

Avatar 1641

Chapter 1641: You Can't Have Openings If You Don't Act

Seeing Sun Xiang walk toward the competitor booth just like that, the pro players were stunned.

It wasn't that they doubted this choice of player or anything, but... as of now, the judge still hadn't announced the final player choice of both teams. But from Samsara, Sun Xiang was walking toward the competitor booth just like that?

He was exposing information.

Because of the random nature of the third round of playoffs, the player order was decided on the spot. If one went before the other, then it would be like revealing your move too early when playing rock-paper-scissors. The competition system couldn't allow this kind of flaw, so following normal procedure, the two teams would first report their players to the judge, the judge would confirm, and then it would be announced to the stadium through the big screen. Only then would the players go onstage, verified by the judge.

This was the normal procedure because it amplified the atmosphere of the live match. Often, the name would be announced at the same time as the player went onstage. But in reality, the player had been determined long beforehand. Otherwise, if one team's player stood up first, then the other team could see that and say, oh, that player, then we'll send this player up...

This was the problem with Sun Xiang exposing the roster order. Right now, Happy actually hadn't reported their player order yet, but he was already walking toward the booth. Then, if Happy made any arrangements specifically targeting Sun Xiang, then that wouldn't be breaking any rules. They would just be getting a bargain.

And on Samsara's side? They had no way to make any further changes. Jiang Botao had already reported the first player to the referee.

This was a huge oversight! Sun Xiang, that guy, this crucial match hadn't even started yet and he'd already made such a low-level mistake!

Pro players were very familiar with the match format and paid attention to the rules, so they immediately realized that Sun Xiang's actions didn't seem right. But the ordinary audience members didn't have this professional sensitivity. Right now, they were actually applauding and praising Sun Xiang's appearance!

Was this a trick?

Seeing that the other Samsara players didn't have any reaction to Sun Xiang's action, the pro players couldn't help but begin to think in this direction. It was one thing for just Sun Xiang himself to get confused, but there was no way that not a single person in Samsara realized the problem, right? But if this really were a trick, then the team's reactions didn't seem quite right, either. If they were pretending, they should at least pretend to be alarmed at Sun Xiang's actions, right? And then when

Happy made counteractive arrangements, they would suddenly change players. They could then say that Sun Xiang was just wandering around the stage. There was nothing against the rules about that.

That was what that plan should look like, but it didn't look like Samsara was doing that, either. Nor did Happy have much of a reaction. Ye Xiu walked toward the judge, reporting their first player, and then he headed toward the competitor booth.

As expected, Happy's first player was Ye Xiu. Even when Samsara had leaked information, they stuck with their original, obvious plan. One after another, Sun Xiang and Ye Xiu entered their respective competitor booths.

Bold, confident!

Samsara displayed the kingly attitude of a championship team. They didn't engage in any of those schemes that people were imagining. Upright and honest, they sent out their first player, who boldly walked into the competitor booth.

No trick.

Was there really no trick?

"The trick is that there is no trick," Blue Rain's Yu Wenzhou suddenly said.

"In other words, if you feel that there is no trick, then there is no trick; if you feel that there is a trick, then the trick comes," he added.

Xiao Shiqin nodded, Wang Jiexi also nodded, Zhang Xinjie did not disagree, but no one said anything else.

Most of the others were still at a loss. Only after thinking hard did they begin to understand, and they all felt that their brains weren't enough.

"How black-hearted..." Those who could follow the twisting logic were all sighing. And at this time, the judge announced, the first battle of the final match group arena began now.

Map loaded, characters loaded.

A narrow, slightly winding canyon, extending from north to south. Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf loaded in on the north end of the canyon, while Lord Grim was on the south end.

Behind each of the two characters was usually the map boundary. Right now, the televised broadcast showed a close-up of the area behind the characters.

The so-called "map world" behind the characters was filled with two military camps of NPCs, each with a wooden sign at their entrances, with words written very clearly on them: Military Area, Death to Intruders!

The players watching the match suddenly understood. This map world was like the edge of a cliff, an abyss, a place that the characters would suffer damage just from entering. This kind of boundary design wasn't unique in Glory, and this map simply used a particular method to implement this design.

However, this kind of scene, would it be like an abyss where once you fell, there was no way to survive? No one knew. In this kind of crucial match, there was no way anyone would test it out for themselves. If they were to test, they would want to think of a way to send the opponent's character there. Right now, as soon as Ye Xiu and Sun Xiang realized the design behind them, they immediately controlled their characters to stay far away.

Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf steadily stepped forward. Even though Ye Xiu could control Lord Grim to use the Myriad Manifestation Umbrella's Ninjato form to scale the canyon walls, right now he did the exact same thing as Sun Xiang – control his character to steadily advance.

The two character's actions at the start of the match were exactly the same. The audience watched as the two characters, one heading south, one heading north. Both were looking left and right at their surroundings in the same way. If not for their entirely different equipment, it would be hard to distinguish who was who.

At last, the two characters reached the middle, where there were no twists and turns. Very quickly, they saw their approaching opponent.

The movement pace of the two characters instantly became cautious.

No turns, no way to circle around. This was the so-called inevitable confrontation, a direct collision on a narrow road, where there was no way to evade.

Closer, step by step.

Lord Grim's attacks could reach far, and right now the opponent was already within his attack range. But Ye Xiu didn't attack. He simply maintained his rhythm, allowing Lord Grim to approach step by step.

Sun Xiang was even less likely to attack. A Battle Mage was a class that needed to be close enough to reach their full battle potential. As the distance closed, options gradually opened up to him, such as Dragon Breaks the Ranks, which could instantly eliminate the distance between the two characters right now. But Sun Xiang still did not make a move.

Neither side attacked. And then, as though the two of them agreed, one suddenly went left, one went right, both moving at a slant.

Just as the distance between them looked like it was about to be closed, the two suddenly controlled their characters to move diagonally, increasing the distance horizontally.

Were these two planning to let each other go by just like that, and continue to study this map?

Seeing this scene, many people already began to think in this direction. But the pro players all knew that this kind of investigation wasn't very necessary. Their offstage teammates had the same omniscient view as the audience, and investigation was shared. So that half of the map that Lord Grim hadn't stepped in yet, Happy's players had already seen it from the point of view of Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf. The only one who didn't know that area was Ye Xiu himself.

Similarly, Sun Xiang had experienced one half of the map for himself, and was still unfamiliar with the other half.

In this kind of situation, would they really let the other go by to understand that half of the map they still hadn't experienced?

No pro player would have such a harmonious and friendly thought. In this moment, for the players onstage, this one half known, one half unknown was their strength and weakness. Thus, when they met, the main goal of their confrontation should be to force the opponent toward the area that they were familiar with and that their opponent was unfamiliar with, and decide victory there.

That was why neither player attacked. Their characters drew closer and closer, both of them looking for this kind of opportunity, to bring the opponent into the half of the map behind them.

But neither of them found such an opportunity, because both of them were very cautious, and neither left any openings. This made it seem like there was a high level of unspoken understanding and coordination between them, but in reality neither forgot that their opponent was their opponent. They paid attention to the other's movements solely to find a chance. As soon as there was an opening, that there was an opportunity to be seized, both of them would destroy this coordination without hesitation.

Their north-south distance was practically zero, but because of their slanted movement, there was still around six units of distance between them horizontally. Both characters had their backs facing the canyon wall. Unlike before, they were no longer looking around. They were focused entirely on the opponent in front of them.

Movement stopped. Stand-off.

Six units of distance. Lord Grim had too many skills he could use to attack the opponent, and One Autumn Leaf could also attack the opponent at this distance. Because of the long reach of a Battle Mage's weapon, their attack distance was a bit longer than things like fists or swords.

But the two players simply continued to face each other without moving. No movement. The display showed their hand speeds as zero, two flat lines on the graph leisurely progressing forward.

One second, two seconds...

