immediately be reloaded, because he used Dual Load to end the cooldown.

Bang!

The gun fired again...

It was over. It was really over.

If what happened before could only be called a subconscious feeling aroused in the heart, then this time, this second consecutive Thunder Snipe, dragged everyone down into despair for good.

The gun's muzzle spat out fire. No one could even see the bullet fly out, because it was too fast, too close. The bullet would hit, blood would spatter, wasn't that how it went?

Clang!

No blood. What came with the sound was a brilliant flash of sparks, sparks generated from the friction of a metal collision.

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella was lifted in front of Lord Grim's chest. The sword pulled from the center of the umbrella was still trembling after the sparks faded.

Sword form, Guard!

The stadium was in an uproar.

Those in front of their televisions were in an uproar.

He'd actually used the Blade Master's Guard, to block Cloud Piercer's Thunder Snipe? At this close range?

What kind of eyesight? What kind of control?

No one could answer this question. All that they knew was that the two people currently onstage were accomplishing the superhuman.

If Lord Grim's step back was a hope that not many detected, then this time, using a Guard to block a Thunder Snipe, was a clear scene that brought clear hope, hope that could burn away the despair that Zhou Zekai wrought.

It wasn't over!

It was far from over!

Only a bastard would think it was over!

Those that supported Happy and Ye Xiu almost wanted to cry. This feeling of surviving despair was too wonderful, this feeling of hope was too wonderful.

At this time, the amount of time these two had spent attacking each other could be counted in seconds. But the rise and fall in emotion that it gave the viewers was just this intense.

But even after successfully blocking the Thunder Snipe, Lord Grim's situation couldn't be called stable. The momentum from the first shot that had hit his head hadn't been completely dissipated, and although the Guard absorbed the attack's damage, it couldn't completely dispel the momentum from this powerful Level 70 attack.

Step back, step back nonstop.

Ye Xiu didn't use backward rolls, the simplest and most effective way of dispelling momentum. He chose to use this more complex method, whose rhythm was harder to grasp, because he didn't want Cloud Piercer to leave his sight. An opponent like Zhou Zekai, even the short moment in a roll when his eyes would leave him was enough of an opening for him to seize.

And while stepping back, Ye Xiu counterattacked.

Bang! Gunshot.

The blade used for the Guard was already slid back into the umbrella. Raised parallel to the ground, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella turned back into gun form, and fire spat out of the tip. This counterattack against the Great Gunner was also a Gunner shot, an accurate close-range shot, Stun Bullet!

But the distance between the two characters right now was still larger than it had been when Zhou Zekai had used his first Thunder Snipe.

Cloud Piercer was moving backward from the recoil, Lord Grim was moving backward from the impact of the attack. Even though Ye Xiu's shot was very fast, but distance still gave Zhou Zekai the space to react.

Twist the body, holster the gun!

This rifle that would not come off cooldown so quickly again was put away, and Cloud Piercer once again lifted his twin revolvers.

He twisted his body to avoid the Stun Bullet, activated Speed Firing, and the bullets flew outward.

But in this moment, Ye Xiu had already completely regained control of Lord Grim's movement.

Collapsing Mountain!

The gun was put away and the sword came out once again, not the tachi hidden in the umbrella stem, but the broadsword formed from the eccentric folded shape of the umbrella's surface. With burning killing intent, flying right past the bullets that Cloud Piercer shot, fall!

Chapter 1586: Ten Years, Samsara

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella in broadsword form wasn't bright, and its shape was so strange that it was laughable. But when it came plummeting down, carrying a strong gust of wind, even Zhou Zekai couldn't laugh.

Ye Xiu didn't dodge, didn't retreat. Just like this, he met the attack head on. Under the rain of bullets, Lord Grim slashed forward with a Collapsing Mountain.

With Zhou Zekai's level of control, he could easily change the angle of Cloud Piercer's attack to land many shots upon Lord Grim's body. But so what?

He could damage Lord Grim, but he couldn't stop the fall of Lord Grim's Collapsing Mountain. In terms of attack priority, long-range attacks were no match for close-range, this was a design that Zhou Zekai couldn't change. Even if he could use the Level 75 Thunder Snipe and blast Lord Grim's head again, he couldn't force Lord Grim back.

Ye Xiu understood this point extremely clearly. To defeat a long-range class, he could only advance, and could not retreat. Whether facing an ordinary gamer in Glory's Arena, or the number one Great Gunner Zhou Zekai, it was all the same.

And so, he didn't retreat.

And so, he maintained his forward-facing attack stance.

He did so when faced with the Thunder Snipe.

He did so when faced with the rain of bullets from Speed Firing.

The Collapsing Mountain came down, and Zhou Zekai had no choice but to dodge. Cloud Piercer hurriedly retreated, at the same time lifting his gun and firing toward the midair Lord Grim.

He chose to dodge, but he didn't give up on attacking.

But Lord Grim suddenly changed direction in midair, plunging downward with a speed that shouldn't have been possible with a Collapsing Mountain.

Ye Xiu had anticipated early on that Zhou Zekai could dodge to the side and attack at the same time, and so he began making midair adjustments as soon as he jumped up for the Collapsing Mountain.

Collapsing Mountain cancel, Falling Light Blade!

A broadsword could use Falling Light Blade as well. The form wasn't as light or graceful as it would be with a lightsaber or tachi, but it carried greater momentum and pressure.

With this change, Lord Grim's path skewed toward Cloud Piercer, and Cloud Piercer, who was currently jumping back to avoid the Collapsing Mountain, could not easily change direction again.

But the current controller of Cloud Piercer was Zhou Zekai, that Zhou Zekai who was said to be able to do anything onstage except heal. He was actually able to react fast enough to keep up with Lord Grim's swift change from Collapsing Mountain to Falling Light Blade. The bullets he fired from the gun he just

lifted were knocked away by the Falling Light Blade, but then he was already moving. Characters in midair especially relied on recoil to adjust their movement.

This whole process took less than a second, yet the two of them fought with so many changes, so many inputs. What level of technique was this?

The broadcast wished to show stats of the two players' handspeeds, but by the time they displayed this data, that moment had already passed. They just couldn't catch up to the battle rhythm. All of this had happened in the span of time Cloud Piercer took to jump back once.