But even though there was no movement, that didn't mean that it wasn't draining their energy. Both of the players were currently extremely focused. The rhythm wasn't just slow, it had completely stopped, and no one knew who would attack first. They only knew that in this kind of static stand-off, it would be very difficult to break the equilibrium first. The game wasn't like reality. As long as there were no inputs, the character could maintain its posture and position for years. And moving could potentially create an opening. Despite the many experts watching this match, they were at a loss as to how to break this absolute stand-off.

No one could have predicted that these two would engage in a stand-off to this level. In order to avoid creating openings and eliminate flaws, they continuously made their moves simpler and simpler, decreasing their movements, lowering their speed.

At last, they sunk to the limit, to the very lowest.

If you didn't act, there would be no openings.

This was no longer a situation, it was a state, a state that only pro players could appreciate.

It would be very difficult to break this state from within. To break from the outside, there was typically only one reason – the judge deciding that this was “improper player conduct” and getting involved. But this stand-off wasn’t improper conduct, it was that there was simply no way to act. There were no controls being made, but the confrontation never stopped. This was a battle of spirit. If this were truly broken by the judge for “improper conduct,” the beauty of the scene really would be ruined.

Fortunately, today’s map happened to have another outside method to break this stand-off.

Event refresh!

Chapter 1642: The Mountain Storm Has Arrived

As the saying went, a coming storm is foretold by the rising mountain wind. But right now, it wasn’t just the wind – the storm itself was upon them.

From the two ends of the canyon, the area forbidden to the players, the two camps of NPCs charged forth like rushing water. War cries and pounding footsteps rose up, sending clouds of dust billowing as they made their way toward the center of the map. At the same time, the hidden ambushers on the canyon walls began to make their move, paying attention to the situation below them as they made their way toward the center of the canyon as well.

The audience could see all of this very clearly. But Ye Xiu and Sun Xiang were unaware. The two continued to stand there, unmoving.

The two sides grew closer and closer. The sound carried through the canyon, and wavering forms began to appear at the very limits of their vision.

The two still did not move.

Right now, they were no longer competing in just patience or concentration. It was more a battle of willpower.

With the interference of the NPCs, the two would have to move sooner or later. And now, they were about to see who could endure until the very last moment before moving.

In a typical match, players were competing to be the first to do something, and they would fear that their controls weren’t fast enough, that they couldn’t beat the opponent in speed. But today, in this battle between Ye Xiu and Sun Xiang, the two of them had suppressed this match to this extent. It was as though they were playing a game where whoever moved first would lose.

Reality, of course, wasn’t that absolute. In fact, whoever moved first now might even be able to take the initiative. But neither of them took this risk.

Yes, risk.

The very simple action of breaking the unmoving situation to attack was actually considered a risk by the two of them. In this battle, the level of caution they were taking could be described as insane. If that weren’t the case, they would have never become locked in a stalemate like this.

But Ye Xiu doing this was one thing – the pro players were shocked to see Sun Xiang doing so as well. This haughty, impatient youth was actually able to restrain himself and compete in patience, compete in willpower?

In their view, Sun Xiang was competing with his weakness against the opponent's strength. In this kind of stalemate, he couldn't just toss his keyboard and mouse to the side. It required high concentration, maintaining a calm and steady mental state.

Anyone could do this for a short bit of time. But maintaining this steady state for a long time was very difficult, especially for someone with a personality like Sun Xiang's. Not many people felt that he could keep control.

And right now, he was faced with a big test, the event refresh. The armies of NPCs approached, blocking the already-narrow canyon so tightly that even water couldn't escape. This next test was no longer just the problem of the opponent.

Time was running out, the distance was closing. The NPCs were lined up in battle formation. Glory's NPCs were also divided into the classes of Glory players, but their skill trees were much simpler. The more ordinary NPCs normally only had one or two skills, Boss level ones typically only had 3 or 5. Very few would have a complete skill tree. However, mixing skills across classes was fairly frequent.

And the charge after the event activation had been shown by the map introduction earlier. If the players had been paying attention, they should have taken note of the NPCs' class composition and battle methods.

Neither Happy nor Samsara had overlooked this point, and right now the unfolding position of the NPCs was exactly the same as had been shown in the preview video.

In the front row were Knights. Once they had gotten close enough, they all lifted their shields. Instantly, there were no people to be seen on either side, only shields. It was as though Lord Grim and One Autumn Leaf were sealed in a rectangular box.

And then, boom boom boom, the sound of cannonfire. Hidden behind the shields, the Gunner classes of the two sides launched their attacks first, and they had all chosen the same skill: Stinger.

Stinger, ten of them!

The number of shots was also something that the players had paid attention to during the map introduction, and indeed, there were this many. The timing of the fire was also exactly the same. As for the flight path, everyone had originally wondered whether they would adjust depending on the exact position of the two players, but now, they saw that they still followed the rhythm of the introduction. In other words, right now, the two armies of NPCs were still ignoring Lord Grim and One Autumn Leaf. They were not the major targets of the Stingers.

Bang bang bang bang bang...

Soon after, the Stingers exploded like fireworks in the air. One artillery shell would explode into eight, making 160 Stingers in total. Even though Lord Grim and One Autumn Leaf hadn't changed the attack rhythm of the NPCs, the wide AoE of this skill meant that their position would still be covered by this attack.

These two were really enduring to this extent. The Stingers were almost upon them, were they still not moving?

They moved!

The first one who moved was actually Lord Grim? The one who couldn't last any longer was actually Ye Xiu?

Those who didn't understand the subtleties of this scene didn't think that this was a big deal, and in fact a number of people were thinking about how Ye Xiu's reaction was faster. But the pro players were extremely surprised. Sun Xiang was actually steadier than Ye Xiu?

Right now, Lord Grim moved first, and Sun Xiang could finally begin to attack. But then, Lord Grim's arms came up, his hands moving in a blur.

Sun Xiang wanted to cry...

Shadow Clone Technique!

Lord Grim had actually used this technique. Stand-off, restraint, both sides were waiting for the best chance to move, all the way until they had been surrounded by the NPCs. Ye Xiu could endure no longer, he made the first move, and Lord Grim moved, to run...

Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

Sun Xiang, who had already realized that something was wrong, used his fastest reaction and fastest hand speed. One Autumn Leaf lifted Evil Annihilation and rushed forward, instantly shattering Lord Grim.

But Sun Xiang's heart sank.

Shattering meant that this was a Shadow Clone. The Shadow Clone Technique had been successfully cast, Lord Grim had already left from this position.

Where was he?

Sun Xiang lifted the view of One Autumn Leaf, and the first thing he saw was a Stinger about to land right upon his face. There was no time to dodge.

Boom!

The explosive power of a Stinger wasn't actually very large, but it could easily cover a head. In this moment, it was as though One Autumn Leaf's head exploded.

Through his fire-blurred vision, Sun Xiang could see Lord Grim land atop an outcropping on the cliff face, but in order to be well-prepared, the ninjato in his right hand was also firmly stuck in the stone. Sun Xiang had only managed one look before Lord Grim was moving again, nimbly using his ninjato to climb the wall.

Stalemate? Restraint? Wait for the best moment to attack? Who moved first would lose?

Sun Xiang truly no longer knew if Ye Xiu had even had these thoughts. Perhaps it had been like that at the start, but as the situation changed, his thought process had changed as well; or perhaps from the very beginning, he'd been purposefully putting on this act, all to lead him into this trap now...

After the widespread explosions of the Stingers, the two teams of NPCs continued to advance. According to the map introduction video, what came next would be the Knights' Charge, and then the shields of both sides would brutally crash together.

Indeed, that seemed to be what was happening. The lines of Knights were already lowering their shields and rushing forward with Charge. But unlike the video, this time there was an extra One Autumn Leaf in the middle. Sun Xiang was like the layer of cream stuck between two cookies.

Clang clang clang clang...

The shields clashed together, producing a deep, ringing sound. In the end, One Autumn Leaf did manage to escape being squished into cream. A Dragon Breaks the Ranks allowed him to charge to the mountain wall, and then he jumped up, kicking against the cliffside. The second jump gave him the height he needed at the crucial moment to avoid the shields crashing below him.

Dragon Tooth, Double Stab, and the stab from a normal attack.

Midair Four Hit Combo was instantly completed, striking against the wall, and they accurately struck against the same place. The razor-sharp Evil Annihilation ultimately pierced through, and just like that One Autumn Leaf hung in the air. He still had to curl his lower body, lifting up his two legs in order to avoid the NPCs clashing beneath him.

"Not bad!" Praise from Ye Xiu flashed in the chat. Sun Xiang lifted his camera view and saw that Ye Xiu had already found another outcropping. Lord Grim stood steadily atop it, and this time he had retracted his ninjato. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella was balanced in his right hand, and at the tip of the umbrella, the gun's muzzle was a black hole. In his left hand he held a grenade, and just as Sun Xiang controlled One Autumn Leaf to lift his head, that grenade came tumbling down, and immediately after, boom boom boom, three Anti-Tank Missiles were flying toward him.

One Autumn Leaf, dangling in midair, desperately hanging onto Evil Annihilation with legs curled, was pathetic enough. How could he avoid this kind of attack? But in the moment that the grenade and the missiles were about to strike, One Autumn Leaf's body suddenly shrunk into nothingness, as though he'd been squeezed into a void.

Teleport!

Last match, this was the skill that Sun Xiang had chosen to add to One Autumn Leaf's weapon. This match, it was the same.

The attack was dodged, and it seemed like One Autumn Leaf could use this move to find a temporary landing point.

But suddenly, Lord Grim lifted his right leg, and kicked out.

Front Kick!

And then, everyone saw as a figure tore out of the void right into this foot. One Autumn Leaf was sent flying.

The pro players watching this all sighed and shook their heads. When it came to mind games, even ten Sun Xiangs combined were no match for Ye Xiu!

Chapter 1643: True Initiative

Front Kick, knockback effect, but right now One Autumn Leaf was in midair, so the knockback became a blow away.

How had this attack been so accurate? How did Ye Xiu make such a godly prediction? Most of the normal players were freaking out, but the pro players all understood that to call the prediction godly was a bit excessive. Ye Xiu simply made a fairly good response to one possibility among many.

If Ye Xiu had truly completely predicted that Sun Xiang would control One Autumn Leaf to teleport here, then a better move for him would have been to use a stronger attack. But instead, he only used a Front Kick, a short and fast skill. When using this skill, his first consideration was that even if Sun Xiang hadn't controlled One Autumn Leaf to teleport here, it wasn't a big deal if the kick missed. This one kick wouldn't affect his own position.

But right now, this kick had served a purpose. And if this Front Kick were only perfunctory, without any follow-up attack, that would be too unbecoming of his God level.

The Front Kick landed, and then Lord Grim leapt forward, chasing after the flying One Autumn Leaf.

But Sun Xiang was no weakling. True, he was no match for Ye Xiu when it came to playing mind games, and Ye Xiu had predicted his actions this time. But when it came to a battle of technique, Sun Xiang feared no expert.

Even in this situation, he still completed an attack.

Circle Swing!

Even as One Autumn Leaf was in midair, his attack was still that fast, that accurate, that fierce. The spear Evil Annihilation became a streak of dark light, striking toward the pursuer Lord Grim.

But then, Lord Grim suddenly waved his hand, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella switched to ninjato form and stuck in the mountain wall. With that, Lord Grim's body halted. In the end, the dark streak that was Evil Annihilation just barely missed him.



Ye Xiu actually still had time to send an emoticon in the chat. The pro players who saw this screen couldn't help but hear Ye Xiu's shameless laughter ringing in their ears. Their imaginations were enough to replicate his voice.

But Sun Xiang wouldn't accept defeat lying down. The Circle Swing missed, but the retracted Evil Annihilation swung behind him, jabbing out sideways, piercing the mountain wall.

Flying backwards, One Autumn Leaf crashed into this obstacle that he'd created for himself. But to everyone's surprise, One Autumn Leaf actually curled his body, and used the force from colliding against Evil Annihilation to change direction, doing a roll.

This was... a Quick Recover?

Not just the ordinary audience members, even the pro players were shocked.

On the narrow shaft of the spear, Sun Xiang had actually managed to control One Autumn Leaf to perform this Quick Recover roll. Like an acrobat, One Autumn Leaf ended up balanced on the spear's shaft.

This definitely wasn't a control that a player would practice normally. This was something that Sun Xiang had invented on the spot, demonstrating his incredible adaptability, as well as his high hand speed and precise control.

Like this, Sun Xiang was actually able to control a Battle Mage to what a Ninja did.

But the Ninja had this ability largely by relying on the special properties of the ninjato. That long rope attached to the end of the blade was the key to allowing one to climb. And Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf could only perch on Evil Annihilation like this, because his hands needed to hold onto Evil Annihilation. Otherwise, he would be dropping the weapon.

In this situation, it was relatively easy to jump out horizontally, and he could pull out the spear as he did so. But if he wanted to jump upward, then the spear firmly lodged in the mountain wall supporting the character's weight became an obstacle. This problem had been studied long before, and the conclusion had been that it was too difficult and probably wasn't worth it. In the end, no one wasted their energy to try to make it happen.

What would Sun Xiang do now?

Everyone was suddenly very curious, and the stadium was already filled with thunderous applause just for that acrobatic feat Sun Xiang had just completed.

But, was the important thing right now what Sun Xiang would do?

No. The one who had the initiative right now was definitely Ye Xiu. What Ye Xiu would do would direct the upcoming situation of this battle.

So even though Ye Xiu also very impressed at Sun Xiang's Quick Recover, it didn't cause him to slow down the pace. Just as One Autumn Leaf stabilized himself atop the spear, Lord Grim was already flying toward him.

One Autumn Leaf was balanced on his weapon. If he pulled it out, the character would fall; if he didn't pull it out, how could he use skills to fight back? Everyone had just been praising Sun Xiang's ingenuity with his move, but right now, it looked like his ingenuity had blocked him off in a dead end?

At this moment, as One Autumn Leaf crouched on the spear, his left hand still tightly gripped Evil Annihilation, while his right palm thrust forward.

Falling Flower Palm!

An attack with decent priority and AoE.

However, the attack distance was too short, which was the obvious mistake. The Falling Flower Palm came out, but Lord Grim was already slashing toward him with a sword. When it collided with the magic energy of Falling Flower Palm, it didn't lose in priority at all. In fact, it could be said that it completely pierced through the magic energy from this palm.

"How evil..."

After this attack came out, the pro players all sighed.

Wave Wheel Slasher!

Ye Xiu had actually controlled Lord Grim to use this attack in midair. With the priority of this attack, how could the Falling Flower Palm blast it aside? It was naturally at a large disadvantage. The swordlight wiped past, the ripples of energy immediately locked onto One Autumn Leaf, and following the direction pointed by the sword, tore him in that direction.

Evil Annihilation was pulled out of the mountain wall, One Autumn Leaf was locked in midair by the rippling energy from Wave Wheel Slasher and began to take damage. But everyone could see that the key point right now wasn't this bit of damage, but that One Autumn Leaf had been completely sent into the air without a single bit of support.

Left? Right?

Even if Evil Annihilation had been another one and a half times as long, he still wouldn't be able to reach either mountain wall. One Autumn Leaf could only hang there and wait for the Wave Wheel Slasher to finish, before free-falling down into the clashing armies of NPCs below him!

After Ye Xiu's Lord Grim sent One Autumn Leaf flying with a Wave Wheel Slasher, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella changed form again. Lord Grim, pressed against the mountain wall, stood steadily as One Autumn Leaf fell into the chaotic battle below. They were about to see what kind of attitude these two armies of NPCs would have toward a stranger that had snuck his way into their ranks. But for Samsara, this experiment was a bit cruel, as their player's character became the guinea pig.

One Autumn Leaf falling.

If one's eyes were sharp, they could see that One Autumn Leaf was making adjustments while in the air. The grab of a Wave Wheel Slasher didn't have as overwhelmingly high priority as a Circle Swing or the many grab attacks of a Grappler. As soon as the damage ended, the character could be controlled by the player again.