Cloud Piercer landed, and immediately looked for a direction to roll. Even though he had adjusted his aim precisely, he could only damage Lord Grim, it wouldn't impact his skills very much. Immediately after, Lord Grim landed, and the force from the Falling Light Blade expanded. Cloud Piercer, who had started rolling, couldn't avoid all of the damage, but he was able to dispel the effects of the attack with the greatest speed. When his roll was halfway through, two muzzles were already pointing at Lord Grim from the ground. This kind of attitude was very similar to Ye Xiu's mindset when he stepped backward after the Thunder Snipe to stabilize himself. At any moment, both of them were working hard to find an opportunity to attack. In a situation where only half a step of retreat was necessary, no one would retreat any further, not even an inch.

Gunshot!

Gunfire burst forth from the muzzles of the revolvers. At this moment, Cloud Piercer and Lord Grim were already within melee range of each other, but even in this kind of small space, Lord Grim actually didn't have control over the situation. Cloud Piercer was supposed to be better at long-range, but his gunshots didn't stop. It was as though he carried two knives in his hands, that spitting fire and those nonstop bullets serving as sharp blades, accurately slicing any enemies that dared approach!

At this point, he had already broken past the idea of Gun Fu. This wasn't a combination of taijutsu and gunfire. Zhou Zekai's gunfire had become a form of taijutsu, thanks to his extreme control, taking precision to the limit.

"Too strong!!" In the broadcast, Pan Lin couldn't hold himself back, forgetting himself as he shouted. Because he believed that he was far from the only one who had fallen into the craze of this moment. The entire Glory world was probably trembling from this scene. Long-range, short-range, two completely different kinds of classes, but under Zhou Zekai's control, this wall built into the game was actually broken. His Cloud Piercer danced with his gunfire like a close-range class. Wildfire, Shattered Frost, they spat out not individual bullets, but a tight and continuous stream. They were the searing and deadly blades in Zhou Zekai's hands!

"Brilliant, beautiful, unbelievable!!" All sorts of praise tumbled from Pan Lin's mouth. "This is the summit, this is a revolution, I think that even Ye Xiu would have to admit this point."

"Yes! Worthy of being Glory's number one!" Li Yibo hurriedly broke in before Pan Lin could steal away all the words and spotlight. But would someone misunderstand? Would anyone not know the person about whom Li Yibo was talking? Of course not. The person he was talking about was of course Zhou Zekai, only Zhou Zekai, the Zhou Zekai who could break through the very fundamentals of Glory's design through sheer skill.

The number one in Glory was him!

Li Yibo directly gave this conclusion. Facing Ye Xiu, the Ye Xiu who repeatedly surprised and humbled them, Li Yibo still dared to declare this without hesitation. All of those lessons and experiences from before, he no longer remembered them. In their eyes, there was only the sheer strength that Zhou Zekai displayed. A thousand troops and ten thousand horses couldn't stop him, how could a mere Ye Xiu?

Yes, a mere Ye Xiu.

Right now, everyone saw nothing but Zhou Zekai's stunning, jaw-dropping performance. Ye Xiu? Or a wooden dummy? A scarecrow? It didn't matter. He was just a backdrop, a not-too-bad backdrop, serving to augment the protagonist.

Too powerful, too brilliant, too beautiful, too unbelievable, the summit, a revolution!

Pan Lin said that even Ye Xiu would have to admit this point.

Yes, Ye Xiu very much admitted it. It was indeed very powerful, very brilliant, very beautiful, very unbelievable.

But the problem was, this kind of incredible power, brilliance, beauty – he had already experienced it ten years ago!

Ten years ago, he had experienced it all.

If not for an accident, this brilliance should have stepped onto this stage ten years ago.

Ten years, samsara*.

Chapter 1587: Glory's Greatest

This confrontation had everyone on the edge of their seats. Even neutral viewers who were indifferent to both teams felt exceptionally anxious right now.

But the most anxious were still those audience members directly affected by the atmosphere of the audience, as well as the players of the two teams who'd been sitting in the player areas for a while now. When Zhou Zekai broke through the class design barrier and controlled Cloud Piercer to wield his bullets like swinging blades, the stadium had gone wild. Countless people had jumped up, cheered, hollered! Samsara's power reached its peak, and even the Samsara players on the sidelines had burst into smiles.

They were very strong, strong enough to directly push Zhou Zekai into number one, but they weren't blindly confident. Competition had wins and losses, and even Zhou Zekai couldn't win every single match he was in. Zhou Zekai had stumbled in front of seemingly weak opponents before. And the opponent he now faced was Ye Xiu, the Glory Textbook, the former number one.

It wasn't until Zhou Zekai demonstrated this absolutely powerful stance that the Samsara players allowed themselves to relax, revealing smiles that anticipated victory.

They relaxed, but Happy grew even more anxious.

To be able to use gun attacks as close combat attacks, the ferocity that Zhou Zekai demonstrated was clear and earthshaking. Any Glory fan could feel it.

In this moment, Chen Guo hoped she was wrong. She hoped that her judgment would once again become a joke, because her skill level wasn't high enough.

But when she looked at everyone else, Wei Chen, Fang Rui, the shock written on their faces was the same as hers.

Unfortunately, this time she wasn't wrong. Unfortunately, Zhou Zekai was truly strong enough to shock everyone present.

But Chen Guo refused to give up, she continued to search everyone's faces for some reassurance, one after another. But nothing, there was nothing, everyone's faces were grim, it was like one punch after another telling Chen Guo that there was nothing optimistic about this situation. She looked around in a large circle, all the way until she saw Su Mucheng, sitting on her other side.

And here, she saw an expression different from everyone else's.

There was shock, yes. But aside from that, she didn't seem as grim as everyone else. In Su Mucheng's expression, Chen Guo saw a sort of... grief?

Was Su Mucheng already feeling grief for Ye Xiu's imminent defeat? This person, who knew Ye Xiu better than anyone else, did she have a clearer prediction of the situation than everyone else?

"He hasn't lost yet!" Chen Guo suddenly said. Even though the situation wasn't looking good, as long as Lord Grim still had a drop of blood left, she would hope a miracle.

"Ah?" Su Mucheng responded automatically, as though she'd been lost in thought and was suddenly jolted awake. Her expression instantly became very calm.