One Autumn Leaf stretched himself out in midair, the spear Evil Annihilation was already lifted to his head, and the instant he landed, Evil Annihilation came down, shaking the earth.

Shattering the Lands!

This was Sun Xiang's response.

Chapter 1644: The Final Choice

In Season 7, Sun Xiang stepped onstage for the first time and immediately received widespread attention. Even though he came from a weak team like Conquering Clouds, his performance was exceptional, breaking through the rookie wall and easily collecting the Best Rookie award.

At that time, “prodigy,” “the star of hope,” all sorts of extravagant praise rained down upon him. Sun Xiang very quickly became pleased and satisfied by all this.

Amidst all of this, there was much commentary about how if Sun Xiang weren’t held back by the rest of his team, or if he had a top god-level character, then perhaps Sun Xiang would have had even better results in his first season, or even made history.

Sun Xiang deeply appreciated this kind of talk. He also felt that his abilities hadn’t reached their full potential, and that he needed a bigger space to shine.

He needed a better team, and he needed a top-notch character.

Battle God One Autumn Leaf was undoubtedly the most godly character in Glory, and Ye Qiu, called the Glory Textbook, was the top God in Glory history.

But Sun Xiang didn’t think that it was such a big deal.

He of course knew of Ye Qiu’s past glory, but by the time he’d gotten into Glory, all he saw was the performance of Ye Qiu and Excellent Era decline year by year.

So, when Excellent Era extended an olive branch to him in Season 8, Sun Xiang was overjoyed – he felt that this was a match made in heaven. He needed exactly this kind of team, this kind of character.

He came to Excellent Era, replaced Ye Qiu, accepted the Battle God One Autumn Leaf.

Sun Xiang was puffed up with pride. He felt that a new era was upon him. With this kind of top-notch team and character, he would immediately soar up into the sky.

But that season, Excellent Era was relegated.

No result was more painful than this. That season, even Conquering Clouds, who’d aspired for the playoffs while Sun Xiang was still there, hadn’t fallen to that extent after Sun Xiang left.

What had happened?

Sun Xiang, whose professional career was still only two years, would be lying if he said he hadn’t panicked.

He had a top-notch character, a championship team. How could their final result be relegation? Where had they gone wrong? Was his own skill not enough? No! Of course that couldn’t be the reason.

At that time, Sun Xiang was already beginning to doubt himself, but he was unwilling to believe it, he was unwilling to ponder this question seriously.

He was anxious to prove himself, and he had considered leaving Excellent Era sooner, but the team’s quick actions after becoming relegated ultimately convinced him to place his expectations on this team.

But then, that season, in the Challenger League finals, Excellent Era lost to Happy. He lost again.

He lost to Ye Xiu, lost to this person that he'd squeezed out of Excellent Era, the guy who'd lost everything.

Top-tier characters? Happy had none.

An incredible roster? Happy didn't have that, either.

Just by relying on this kind of team, Ye Xiu was able to defeat Sun Xiang and Excellent Era. This wasn't just the victory and defeat of one match, nor the victory and defeat of an entire season. This completely destroyed Sun Xiang's sense of what had value in Glory.

With a top-tier character and strong teammates, he could soar right up into the sky.

This was what Sun Xiang had always believed.

And Happy had none of these things. And yet, Happy won.

From Best Rookie, to transferring to a top powerhouse, in the span of a short year and a half, Sun Xiang had experienced the shining peak of life that countless people would never reach. And then in the next year and a half, relegation, failure in the Challenger League, this was a blow that many, many pro players had never experienced.

Three years, in the first three years of his professional career, Sun Xiang had experienced many things. But when he looked back, he discovered that he was still so far away from the playoffs, never mind the finals stage.

Wasn't he a prodigy? Wasn't he brimming with talent? Wasn't he the star of tomorrow?

Excellent Era disbanded, and Sun Xiang and One Autumn Leaf joined Samsara.

He still controlled the top character, he had even stronger teammates by his side. This was the two-consecutive-championship master of kings. Amidst the gray of his professional career, a new chance came to turn things around. In fact, it could be said that he'd reached an even higher level.

But this time, Sun Xiang would not be the arrogant and complacent person he was before. He began to attentively scrutinize himself, study how he could become better.

He did well. He swiftly integrated with the rest of Team Samsara. It wasn't like how many commentators had warned, where there might be internal conflicts because of issues about the core position. He and Zhou Zekai, one close and one long-range, their Double One partnership ultimately took the Best Partners award for this season.

He finally fixed his attitude. And in this season's battles, he once again met Happy, once again met Ye Xiu. And again, they met in the finals, facing off directly against each other. This battle had even given them an appropriate map – Inevitable Confrontation.

Sun Xiang wanted to win.

He wanted to defeat Happy, and wanted to defeat Ye Xiu even more.

He admitted that it was thanks to Ye Xiu and Happy that he had woken up, but this only made him want to defeat them even more. He hoped to let all of Happy, let Ye Xiu see, that he was no longer the Sun Xiang that they had defeated before.

And so he was cautious, he was prudent, he didn't allow himself to make any mistake in this match. It was for the sake of Samsara's victory, and at the same time it was to fiercely prove himself in front of the person who had defeated him before.

In the end, he had still ended up in such a pathetic position.

But this time, he wasn't angry, wasn't resentful, wasn't like before, where he found fault in everything except himself.

Immediately, he began to evaluate himself, and he realized, perhaps he had used the wrong method.

Caution, psychological battle, these weren't his strengths, but in order to prove himself, he still chose to use this playstyle that didn't quite suit him.

Even though he very much hoped that he could surpass Ye Xiu in all aspects, in reality, everyone had their strengths and weaknesses. Sun Xiang's strengths didn't lay in these areas.

He should choose to use the playstyle that he was good at. Because, on the battlefield, his goal was to win, not to surpass! The only thing that people needed to surpass was themselves. Following his own footsteps, one step after another surpassing himself. Only then would he become stronger and stronger.

Ye Xiu, or anyone, they should not be targets to be surpassed. Rather, they should be defeated!

Shattering the Lands!

A Level 75 skill, this was Sun Xiang's final choice. In the face of uncertainty regarding the NPCs' attitude toward the players, he was no longer careful, he was no longer trying to think it over carefully, because those were not his strengths. He could not become one of those players who relied on their minds to fight.

He took the initiative in attacking the NPCs. Shattering the Lands sent magic energy surging through the ground, causing these obstacles in front of him to go flying into the air.

These people in my way, all of you can die!

In this instant, the imposing aura that One Autumn Leaf displayed was just like the Battle God under Ye Xiu's hands back in the day.

Chapter 1645: One Autumn Leaf's Strongest State

The event NPCs were interference, but at the same time they could be used. If used well, this could be an extremely intelligent match.

In the past, Sun Xiang had thought that he was all-powerful, that there was nothing he couldn't do in Glory. But now, he could admit that these games involving lots of calculations weren't his strong point.

So, he didn't bother with thinking about whether these things could be any use to him. If it's interference, then wipe it away!

Shattering the Lands tossed the nearby NPCs into the air. Offstage, the players from the two teams were seizing the chance to observe. Without clashing with the NPCs like this, it would be very difficult to judge how strong they were. Aside from that, how would these NPCs react to someone taking the initiative to attack them? Before this, the two armies seemed to have mostly ignored the presence of Lord Grim and One Autumn Leaf. While the two of them had been climbing the mountain wall, the NPCs hadn't specifically directed any attacks toward the two of them.

But right now, after being directly attacked like this, if the NPCs still had no reaction, then this event's design would be fairly boring. Glory, this classic game, would never have that kind of meaningless design, whether in-game or on a competitive map.

Indeed, after being attacked by Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf, the two teams of NPCs no longer ignored them. Both sides suddenly had a clear attack target: One Autumn Leaf.

Cannon shots, magic spells...

One Autumn Leaf had already cleared the area immediately surrounding him, so the first attacks that arrived were all long-range. Aside from those that caused damage, there were also a few curses with controlling effects. The class composition of these NPCs was quite well-rounded.

But Sun Xiang had predicted this possibility. When the attacks reached him, the end animation of Shattering the Lands had completed. One Autumn Leaf darted forward like an arrow, leaving many attacks behind him. At the same time, he swung his arm again, tossing forth a Tyrant's Destruction toward the NPCs falling from the air like dumplings.

A streak of dark light. The many NPCs tumbling in front of One Autumn Leaf were swept aside by the Tyrant's Destruction. Each of them flew backward toward the mountain wall, where Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was still cheerfully watching the show!

Sun Xiang didn't forget who his opponent was, he didn't forget the goal of this battle! While sweeping away this disruption, he was already beginning to attack Ye Xiu.

Sun Xiang had turned the NPCs into human cannonballs, but the blowback of the Tyrant's Destruction wasn't very strong. These human cannonballs didn't fly very quickly, and could be blocked by any casual attack. Even using a grab skill to throw these cannonballs back at One Autumn Leaf would be a very simple thing to do. But Ye Xiu chose to dodge. Lord Grim jumped down from his original position, once again displaying the capabilities of the ninjato. Lord Grim climbed along the cliff face, carefully avoiding all of the NPCs that Sun Xiang sent toward him.

"What is this guy doing?"

The pro players couldn't quite understand. Sun Xiang was already suffering attacks from the NPCs that he'd been harassing. This was a perfect chance to add oil to the fire and grab victory. But Ye Xiu still stayed out of it, looking like his only plan was to watch the show. The watching pro players were confused.

And then, when those NPCs sent flying by the Shattering the Lands finally crashed back down against the ground, another wave of long-range attacks came toward him, and close-range fighters rushed toward him as well. Seeing the movements of the NPCs, the pro players suddenly understood.

“This guy is too sneaky!” everyone exclaimed.

Ye Xiu could have begun his offensive now, but he chose not to, solely because he didn’t want to draw the aggro of the NPCs. Right now, the NPCs were already moving against One Autumn Leaf. If Lord Grim attacked One Autumn Leaf at a time like this, it would be very easy for Sun Xiang to direct his attack onto an NPC.

And so, he chose to avoid it all. He had no conflict with any of the NPCs, nor did he give Sun Xiang the chance to create such conflict.

This sort of sensitivity to the aggro of NPCs was really something that could only be trained after spending large amounts of time in-game. The high and mighty pro players clearly weren’t sensitive enough to this, to the extent that not a single one of them had immediately recognized Ye Xiu’s intention.

The battle continued.

But it had already become a struggle between Sun Xiang and the NPCs. Ye Xiu’s Lord Grim perched upon the wall unscathed as he watched the battle, and then it became time for his trash talk.

“Right, right.”

“Left, left.”

“Above.”

“Nice reactions!”

“14 o’clock direction.”

“That’s just 2 o’clock!”

“Haha tricked you.”

“Hm you didn’t believe it?”

Messages flashed nonstop in the channel. Looking down from above, Ye Xiu gave pointers on the chaotic battle between Sun Xiang and the NPCs. The Samsara fans felt tightness in their chest. Most of them felt that this battle wouldn’t turn out well for Sun Xiang. However, the pro players didn’t have such a simple view of the problem. They quickly noticed that even though Sun Xiang was amidst all this chaos, One Autumn Leaf wasn’t suffering very serious injuries, and was in fact getting braver and braver as he fought.

“The NPCs aren’t very strong!” the pro players said.

This was the reason why their opinion was different from that of ordinary gamers. Because their skill levels were different, their worldviews were different. Surrounded by so many NPCs, ordinary gamers

would think that this was a death sentence. But for a pro player, this was still a situation that they could deal with.

There was another point, too. The NPCs didn't forget about their own battle just because of the interference of Sun Xiang. Right now, they were still attacking each other as well, and Sun Xiang was very cleverly able to take advantage of this.

That silhouette amidst the chaotic battle became clearer and clearer. Around him swirled all sorts of magic energy.

Neutral Chasers, Light Chasers, Dark Chasers, Fire Chasers, Ice Chasers...

Five types of Chasers, five colors. Right now, One Autumn Leaf was adding them up without interruption. Aside from this, there was a gold aura surrounding him, so bright that it practically outshone the light of those five types of chasers.

Battle Spirit!

The Awakening skill of the Battle Mage, a status activated after enough combos. After the Level 75 upgrade, it could reach eight stages. It was a classic skill that was loved by countless players in-game.

And right now, the blinding golden light that flashed around One Autumn Leaf was that of the eighth stage. It had been extremely rare to see in this professional season, especially in a 1v1. Eighth stage battle spirit required a 150-hit combo.

Such a steep requirement, there was practically no chance of it appearing in an individual battle. An opponent that you could hit a 150-hit combo on was basically a wooden dummy. By that point, activating Battle Spirit would basically be pointless.

Because of this, many pro Battle Mage players wouldn't add many points to this skill. Awakening skills were all extremely strong, and costed a significant amount of skill points.

But who was One Autumn Leaf? This was the character named the Battle God, the number one character in Glory, his Battle Spirit had definitely been leveled up to the max. Before, Ye Xiu had used this character. After Sun Xiang received it, with his kind of personality, he believed that he could do anything that Ye Xiu could, so he didn't adjust the points on Battle Spirit. The Level 75 update came around, adding another rank to the skill, going from a max seven stages to eight.

The Sun Xiang that arrived at Samsara was already beginning to reevaluate himself. Still, he didn't erase the points on the Battle Spirit skill. This kind of skill, relying on technique to increase battle power, he felt that it suited his style very well. It was very difficult to reach that high of a rank in a solo battle, but there was still a chance in a team round. It would still be difficult, but Ye Xiu had done it back in the day!

Even though many people believed that Battle Spirit wasn't practical on the professional stage, in the hearts of the Battle Mage players, this was still a glory that belonged to them. To ignite the brilliant fire of the highest rank Battle Spirit on stage, this was something that every Battle Mage player had dreamed of, even though most would only put a few points into the skill in the end.

And Sun Xiang, he dared turn this dream into reality, he wanted to light up with the flaming golden light of Battle Spirit.

And today, he accomplished it.

Even though it had been convenient with the setup of this map, if he hadn't had this kind of goal from the beginning, perhaps today's One Autumn Leaf would only have a second or third rank Battle Spirit. He wouldn't be aflame with such a glorious battle aura.

"This time, Ye Xiu played around for too long, huh?" the various pro players exclaimed.

The NPCs' battle ability wasn't anything incredible, they hadn't completely controlled Sun Xiang. One Autumn Leaf paid a bit of price in health, but he managed to ignite the strongest state of the Battle Mage. If this continued, these NPCs wouldn't be any obstacle at all, and Ye Xiu would have to face a One Autumn Leaf that had reached an incredible level of power. This was something that even he, as One Autumn Leaf's creator, had never witnessed before.

Chapter 1646: What Is Your Intent

Sky Strike, Falling Flower Palm!

A small combo created from low-level skills. Falling Flower Palm's powerful Blow Away sent one NPC into the air, crashing toward Lord Grim, who was still hanging onto the wall. The offensive against Ye Xiu resumed.

As the saying went, Ye Xiu had tried riding a tiger and now found it hard to get off. At least, this was what many pro players thought.

He hadn't acted first because he'd been concerned about drawing the aggro of the NPCs. He'd hoped the NPCs' battle ability could wear out Sun Xiang.

But no one had thought that these NPCs were so weak. From the very start, they hadn't dealt much damage to One Autumn Leaf. Instead, they'd served to buff One Autumn Leaf.

Five types of chasers, golden Battle Spirit. One Autumn Leaf was in his peak state right now, the highest peak he'd ever reached in these ten plus years.

And right now, the one he was attacking was the one who had brought him into this world, Ye Xiu.

What should Ye Xiu do?

He hadn't attacked at first, and if he attacked now, he would still attract the NPCs' aggro. If, under the interference of the NPCs, he was then attacked by this One Autumn Leaf in peak form, he really should have just acted earlier.

Now that things were at this point, maybe his best option was just to continue avoiding battle!