"Yes, he hasn't lost yet," she said to Chen Guo. After recovering, her face now brimmed with energy, with the unwavering trust in Ye Xiu that she always had.

"He won't lose!" Chen Guo said firmly. "Hasn't lost yet" became "won't lose." This was a wish, a hope, a trust.

But there really weren't many who could do the same.

In the live broadcast, Pan Lin and Li Yibo already declared Ye Xiu's death, and were going back and forth discussing Zhou Zekai's deadly skill.

"Because of this, Glory might have to undergo a massive rebalancing in the next update," Pan Lin chuckled. His tone was carefree, as though there were no tension in the battle in front of them right now. In his mind, this battle had already ended.

"Yes, this really is a game-changer. Compared to forcing the Alliance to change its rules, forcing the Glory developers to change the game's design is much more drastic," said Li Yibo.

"Yes yes, he really is too strong." Pan Lin had used this phrase "too strong" countless times by now.

Yes, too strong.

But “too strong” didn’t mean invincible. It was only “too strong,” not “the strongest”!

The bullets traced blade-like paths in the air, and amidst it all, Lord Grim suddenly tilted his body. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella in his hands came apart into two pieces, tonfa form, and at the same time his body trembled!

Reinforced Iron Bones!

Lord Grim didn’t dodge, instead suddenly using this skill. Instantly, countless bullets landed directly upon his chest, as though many slashes were cutting into him again and again. Blood spurted, Lord Grim continued to step forward. He charged through the blood filling the air, his umbrella again shifting to another Fighter class weapon, the claw, and his right hand swiftly thrust forward.

Cloud Body, Strangle!

Cloud Piercer hurriedly retreated.

It might have been a step backward or a jump backward, but no one would know. Because this Cloud Body, this Strangle had come so quickly, so suddenly, Zhou Zekai had made the inputs, but Cloud Piercer didn’t have the chance to display the movement. Lord Grim’s right hand was already tightly gripping his throat.

Everyone was stunned.

How had the elegant and game-changing Great Gunner been caught by a crude Strangle just like that?

But, this didn’t affect his attack, did it?

Everyone could see that although Lord Grim had rushed forward to seize Cloud Piercer, Cloud Piercer’s twin revolvers were still tightly pressed against Lord Grim’s body.

Strangle could restrict the opponent’s movement, but not their attack. Right now, Zhou Zekai didn’t even need to aim in order to fire like crazy. In this moment, how much of Lord Grim’s health could he destroy?

Peng!

A dull sound. A gunshot?

No, it was Lord Grim bashing his head directly against Cloud Piercer’s. Immediately, blood began streaming down his forehead.

Headbutt!

A Brawler skill. Only the street-dwelling Brawlers would use anything as weapons in a scuffle, even their own heads. This was how they survived the violent street life.

Zhou Zekai’s vision swayed, but even so, Cloud Piercer’s revolvers were still steady, and the sound of gunshots was as strong as ever. But Lord Grim’s knee was already connecting with Cloud Piercer’s abdomen, the force of the impact bending his entire body in half.

Knee Attack!

Under the effect of this half-grab skill, Cloud Piercer finally had no way of maintaining his posture. When his body bent, his arms naturally came down, and his bullets swept the ground.

Then, there was an Elbow, coming down heavily upon the back of Cloud Piercer's lowered head. As Cloud Piercer crumpled downward, Lord Grim's other hand was already forming a fist, and an Uppercut sent him back into the air.

Strangle, Headbutt, Knee Attack, Elbow, Uppercut...

They were all Brawler skills, and aside from Headbutt, the other four were all sub-Level 20 skills. Yet the combination of these attacks managed to break Zhou Zekai's remarkable technique.

Those shouting and cheering earlier now seemed as though a fist had been shoved in their mouth, rendering them speechless.

Chen Guo was excited.

No wonder this was Ye Xiu. As expected of Ye Xiu. This was the Ye Xiu that never let her down.

"Amazing!" she shouted.

"It is." Su Mucheng smiled gently. Just like how she wasn't too panicked before, right now she didn't seem too excited.

When she had seen Zhou Zekai's exceptional technique earlier, she had indeed gotten somewhat lost in thought.

She thought of her now-deceased older brother Su Muqiu, also using a Sharpshooter, also possessing incomparably elegant skill and technique.

At the same time, she couldn't forget that shock when his Sharpshooter Autumn Tree had been sent sprawling to the ground by Ye Xiu's One Autumn Leaf.

"Fuck!"

That was the only time Su Mucheng had ever heard Su Muqiu swear. For someone like him with such beautiful technique to lose like this, he was surprised, flustered, and exasperated.

"Could your fighting be any cruder?"

Su Mucheng still remembered the mockery that Su Muqiu had often thrown at Ye Xiu. The two of them had never gotten tired of fighting back and forth, using all sorts of classes and all sorts of characters.

Su Muqiu had even specifically gotten a little notebook to write down the win-loss record between the two of them. He gave it to Su Mucheng to take care of.

"Don't look!" Ye Xiu had wanted to see it, but he never got permission.

"We're basically tied, there's nothing to look at." That was what Su Muqiu always said, but Su Mucheng, as the one holding the notebook, of course knew that Ye Xiu was always in the lead. They had that youthful spirit of always wanting to outdo the other. Su Muqiu certainly wasn't keeping track of the win

record because he wanted to display his failures. But unfortunately, in the end, he had been unable to tie the score.

The notebook had been taken away with the rest of Su Muqiu's belongings, but Su Mucheng would sometimes think, if they had managed to continue playing, play all the way until now, play for these ten years, then what kind of record would that notebook hold?

Who was Glory's greatest?

Everyone had an answer in their heart, and because of emotional bias, this answer would never be universal. Ye Xiu, for example, always felt that if Su Muqiu were still alive, he would definitely be Glory's greatest player. This thought was tangled up with feelings of loss and regret toward the one who had passed away.

But in Su Mucheng's heart, the greatest was Ye Xiu. Even though she also missed Su Muqiu, she still believed this, because this was what her brother told her: Ye Xiu, the greatest.

So, in this attention-catching match between Glory's number ones, from the very beginning, Su Mucheng had had an answer in her heart. No matter what the result was, her answer wouldn't change.

As soon as he was sent into the air by the Uppercut, Cloud Piercer was already readjusting his aim. Zhou Zekai's reaction was both fast and accurate. While in midair, he couldn't see Lord Grim at all, but based on his experience and awareness, the dual revolvers in Cloud Piercer's hands fired down shot after shot.

Bullets rained down, that was truly the only way to describe it. The bullets that came out of his guns were all aimed in different directions, with a slight adjustment in angle after every shot. The bullets instantly poured out, covering the maximum possible area.

But, so what?

Ye Xiu ignored them entirely. Lord Grim's chest remained upright as he welcomed the bullets that rained down, and continued to attack!

Because the distance was close enough, because the two characters were almost right on top of each other.

Even if Zhou Zekai could rely on his exceptional technique to turn Cloud Piercer's bullets into blades no matter what, he couldn't change the fundamental design of the game.

The priority of long-range attacks couldn't compare to that of close-range. Turning firepower into bladework, no matter how beautiful it was, it couldn't control a situation as solidly or securely as true close-range attacks.

This was the most basic of principles.

Or, in other words, this was the crudest of principles.

Chapter 1588: Simple and Clean~~~

All the cheers and screaming stopped. Only the sound of the fight between the two characters remained. The viewers watching at home wanted to know what exactly had happened, but the commentators, who had been talking excitedly just before, had suddenly quieted down. It seemed like the only thing that could be heard from them were coughing sounds?

Pan Lin and Li Yibo were on the verge of tears. The two felt like they had been thrown onto the ground. What could they say?

What did they still dare to say?

Even if the two had a million things to say about the current situation, they couldn't put the words together. The embellishment that the two had blurted out just a moment ago was like a whip. After twirling the whip in a circle, they had wined it around their own necks. The harder they pulled, the harder it became to say anything.

The commentators were supposed to be neutral, without any bias for either side. They hadn't been excited because they wanted Samsara to win, but rather because Zhou Zekai's stunning play had excited them. If such stunning and beautiful playing couldn't win, then how could the heavens be fair?

The two had said those words because of this belief. Otherwise, the countless time that Ye Xiu had slapped their face would have reminded them to be cautious. How else could they have gotten excited and predicted the outcome even when the other side had more than half his health left?

In that instant, they had indeed thought that Zhou Zekai was invincible.

In that instant, they had forgotten that there was no such thing as absolute victory in a match.

In that instant, they had forgotten that the match wasn't over until the last drop of blood flowed.

It had been the case before, and it always would be.

However, breaking Zhou Zekai's breathtaking four-step Gun Fu didn't mean that Ye Xiu had won either. Cloud Piercer was still in the lead by a considerable amount of health!

Even if Ye Xiu had seized the initiative, Zhou Zekai's might was no less than before.

For the average player, an airborne character was the sign of someone about to get thrashed. However, Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer continued to attack while in the air. A rain of bullets descended, making it feel as if whatever was beneath it was a lamb in a tiger's den. Ye Xiu didn't seem to see it though. Lord Grim tanked the bullets and continued his attacks.

A trade?

Lord Grim had less health. A trade didn't seem to be wise though.

Pan Lin and Li Yibo thought the same thing, but remained silent. They were too afraid to try and guess Ye Xiu's intentions.

Moonlight Slash, Full Moonlight Slash, Wave Wheel Slasher!

Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella suddenly transformed from a Fighter weapon into a Swordsman weapon. Three slashes one after the other. Light filled the sky as Cloud Piercer tumbled through the air. Even Zhou Zekai had no way to steady his character facing such fast successive attacks. Cloud Piercer's shots began to miss their mark. The rain of bullets seemed to have split apart from the three bright sword lights, and Cloud Piercer was locked into place by the Wave Wheel Slasher, magic rendering him apart.

Vision!

Zhou Zekai understood that this was the key point. He could only make the appropriate response if he could grasp the opponent's movements.

However, Lord Grim followed close on his heels. In an instant, he moved into a dead angle where Cloud Piercer wouldn't be able to see him. Vanishing Step. This difficult and complicated technique was already second-nature to him. As soon as he saw his target airborne, he would use this technique out of habit to continue the combo.

Even in the pro scene, there were many players who were helpless against Vanishing Step, but Ye Xiu wasn't so naive to think that Zhou Zekai would be one of them. He recognized Zhou Zekai's skill clearly. Whether it worked or not, he had to at least try. It was an ideology that both of them agreed on.

Zhou Zekai wasn't able to see his target, but by process of elimination, he had a rough idea of Lord Grim's position. Cloud Piercer wasn't able to turn his head towards that direction, but his hands were more nimble than his head. The trustworthy guns in his hands, Wildfire and Shattered Frost, instilled fear into anyone who saw them, the guns of the Gunner King!

Fire burst out.

This time, he wasn't spreading out his attacks to cover more area. He was aiming precisely towards his dead angle.

Bang bang bang bang.

Bullets descended.

The distance was too close, and Ye Xiu didn't have time to react to it. However, he had never intended on dodging. Bullets could hurt him, but they couldn't stop him from attacking. The transforming Myriad Manifestations Umbrella struck Cloud Piercer repeatedly. Because of these destructive hits, the once precisely aimed gunfire once again became scattered.

"Zhou Zekai's situation isn't looking good!!" Pan Lin finally braved it out and spoke, once he saw that Ye Xiu had the upper hand.

"Mm, he..." Before Li Yibo could finish his sentence, he shut his mouth and stared with wide eyes. Lord Grim's combo had made Cloud Piercer lose his aim. His bullets no longer followed a straight path, but rather an arc.

"Curve Firing!" Pan Lin shouted.

Curve Firing wasn't a technique, but rather a Sharpshooter skill. Of the four Gunner classes, Sharpshooters emphasized firing technique. Many of their skills were buffs. For example, Rapid Firing

and Burst Firing. For a period of time, the skills gave the user increased firing speed or critical hit chance. Curved Firing made the bullets curve. How much the bullets curved was set by the system by default, but the user could manually control it too.

Zhou Zekai had Cloud Piercer use Curved Firing while in an airborne state. Despite losing control of his aim due to Lord Grim's attacks, many of the curved bullets still headed towards Lord Grim. Zhou Zekai had taken into consideration the fact that Lord Grim would be comboing him, so he used Curved Firing as a counter. He wasn't so godly that he could accurately calculate the trajectories of all of the bullets, but with so many bullets being fired, some of them were bound to hit.