This was what everyone was thinking. But this time, Ye Xiu didn't control Lord Grim to continue dodging. Even though Falling Flower Palm's Blow Away effect was strong, strong enough to send a character flying this high, the character would only fly slower and slower. By the time it arrived, it posed no threat. Lord Grim stretched out his hand and easily grabbed the NPC. With a Fling, he tossed it back at One Autumn Leaf below.

Everyone was caught off-guard. They thought that this was the really worst decision. Ye Xiu surely would have calculated this, right? What was this guy planning now?

The pro players in the audience began to ponder this, but onstage, Sun Xiang didn't think twice. He had already decided to stop trying to engage in mental battles against Ye Xiu. He was focusing all of his energy in carrying out his offensive.

No matter how Ye Xiu would respond, there was only one plan in his heart: knock him down, get rid of obstacles, knock him down!

Dodge!

One Autumn Leaf dodged the NPC that Lord Grim tossed at him. Evil Annihilation flashed out, sweeping up another NPC, and throwing this human cannonball at Lord Grim once again. And when Lord Grim grabbed the NPC, he immediately attracted the attention of all the NPCs, and a few long-range attacks were already beginning to point toward him.

Boom!!

A round of cannonfire came toward him first, but Ye Xiu, who'd predicted this, was already controlling Lord Grim to dodge. When the NPC that One Autumn Leaf had thrown came toward him, Lord Grim dodged again.

Sun Xiang was already beginning to attack Ye Xiu, but he wasn't in a hurry to rush up to him. He was continuing to spend a lot of effort dealing with the NPCs that came at him, and whenever he had the chance, he would keep throwing these NPCs at Lord Grim.

No matter how good Ye Xiu's technique was, this kind of struggle on the side of a mountain wall was still more difficult than the freedom of movement that being on the ground offered. Facing the combination of attacks thrown at him by Sun Xiang and the NPCs, he soon found himself too busy to deal with them all.

"Why bother?" The pro players once again expressed their confusion.

If he was still going to dodge the attacks, then why do that grab and Fling earlier, inviting so many attacks upon himself? It wasn't like he couldn't have dodged that, and if he'd dodged, then he'd only have to deal with Sun Xiang right now. If he only had to deal with the human cannonballs that One Autumn Leaf was tossing at him, Ye Xiu could easily keep controlling Lord Grim to dodge, all the way until the end.

"I don't understand!" Practically everyone was shaking their heads. They couldn't figure out what Ye Xiu was planning. As for the televised broadcast, the commentators were even quieter. If even the pro players couldn't see the intention, how could Pan Lin and Li Yibo dare discuss it? They might as well pretend that this question didn't exist.

Only Zhang Xinjie, Team Tyranny's Zhang Xinjie, the Zhang Xinjie who never overlooked any detail, appeared to have a thought.

“What is it?” Han Wenqing asked. He understood his teammates, and seeing him like this, he knew that Zhang Xinjie had thought of something. When he asked this, the surrounding players who had heard all looked over. Everyone wanted an answer to this question.

“The ambushing troops atop the cliffs will likely act soon,” Zhang Xinjie.

“Oh?”

Everyone looked at the screen. From the aerial viewpoint, they could see the NPCs atop the cliffs. After the two armies of NPCs had appeared, they had also started moving, but it looked like nothing but preparation. Even now, there was no sign that these NPCs were about to attack. How could Zhang Xinjie tell?

“It’s not clear what the condition is for activating their ambush, but I imagine that it is one of two options. One, that it’s time-based, and once a certain time is reached, they activate. Two, that it depends on the damage taken by the NPCs, and once they suffer enough damage, they come and sweep the field for good,” Zhang Xinjie analyzed. Everyone had seen the map introduction earlier. The hidden troops weren’t on equal footing as the two groups of NPCs down below. They could be considered the final victors of this battle. They were waiting for the two armies to wear each other down, and then without any risk to themselves, they could descend and wipe out both sides.

“Ye Xiu is waiting for this?” someone asked.

“It seems so. During the intro video, I took note of the time the ambush began and the number of NPCs left on both sides. Both conditions will be fulfilled soon,” said Zhang Xinjie.

“But so what if he waits until these ambushing troops activate? How will that change the situation?” someone wondered.

Zhang Xinjie didn’t answer. He simply continued to think deeply. Clearly, this was a question that he hadn’t found the answer to yet, either. Judging from the time that Ye Xiu began to attack the NPCs, it should have something to do with the hidden troops, but Zhang Xinjie also couldn’t determine how they could be useful to Ye Xiu. They were only ambushing troops, they weren’t his reinforcements. They would attack all of their enemies, and they wouldn’t go out of their way to avoid attacking Lord Grim or One Autumn Leaf. It was more likely that the ambushing troops would also treat them as targets to be destroyed. What was Ye Xiu thinking?

At this moment, atop the canyon, a small rock was suddenly carelessly pushed by an NPC. The rock tumbled down without anyone noticing, and even when it reached the ground, it didn’t attract any attention. However, it seemed as though this were a signal, for the NPCs hidden on both sides of the canyon suddenly began to move. They didn’t make any greeting. As soon as they appeared, a wave of boulders was pushed down.

Boom boom boom boom!!

The sound of tumbling boulders echoed through the canyon, and a number of NPCs were hit and directly smashed into pulp. The NPCs also began to use all sorts of long-range Glory skills to attack. With this ambush, the canyon instantly fell into complete and utter chaos. But the two ground armies didn’t seem to be in too much of a panic. Those who could were immediately counterattacking the NPCs

above, the close-range NPCs were still fighting amongst each other below, and they didn't forget about Lord Grim and One Autumn Leaf, either.

There were still NPCs tangled around One Autumn Leaf, but most of Sun Xiang's attention was on Lord Grim. The activation of the ambushing troops, he'd seen this scene as well. The NPCs on the ground wouldn't be able to last too long, and after that, it was unclear whether or not the ambushing troops would continue to attack them. For now, it seemed like their attacks were aimed at the two players' characters as well as the other NPCs.

Sun Xiang didn't care about any of this, nor did he think about how he could use this situation to his advantage. He was focused entirely on Lord Grim. When this ambush rained down, Ye Xiu had no way of keeping Lord Grim perched on the cliffside, and Lord Grim finally landed on the ground.

Charge!

One Autumn Leaf charged!

Lord Grim charged!

Amidst the chaos, as attacks rained down upon them from all sides, the two of them were still focused on their true opponent. Swift and fierce, they rushed toward each other.

Tyrant's Destruction!

Sun Xiang had One Autumn Leaf to unleash a Tyrant's Destruction. A 180-degree sweep, pushing away three NPCs at once.

But Ye Xiu wasn't that easy to deal with. Lord Grim unsheathed his sword, Collapsing Mountain! He actually used this skill to jump right over the Tyrant's Destruction, and came crashing down toward One Autumn Leaf.

Retreat!

One Autumn Leaf retracted the skill and backed away. Five types of Chasers, stage eight Battle Spirit. One Autumn Leaf's power and speed were both at the peak, and his movements were nimble like never before.

Facing this kind of One Autumn Leaf, surrounded by hostile NPCs. Under these conditions, Ye Xiu actually still wanted to fight him directly?

What was he thinking!!

The pro players were all incredibly anxious. They believed that Ye Xiu had calculations, they believed that he wouldn't just fight an unprepared battle like this. There must be something here that they had all overlooked.

Upwards Slash!

The Collapsing Mountain missed, so Lord Grim swiftly swung his sword into an Upwards Slash.

But, Draconic Crusher!

Evil Annihilation swung down with all the power of Mount Tai. The accumulation of so many buffs gave him incomparable speed. Under normal conditions, a Battle Mage would have no way of displaying a Draconic Crusher that was even faster than an Upwards Slash.

Draconic Crusher had very high priority. Never mind one Upwards Slash, even if there had been five Blade Masters doing Upwards Slash together, they would still be slammed down by this Draconic Crusher.

Boom!

Evil Annihilation struck the ground. This attack had cleaved Lord Grim from head to toe. But Lord Grim hadn't fallen – Evil Annihilation had simply passed right through his body!