It hadn't been easy for Pan Lin and Li Yibo to resume their commentating, but now they had been stopped in their tracks again. Today's situation was looking grim. No matter which side they talked about, they would immediately be slapped in the face. The two wanted to cry. What should they do? It wasn't like they could stay silent, no?

The two were quiet, but the crowd wouldn't be.

Those curved bullets flew around like wild bees, completely unpredictable. Ye Xiu could only try his best to dodge them, but many of them still landed. However, Curved Firing only affected the trajectory. It didn't increase the damage or have any other effects. As a result, Lord Grim could still continue his attacks.

Sky Strike!

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella transformed into a spear and swung upwards towards the falling Cloud Piercer. Just when it looked as if it was about to hit, Cloud Piercer's dual guns suddenly turned towards him and fired two shots.

The recoil made him move away slightly, and this slight displacement was enough for Lord Grim's Sky Strike to miss.

The skilled are bold!

Zhou Zekai could have obviously done it earlier, utilizing the recoil to adjust himself while in the air, but he didn't because he knew that Ye Xiu would certainly have countermeasures. He had intentionally waited for Ye Xiu to act first before doing this at the very last moment, so Ye Xiu wouldn't have time to readjust his attack. Finally, Cloud Piercer was back on the ground. Cloud Piercer landed and rolled, but before he could get up, he saw a grenade out of the corner of his eye.

Boom!

The grenade exploded, and Cloud Piercer was thrown to the side. Cold light flashed. Lord Grim used Shining Arc to close the distance, Cross Slash, Upwards Slash... Cloud Piercer was in the air again.

He wasn't able to dodge it?

Samsara's fans felt a blow to their hearts. They watched as their ace player used everything at his disposal while taking a beating, yet still fail to escape.

Bang bang bang bang...

Gunfire sounded again. Zhou Zekai refused to give up, but everyone had noticed long ago that his attacks had no effect on Lord Grim's offense. Lord Grim simply took the hits and continued attacking.

"This... isn't good, right?" Pan Lin carefully expressed.

Li Yibo didn't even follow up. The fight between the two number ones was truly too high-level for them. They talked about this, but it was wrong. They talked about that, but they weren't sure. At this point, he and Pan Lin basically existed to get their faces slapped. It was too humiliating.

Unfortunately, the one to suffer the most would be Pan Lin. After all, Li Yibo was considered an invited guest. His status was slightly higher, so while it might be okay for Li Yibo to not say anything, it was not okay for Pan Lin. Pan Lin could only brace himself and blabber away.

"He has no way to force Ye Xiu back..." Pan Lin's voice was like a mosquito.

And this time, he was right. Ye Xiu couldn't be forced back. Lord Grim continued to attack. He wasn't afraid of this sort of competition. Zhou Zekai understood this point too, and he hadn't been hoping that he could force Ye Xiu to retreat because he understood Ye Xiu's thoughts: the priority of close-ranged skills was far higher than long-ranged skills.

Zhou Zekai hadn't forgotten this kind of basic knowledge. He didn't think his bullets could compete with close combat from an unspecialized. Everyone else had been cheering excitedly because it had seemed like Zhou Zekai had broken the seemingly unshakeable barrier between close-ranged and long-ranged classes. However, Zhou Zekai knew clearly that it was because he had no other choice. Lord Grim had been too close to him.

It wasn't good for Sharpshooters to get closed in on.

It was logic that even a noob in Glory would know. But everyone had believed in him because he was Zhou Zekai, and there was nothing he couldn't do apart from healing. That was why although it was common sense that the situation had been unfavorable for a Sharpshooter, it shouldn't be a problem for Zhou Zekai. Even if his opponent had closed in, the one to be taught a lesson would be the opponent.

In reality, it had indeed been the case numerous times. Even when Zhou Zekai's opponents were able to close, they would often be the ones who lost.

Zhou Zekai didn't become arrogant though.

Others could believe that his Sharpshooter was invincible even in close combat, he himself couldn't.

It wasn't good for Sharpshooters to get closed in on!

Zhou Zekai, the current number one player, hadn't overlooked this logic that even a noob understood. When he played, he would still follow this principle. After being closed in on by Lord Grim, he had been trying to get away. However, while running away, he wouldn't miss an opportunity to injure his opponent. That was why he had used Thunder Snipe earlier and given Cloud Piercer a nearly 33% health lead.

With this lead, Zhou Zekai began to use Gun Fu to fight because at that time, he had decided to trade blow, trade health for health.

In other words, the thought that he could completely suppress Ye Xiu with Gun Fu hadn't even crossed his mind. The reason that he had used Gun Fu was to trade.

Trading meant that I hit you, and you hit me.

The Gun Fu was like this, and it was the same afterwards even when Ye Xiu seized the upper hand. However, Zhou Zekai never let go of any opportunities to injure Lord Grim. By relying on this sort of accumulation of damage along with Cloud Piercer's health lead, even in these disadvantageous trades, he would be the one to win in the end. Zhou Zekai was certain of it.

As for all that flashiness? That was just a service to the plain and simple Glory principle: the one with more health bullied the one with less.

Chapter 1589: Trade

Those who supported Ye Xiu or those who worried for Zhou Zekai didn't quite understand the current situation. From start to finish, the only ones who remained unaffected were Team Samsara and Zhou Zekai's teammates.

Because they understood Zhou Zekai's personality and play style. Their captain, who was considered the number one player in Glory, was never arrogant. Fighting close-ranged as a long-ranged class? That would be the epitome of arrogance. How could their captain entertain such a useless thought? If Zhou Zekai decided to play in such a way, that simply meant it was necessary. So that's what he did.

Cheers and screams were fine. After all, it was indeed an incredibly beautiful display of skill.

But if you had to say that it was the pinnacle of Glory or a revolution, that would be nonsense.

Even Samsara snorted disdainfully at Pan Lin's word choice, and then when Ye Xiu slapped him in the face, they rejoiced at his misfortune.

Because they were the same as Zhou Zekai. Playing like this would be exciting for the viewers, but it wouldn't be enough to suppress an expert like Ye Xiu.