Shadow Steps!

At last, the first skill that Ye Xiu had chosen to add to his weapon for the final match was revealed. The Blade Master skill Shadow Steps.

But One Autumn Leaf's Draconic Crusher had come so quickly that there was no way Ye Xiu had activated that skill then. Shadow Steps had perhaps been used even before the Collapsing Mountain. Ye Xiu had simply used the skill so quickly that when the skill was used, the shadows hadn't even had the chance to fan out before he'd already completed the controls for Collapsing Mountain. With this Collapsing Mountain, the one who'd leapt forward was still one person, but by the time he came down, the Shadow Steps had fully taken effect, and the one Lord Grim who finished the Collapsing Mountain was a shadow, one of four Lord Grimms.

By the time Evil Annihilation had pierced Lord Grim's head, Sun Xiang already realized that something was wrong. He immediately wanted to cancel this skill and adjust, but by the time he did the controls to cancel the skill, the Draconic Crusher had already struck the ground.

Moonlight Slash, Full Moonlight Slash!

Two streaks of bladelight flashed, leaving two streaks of blood on One Autumn Leaf's body, lifting him up into the air.

"Do you have enough experience to control a One Autumn Leaf in this state?" Ye Xiu asked in the chat.

Chapter 1647: A High-End That Can't Be Appreciated

The message hung in the chat, just like that.

If this were the key to victory, then this kind of statement should have been said only after victory was certain. Revealing this to the opponent halfway through was a bit amateur.

But Ye Xiu said it in the chat, and everyone had seen it, of course including his opponent Sun Xiang.

Because there was a keyword in this sentence: experience!

A word that would frequently be mentioned when analyzing a player's strength, a term that had no feeling of newness.

A term that would be analyzed again and again, that always had a crucial impact on victory.

Once again, in this peak, championship-deciding match, it came up.

Experience experience experience...

Young people probably didn't like this term, because they were always criticized for their shortcoming in this area, and this thing was so difficult to obtain. It wasn't like talent or natural gifts, which one could be born with.

Accumulate. Aside from accumulating, there was no other way.

Sun Xiang had debuted in Season 7, and after today he would have completed four full seasons. And starting from Season 7, he had always been the core of his team. True, he had spent Season 9 in the Challenger League. But after these four years, although Sun Xiang was still young, he was far from being a rookie. Not enough experience? By now, this was something of the past. The Sun Xiang of today could no longer be said to lack experience.

He didn't lack it, but if comparing the total amount of experience, Sun Xiang was still far inferior to Ye Xiu, who had debuted a full ten years ago.

Although experience was important, and would sometimes become the key point in determining victory, it was not the only factor. Sun Xiang's experience couldn't compare to that of Ye Xiu or the other older players, but his experience was still enough to deal with professional matches. He would not make mistakes from his inexperience.

Yet now, what Ye Xiu pointed out about him was "experience," and it was a very particular type of "experience."

Do you have enough experience to control a One Autumn Leaf in this state?

The message simply hung there, as Sun Xiang had no chance to reply. As soon as Ye Xiu sent that message, he immediately controlled Lord Grim to attack. Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf was forced on the defensive, hurriedly backing up. The attacks from the NPCs caused him even more confusion. A number of them were actually aimed at Lord Grim, but under Ye Xiu's purposeful direction, they also aimed toward Sun Xiang in the end.

Ye Xiu was a bit better at handling this kind of chaotic situation than Sun Xiang was, which wasn't too surprising. From the very beginning, many pro players had believed that Happy's best choice was to send Ye Xiu up first, exactly for this reason. They believed that Ye Xiu's experience was the best weapon in dealing with this kind of chaos.

When they saw Sun Xiang control One Autumn Leaf reach this peak state, their opinions changed. In front of such a powerful One Autumn Leaf, the interference of the NPCs was just that weak. No one doubted that Sun Xiang had the ability to sweep all of these NPCs away like dust.

So when Ye Xiu controlled Lord Grim to attack anyway, everyone felt that it was an unwise move. Because Ye Xiu could do no more than deal with this chaos, while Sun Xiang, in their eyes, could disregard the chaos completely.

But in the end, once Ye Xiu entered the fray, this One Autumn Leaf in peak form suddenly seemed as though he couldn't get his bearings. After that Draconic Crusher and being slashed twice by Lord Grim, Sun Xiang's rhythm was thrown off for good.

And Ye Xiu dared to write out Sun Xiang's problem and send it in a message, precisely because even if Sun Xiang was aware of the problem he faced, he had no way of addressing it.

Five types of Chasers, plus stage eight Battle Spirit.

Indeed, this was a peak form Battle Mage that up until now had never appeared on the professional stage. Not in the team competition, and certainly not in an individual battle.

The other teams didn't know if Sun Xiang had ever undergone training specifically to control a Battle Mage in this state. But from typical reasoning, it was unlikely that he'd practice a lot, because it was simply too difficult to reach this state. Even if a player were purposely aiming for it, they should be aware that wanting it wasn't enough to get it. Spending all that energy to train this very difficult-to-obtain state, this definitely was not a training plan that a pro player should follow. Nor would a team's training allow players to waste their precious time on training in this entirely unrealistic situation.

Furthermore, even if Sun Xiang had actually trained with this state, this was still the first time he'd been able to bring it onstage.

And this time, the opponent he was facing was Ye Xiu. The Ye Xiu who had immersed himself in Battle Mage for no fewer than ten years, the Ye Xiu who had controlled One Autumn Leaf for no fewer than ten years.

Even if he didn't use Battle Mage after that, even if he no longer controlled One Autumn Leaf, just based on these no fewer than ten years of experience, Ye Xiu would be no worse than Sun Xiang at understanding or controlling Battle Mage One Autumn Leaf in this condition. And "no worse than" logically led to "better than."

Lunge, Knee Strike, Earthquake Sword, Falling Flower Palm!

Four consecutive skills, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella shifted between four forms, once again attacking the openings that One Autumn Leaf exposed. The last was a Battle Mage's Falling Flower Palm, blowing One Autumn Leaf away.

"Besides, you have an injury that everyone seems to have overlooked." Ye Xiu was still speaking in the channel.

"You're a player who class changed to Battle Mage. Many people have probably forgotten this by now, no?" Ye Xiu said.

Class change!

Correct, Sun Xiang had actually changed classes before. In the early days, the Sun Xiang who had debuted with Conquering Clouds to win Best Rookie didn't play a Battle Mage.

Berserker!

That was the class that Sun Xiang had used when he debuted, the class that helped him to break past the rookie wall and win Best Rookie. But in the end, in order to chase after the pinnacle God-level character, Sun Xiang resolutely gave up his original class and trained his Battle Mage. Even though he'd immediately demonstrated an outstanding foundation, so much so that people hardly thought at all about the problem of his class change, now, after two and a half years, Ye Xiu brought up this old issue, and even called it an injury.

In everyone's eyes, Sun Xiang's class change had been a success. Everyone had practically forgotten that he had class change experience, forgotten that he'd debuted as a Berserker. This could be said to be the greatest proof of a successful class change.

But now, in Ye Xiu's eyes, this was an injury?

Everyone stared with eyes wide, including the most most most God-level players of the Alliance.

If Ye Xiu's words weren't meant to be deliberately mystifying, then all they could say was that Ye Xiu was simply too far above them in terms of Battle Mage expertise, far above what they could even perceive.

The peak form One Autumn Leaf, in Ye Xiu's eyes, was simply a One Autumn Leaf that Sun Xiang couldn't control, a One Autumn Leaf with deep injury? This was a high-end that they couldn't appreciate at all.

"This blow is too much..." the pro players discussed.

Ye Xiu really didn't need to say these kind of words, but to put them in the chat now, it was simply a psychological attack!

Chapter 1648: Insurmountable Difference

A peak form reached, in a chance of a lifetime, only for it to be viewed as an injury, something that Sun Xiang couldn't handle. Anyone would feel extremely embarrassed, never mind someone as prideful as Sun Xiang. In the midst of countless things to worry about, Ye Xiu still took the time to send this message. It was clearly more than just pure mockery, it was an extremely deep psychological attack.