As a result, they had never thought that Ye Xiu would be beaten down by Zhou Zekai in this way. What they saw was a trade. With Zhou Zekai having the health lead, he was trading with Ye Xiu's Lord Grim. Even though Ye Xiu had the upper hand in these trades, the outcome of these trades lead towards Zhou Zekai's victory.

The battle continued.

At a rapid pace.

The average viewer didn't understand the reality of this situation. The pro players wouldn't make this mistake though. Quite a few of them had begun calculating the DPS from both sides to determine who the winner would be.

Zhou Zekai would win.

Zhou Zekai would win.

Zhou Zekai would win.

This was what Zhang Xinjie, Yu Wenzhou, and Wang Jiexi concluded.

The others, who hadn't yet reached a conclusion, stopped calculating. If those three all agreed, then what was there to argue about? Right now, Zhou Zekai would win without a doubt.

"But it's risky," Thunderclap's Xiao Shiqin said.

Everyone nodded their heads.

Zhou Zekai would win at this rate, and he had it under control at the moment. However, he was playing against Ye Xiu's unspecialized, who had the upper hand in these trades. The slightest mistake could mean disaster. Until the very end, it was hard to say who exactly would win.

"But looking at Samsara, it seems like they're not worried at all!" Yu Feng said.

The pro players had special VIP seats, facing the stage directly. They were situated quite close to the two competing team's seats, so they could see the expressions on each team's players.

On Happy's side, there was quite a bit of commotion going on there. Their expressions were heavy. They clearly realized where the issue lay,

As for Samsara, everyone there was quite relaxed. There would occasionally be a few whispers here and there, but it just seemed to be casual chatter.

"Zhou Zekai isn't being completely dominated. Through his attempts to escape, he's restricting Ye Xiu and giving himself opportunities to seize the upper hand," Zhang Jiale suddenly said.

"Yes," Han Wenqing affirmed.

"Ye Xiu's situation is probably worse than we think," Chu Yunxiu said.

"If you ride a tiger, it's too hard to get off. It's kind of giving off this feeling, isn't it?"

"Yeah."

"Zhou Zekai isn't letting a single drop of water slip through."

The pro players unanimously agreed. Ye Xiu's situation wasn't like what the average viewers thought. After breaking through Zhou Zekai's Gun Fu, Ye Xiu wasn't completely dominating the fight. The current situation was the same as the previous situation against Zhou Zekai's Gun Fu, different methods to achieve the same goal. With Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer having the health lead, Ye Xiu couldn't let go of the opportunity to fight him at close-range. No matter what, he had to stick close to him. When Zhou Zekai tried to escape, he had to stop him at all costs, and Zhou Zekai would use this opportunity to deal heavy damage and trade with him. This was what the pro players had concluded. From a certain perspective, Zhou Zekai held the initiative.

If you ride a tiger, it's hard to get off.

It was indeed the case. Ye Xiu probably knew that he wouldn't be able to win if he continued trading like this, but what could he do? If he let Cloud Piercer escape and widen the distance between them, he would be in an even more disadvantageous position.

The battle continued, and the two characters were both losing health. Cloud Piercer was losing health faster, while Lord Grim was losing health slower. In the end, the unspecialized Lord Grim had the advantage in close combat. Only Zhou Zekai could trade with Ye Xiu in this situation. By relying on his health lead, his health was still higher than Lord Grim's even if he was losing health faster. As more time went on, this difference in health became more apparent. The viewers slowly began to notice it, and soon, sounds of discussion and doubt unfolded. They had thought that Zhou Zekai was in a terrible spot, but from the looks of it, if this continued, he would... probably win?

"Although Cloud Piercer is losing health rather fast, it looks like... it won't ever be lower than Lord Grim's?" Pan Lin carefully said.

"This is because of the early advantage that he obtained before!" Li Yibo finally spoke. He was quite confident in his words. He had seen the critical strike from the Thunder Snipe. The past was the past. It couldn't be changed, no?

"If this continued, Ye Xiu will... will..." Pan Lin stuttered. He was just too afraid of saying the word "lose".

"We can't relax until the end," Li Yibo said. Pan Lin couldn't help but glance at him. Was this really the same person, who had been fighting with him to proclaim Zhou Zekai the winner?

"Red health!" Pan Lin shouted.

Red health meant health below ten percent. Although it didn't affect a character's stats, whether it was a normal player or a pro player, red health was usually a signal for danger.

Lord Grim was at red health. Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer still had 22% of his health left. Ye Xiu had closed the initial gap by a considerable amount, but it wasn't enough! Judging from their previous trades, Lord Grim's 10% could trade for approximately 15% of Cloud Piercer's health, about a 1 to 1.5 ratio. On the pro stage, this figure was already very impressive. If it was any other occasion, this ratio would be unlikely.

However, for this fight, this ratio wouldn't be enough to catch up. In the end, using a 1 to 1.5 ratio to beat a 22% health opponent with 10% wasn't going to happen.

But...

That 1 to 1.5 ratio was an average. There were many back and forths, and not every exchange would result in this ratio. Sometimes, it would be higher. Ye Xiu needed it to be higher in order to win.

Not everyone had these numbers, but just looking at the health, even a noob knew that Ye Xiu wasn't in a good position.

The audience could stop and discuss it, but the ones playing couldn't. 22% against 10%? In the blink of an eye, the 22% became 19%!

A 1 to 2 trade!

The audience wasn't too perceptive. After all, they weren't precise enough to calculate the numbers. However, the pro players were more acute. Ye Xiu wanted to use this final moment to burst down Zhou Zekai?

Gore Cross!

Predicting where Cloud Piercer would land, Lord Grim rushed forward to use Gore Cross to trap him. Sword light overlapped, forming a cross shape.

Bang bang bang bang!

Gunshots. Cloud Piercer never seemed to stop firing. As soon as he encountered Ye Xiu's Lord Grim, Cloud Piercer never stopped to rest. Shooting to attack, shooting to borrow the recoil, shooting to fight at close combat.

This time, the bullets formed a star, creating a ripple in the Gore Cross. Cloud Piercer's attacks had unexpectedly hit Lord Grim's cross.

Long-ranged attacks had far lower priority than close-ranged attacks, so it wouldn't be able to stop the Gore Cross. However, with so many bullets hitting, it would displace it somewhat.

Sword light streaked across, hit!

There was only one streak of blood. The horizontal slash of Lord Grim's Gore Cross had hit, but the vertical slash had missed.

The skill consisted of two simultaneous slashes, but through precise maneuvering, Zhou Zekai was able to dodge one of them.

The crowd clapped and cheered wildly. Everyone loved to see these kinds of spectacular plays.

But the pro players, who knew about the subtleties of this fight, didn't think it was necessary. Cloud Piercer had double Lord Grim's health. He had so much room to work with. It was easier to make a mistake doing extremely precise inputs like what Zhou Zekai had done, and a mistake could give Ye Xiu a chance to turn things around.

"Why doesn't he rush him down?" Void's Yu Ce said.

"It's better to be cautious. Don't forget that Lord Grim can heal," Zhang Xinjie said.

"Heal? He can't health that much, can he?" Tiny Herb's healer, Yuan Baiqing, said. With how the two were fighting, long cast time skills couldn't be used. As a result, the only instant that Lord Grim's unspecialized could do was a "Small Cure".

Everyone immediately remembers that Ye Xiu could add other healer skills onto his Myriad Manifestations Umbrella.

Such as "Great Cure" or "Holy Cure".

Although these would be at most level one, instant heals healed a lot of health, but had extremely long cooldowns. Even at level one, with both players at such low health, it could be enough to save him.

“Is he planning on healing?” The pro players started getting nervous. They realized that the battle would be decided here.

Chapter 1590: Attack

It was the final moment. There was no room for mistakes. Usually, players would lean towards caution. Success second, no mistakes first. It might not look too flashy, but those who understood Glory knew from experience the thrill of it.

Cloud Piercer had 20% of his health left, while Lord Grim had less than 10%.

With this health difference, most people wouldn't consider it a desperate situation, but rather an advantageous one for Cloud Piercer.

That wasn't what the spectating pro players thought though because they had thought of how Ye Xiu could win this match. Thinking back of their experiences with Ye Xiu, they analyzed how much health he would have if he used Small, Great, and Holy Cure back to back.

4%? 5%? 6%? Higher?

For a specialized healer, the amount of health healed would be a joke to them. But at this moment, it could be what saved Ye Xiu. With Lord Grim's advantage over Cloud Pierce in close combat, a few extra percent in health would likely be enough for him to win.

“If you ride a tiger, it's hard to get off. It looks like Zhou Zekai's the one in trouble!” Huang Shaotian said. He spoke as if it was set in stone that Lord Grim would heal his health.

“Maybe not?” Some of the pro players were trying to think of other possibilities.

“With how crafty and despicable that guy is, it's probably going to happen,” Zhang Jiale nodded his head.

“He's been holding back, waiting for the very last moment to decide this match with one move. Doesn't it feel similar to that one play? What was it? Right, it was when Cloud Piercer dodged Lord Grim's Sky Strike. Zhou Zekai had waited until the very last moment before dodging so that Ye Xiu wouldn't be able to react in time! Don't you think it's kind of similar?” The more Huang Shaotian talked, the more excited he became. As for that “one play”, he had just been referring to a small little detail in this fight. No wonder he remembered it so clearly.

“When is he planning on acting?” No one answered him. Huang Shaotian didn't seem to care and continued on.

The two were still fighting, their health bars dropping. A short while later, Cloud Piercer's health had dropped to 14%, while Lord Grim's health had dropped to 5%. A single high damage skill could remove that last 5%, but with both sides being cautious, no such opportunity was given. Their health continued to slowly decline bit by bit. Just watching it made people sit on the edges of their seat.

Isn't it about time he healed?

People like Huang Shaotian and Zhang Jiale were certain that Ye Xiu would heal. They felt like it was about time. 5% health was too dangerous. Cloud Piercer could kill him easily in one combo. Was there any need for him to slowly grind away at Lord Grim until death?

Yes! There was no need!

Zhou Zekai had been playing cautiously the entire time to the extent that he would even go so far as to dodge half of a Gore Cross. His opponent only had 5% of his health left, while his Cloud Piercer had 14%. He suddenly rushed forward!

“He’s going to rush him!!” Wu Yuce shouted.

When Lord Grim had 10% of his health left, Wu Yuce had already felt like Zhou Zekai could just rush him down, but with everyone talking about those instant heals that Ye Xiu could use, it was quite easy to understand why Zhou Zekai would rather be a bit more careful.

Rushing down the opponent would come at the sacrifice of a large amount of his health. If he wasn’t able to kill off Lord Grim and Lord Grim healed himself to survive, he would be in deep trouble.

Not rushing down Ye Xiu at that time showed how clear-minded Zhou Zekai was. He was the same as the spectating pro players. He had considered these possibilities. It wasn’t as difficult as guessing what skills Ye Xiu could choose to use. Healing was its own entity, and no one would forget that Lord Grim could heal. In this situation, healing would be immensely effective. The pro players had realized it, and Zhou Zekai did too. As a result, he played more cautiously. It was only when Lord Grim had 5% of his health left did Zhou Zekai choose to rush him down. He was confident that with this health difference, he could take down Ye Xiu in one combo and not give him an opportunity to heal!

Ye Xiu was waiting for the right moment to heal. Zhou Zekai was waiting for the right moment to rush him.

Huang Shaotian, Zhang Xinjie, and many other pro players felt like it was time for Ye Xiu to heal, but Zhou Zekai had picked this moment to make the first move!

“Ai!” Huang Shaotian gave a deep sigh.

He was a master opportunist. Both players wanted to seize this opportunity, but in the end, Zhou Zekai had seized it first. Was it over?

Not yet!

Cloud Piercer twisted his body, ready to fire. Suddenly, he saw a flash of cold light. Lord Grim’s Myriad Manifestations Umbrella thrust towards him.

Dragon Tooth!

Zhou Zekai had no choice but to dodge. Dragon Tooth stunned, which would disrupt his rhythm.

Cloud Piercer twisted his body, dodging the Dragon Tooth. His body was moving, but his two guns aimed true as they fired towards Lord Grim. The Dragon Tooth hadn’t affected his rush.

Bullets flew out, but Ye Xiu seemed to have predicted it. Lord crouched. At this close of a distance, he was unexpectedly able to dodge the bullets. Then, he unsheathed the handle of the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, and used the Berserker skill: Colliding Stab!

Charge!

The two were only three steps away. For normal players, it was a distance impossible to dodge the attack. However, Ye Xiu was facing Zhou Zekai, the most extraordinary in Glory. Three steps were the same as zero steps for normal players, but for Zhou Zekai, it was more than enough.

Dodge!

The instant Ye Xiu unsheathed his sword, Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer reacted. In a high-level confrontation like this, neither of them would just be standing still exchanging blows. The two were constantly moving. All of their attacking, defending, and dodging were done while moving. Cloud Piercer dodged the Dragon Tooth, while also taking the next step. When Lord Grim had used Colliding Stab, he had already taken half a step. He would dodge it.

But he didn't!

Zhou Zekai had unexpectedly made an error in judgement. The attack distance wasn't three steps. The area covered by the strike was far greater than Zhou Zekai had expected.

Because the Colliding Stab hadn't come from the tachi unsheathed from the umbrella. The tachi had only been unsheathed halfway before retracting. Lord Grim had kept the same stance after using Dragon Tooth and then followed with a Colliding Stab.

As a result, the distance of three steps was in fact zero steps. Because when the Dragon Tooth came out, the umbrella had completed those three steps. All it did next was switch forms. The tachi had been a feint. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had transformed into the strange greatsword form. The canvas of the umbrella was considered the blade of the greatsword. As a result, the greatsword was ridiculously big, and the area covered by Colliding Stab was much bigger as a result.

Hit!

Cloud Piercer had been hit by the Colliding Stab. This skill didn't only have a knockback. The sword pierced through the target, flying out along with the target.

Bang!

Cloud Piercer crashed into a stalactite. There was nowhere for him to retreat to. Lord Grim closed in. At such a close distance, all Zhou Zekai could see was Lord Grim's emotionless face.

Not good!

Zhou Zekai had realized that the situation was bad. They were too close, so close that even a class with a close-ranged weapon like a Blade Master would feel uncomfortable let alone a long-ranged class. At such a close distance, only punches and kicks could be performed. In other words, Fighter skills!

Bang!

Headbutt, another Headbutt.

Head against head, for a second time!

A punch to the stomach soon followed. It wasn't even a skill, but a normal attack.

Lord Grim's offense had begun. Zhou Zekai obviously wasn't going to just sit and let Lord Grim hit him. Cloud Piercer used Knee Strike!

Knee Strike was a low-level Sharpshooter skill. It used the knee to strike the opponent. It was similar to the Brawler's Knee Attack. The attack didn't have grab priority, but it had Super Armor. It meant that only a grab skill could interrupt it. As a shared low-level Gunner skill, it was considered a godly skill for Gunners in getting out of close combat.

But the moment Cloud Piercer raised his knee, Lord Grim grabbed his leg and then threw Cloud Piercer onto his shoulder before slamming him back into the stalactite.

Grappler skill: Receiving Throw. It was a dismantle skill, a grab that ignored Super Armor.

A sudden shift. Everyone was dumbstruck, including the spectating pro players.

Heal?

That was their own wishful thinking? Lord Grim hadn't bothered to heal. When his health dropped to 5%, Zhou Zekai rushed at him. As for Ye Xiu? He did the same! Ye Xiu also decided to rush at Zhou Zekai.

Rush down the opponent when you only had 5% of your health left?

It didn't seem logical. Rushing down the opponent at that health? That was suicide. When rushing, the amount of damage taken was often more than the amount of damage dealt. Trying to kill the opponent relying on such low health would be rude.

Cloud Piercer had a lot of health left. That was why Zhou Zekai rushed at Ye Xiu!

Lord Grim had little health left. Ye Xiu had unexpectedly done the same?

Inconceivable. But that was what he did. Now, Cloud Piercer was pinned to the stalactite, with no room to run. The Gunner King was like the stuffing in a dumpling, squeezed together by the wonton wrapper, trapped and unable to escape.

The 14% health was peeled off layer by layer, but was it enough?

Lord Grim could only use Fighter skills. Among those, skills like Qi Bullet were unsuitable and useless to him in this situation.

He had only had a few low-level skills that he could use, yet he needed to finish off Cloud Piercer in one go.

Punch, kick, knee, elbow, head...

Lord Grim used every part of the body that he could use to attack.

13%, 12%, 11%...

Right now, everyone wasn't thinking about what Zhou Zekai could do, but rather whether Ye Xiu could continue this combo until the end.

The broadcast was clever. The broadcast team quickly figured out where the key lay and immediately pulled out Lord Grim's skill tree to show everyone his cooldowns.

The umbrella was in its Fighter weapon form. All other class skills were gray, unable to be used. Among the Fighter skills available to Lord Grim, there was a big red question mark. It was the bonus skill on his Claw form. It wouldn't appear in the skill tree. However, everyone knew that Ye Xiu had chosen to add Headbutt.

All of his skills were low-level, so the cooldowns weren't long.

Even so, was it possible for him to chain these skills long enough to finish off Cloud Piercer?

"It's not enough..." Someone said. Pan Lin and Li Yibo obviously wouldn't dare to come to this conclusion. These two were too afraid of making any remarks towards Ye Xiu.

It was Han Wenqing who said it. He was the expert at close combat and also a Fighter class. His judgement was naturally very reliable.

"It's probably just by a bit," Wang Jiexi said.

Would this tiny bit be enough for Zhou Zekai to turn it around?

Everyone's gaze returned to the stage. They would know soon enough. Lord Grim's Fighter skills would soon all be on cooldown. He would only be able to use normal skills or other class skills. He wouldn't be able to keep up an inescapable combo.

Zhou Zekai couldn't see Lord Grim's skill tree, yet he seemed to see it more clearly than any of the ones who could see it. He immediately saw the opening and seized it.

Roundhouse Kick! Cloud Piercer spun around with a kick, but Lord Grim had already activated Cloud Body and jumped out of the way.

Cloud Piercer jumped up, pulled out his gun, and fired wildly!

Lord Grim'd body flickered. The distance of three steps was instantly closed.

Blade out, blade in.

Assassin skill: Teleporting Stab.

Cloud Piercer's health dropped to zero.

"Nice try. You were close :)" Ye Xiu typed into chat with a smiley face.