In response to these kinds of words, how would Sun Xiang react? Go crazy? Fall into depression? The pro players were throwing around guesses. They felt that no response would be surprising, that they were all reasonable. But in the end, Sun Xiang's response still managed to be outside all of their expectations.

One Autumn Leaf, Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

But he wasn't charging forward to attack, he was... running away!

That confident, prideful Sun Xiang, after bringing One Autumn Leaf to this peak state and then suffering this kind of embarrassment, didn't fall into chaos because of this, nor did he desperately try to prove himself. His ultimate choice was to control One Autumn Leaf to run away.

This final answer caught everyone off-guard.

After reaching this level, after the words had gotten to this point, that prideful, self-important Sun Xiang had actually chosen to flee?

Never mind him, any pro player in his place under those conditions would want to fight, fight to the death! Even if they'd lose in the end, they would refuse to be underestimated like this.

But Sun Xiang had chosen to flee.

This meant that he agreed with Ye Xiu's judgment, that he admitted that he couldn't control this peak form One Autumn Leaf.

He set down his pride, set down his self-respect. Everything was for the sake of victory!

Because, right now, running away was the wisest choice. He could escape the chaotic situation, wait for some of One Autumn Leaf's buffs to run out, allow One Autumn Leaf to remain in a state that Sun Xiang could comfortably control.

And then return again to fight!

Applause rose up from the pro players. The sound wasn't loud, but it had real worth.

Sun Xiang wasn't a very well-liked player, and in the circle he wasn't very popular. As a Season 7 debut, he didn't have much seniority either. He had won Best Rookie, received all sorts of praise, but this was the first time he had received such genuine, weighty respect from the pro circle.

Because he did what many people might have been unable to do.

Pride, self-respect!

Every pro player had these things, but not every player could set them down in this kind of difficult situation.

Everyone had a certain understanding of Sun Xiang, so they knew how difficult it was for this youth to do this. But as they watched, he set those things down. Whether or not it would be enough to win, the very fact that he had done this was enough for people to feel moved.

Using Dragon Breaks the Ranks in this way was even more difficult than using it to charge the enemy line.

Ye Xiu was similarly surprised.

Sun Xiang's change this season had been obvious, but even Ye Xiu hadn't thought that he would be able to throw away his pride and self-respect to this extent. Even though they were opponents, Ye Xiu couldn't help but want to applaud Sun Xiang, to raise a glass to him.

But, that was all.

When it came to victory, Ye Xiu would not back down a single step.

Shining Cut!

Lord Grim was already chasing One Autumn Leaf's silhouette. Ye Xiu had no plans to let Sun Xiang have a chance to breathe so easily.

The two characters suddenly rushed out of the chaotic fighting. The NPCs had aggroed both of them, but it wasn't single-minded focus. Their fighting amongst themselves had never stopped. Now that the two

of them had escaped, they only threw a few attacks their way when it was convenient. They didn't make any overall organizational changes to attack them specifically. But the NPCs that were hidden on the cliffs to ambush them, these NPCs immediately chased after the two of them to attack. Right now, they were the ones with the upper hand in this battle.

No one had the ability to stop their attacks. Ye Xiu and Sun Xiang could only dodge the attacks that rained down upon them as they continued to control their characters.

At last, Lord Grim managed to catch up to One Autumn Leaf, but Sun Xiang had already delayed this to the greatest extent. When Lord Grim finally caught up, he didn't hastily initiate a desperate fight. The peak form One Autumn Leaf actually demonstrated a completely defensive stance.

"Too calm! Too rational!"

"It doesn't feel like Sun Xiang at all!"

"Right, if we didn't already know, I really couldn't have guessed this was Sun Xiang."

The pro players all discussed amongst themselves. Sun Xiang was the greatest talking point of this battlefield right now. His change, his attitude on the field right now, all of the players found it completely new. This season, Sun Xiang had been constantly adjusting himself, and everyone couldn't help but wonder, when they met him in the future, how should they deal with him? This kind of Sun Xiang, who could set down everything and focus only on victory, would only become harder to deal with.

"Ye Xiu is also very steady." At this time, someone else spoke.

Sun Xiang's unexpected moves made him the center of the pro players' attention, and so to some extent they'd overlooked Ye Xiu's constant focus. Sun Xiang had made changes and adjustments, but he'd only been able to pull the situation back to the original starting point. Ye Xiu hadn't suffered any turbulent waves because of this. The starting point was the starting point. Whether facing the Sun Xiang who couldn't control his peak form character, or the Sun Xiang would could set down his arrogance and give up on the peak form to return the situation to the starting point, Ye Xiu had implemented nothing but a single-minded pursuit of victory. Nothing would cause him to change on this point, to waver on this point. Even if he was moved by Sun Xiang's actions, he would now only become more determined and work even harder to win this match.

The battle continued, their health bars whittled down.

But during the time Sun Xiang had been unable to control his character properly, One Autumn Leaf had lost some health when trapped in the encirclement and suffering attacks from Ye Xiu. Right now, Sun Xiang had readjusted himself, pulling himself together to battle anew, but this little disparity still hadn't evened out, because Ye Xiu didn't give him the slightest chance to do so.

Maintaining this difference, the health of the two characters continued to fall. There weren't any big drops, they just dripped away bit by bit. It was clear how carefully and meticulously both sides were playing.

The entire audience was nervous, watching Sun Xiang. When Ye Xiu had sent his messages in the chat, they had thought that Sun Xiang would lose for sure. None of them had thought that the battle would

return to this kind of situation. They might not fully understand the significance of Sun Xiang using that Dragon Breaks the Ranks to run away, but right now, they could see Sun Xiang's determination to win.

Catch up!!

Samsara's fans stared desperately at that health difference. They cheered and hollered and hoped for it to wear away.

But this difference remained stubborn and unsurmountable. The health of One Autumn Leaf and Lord Grim dropped and dropped, but when one side's health finally reached zero, the difference was still there.

In the first match of the group arena, Ye Xiu obtained victory. He finally established his legend of winning every single 1v1 in the entire season, including the playoffs.

Chapter 1649: Killing Intent with Back to the Wall

The victor was Ye Xiu. The Samsara fans in the stadium couldn't be too happy about this no matter what. But they couldn't blame Sun Xiang.

Ordinary viewers truly had no way of detecting a lot of the subtleties of this match.

Sun Xiang couldn't control the peak form One Autumn Leaf, Sun Xiang had the injury of his class change. These were all words that Ye Xiu had directly said in the chat, but for ordinary gamers, even searching with this guidance, they couldn't see how Sun Xiang couldn't control his character, how he had this injury.

They could only see from his dropping health how Sun Xiang had been at a disadvantage at that point in time. But soon enough, Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf had used a Dragon Breaks the Ranks to break free. When he fought against Lord Grim, he had stabilized his position.

In the subsequent battle, neither side could be said to have a great advantage, and that difference in health from before was maintained all the way until the battle ended.

13%.

This was that difference, and was the amount of health that Lord Grim had remaining. Ye Xiu had won, but Sun Xiang's answer sheet was by no means ugly. In fact, in the eyes of the pro players, who understood things a bit better, Sun Xiang had earned a very high score.

Sun Xiang, coming off stage, earned applause.

Samsara's fans were encouraging Sun Xiang not to be discouraged. They had no idea right now that Sun Xiang had grown beyond their imagination.

With Sun Xiang coming off stage, it was time for Samsara's second player to step up. Because of the unique format of the third match, no one knew who would be the second player that Samsara sent up. Perhaps even Samsara themselves were waiting until Sun Xiang lost and they could see the current situation to determine who would be their second player.

At that moment, Samsara's captain Zhou Zekai stood up to welcome the returning Sun Xiang. No one paid much attention.

Zhou Zekai greeted Sun Xiang, the two of them high-fived like in a relay, and still no one paid much attention.

And then, the two of them brushed shoulders as they passed each other; Sun Xiang returned to his team and sat down, while Zhou Zekai continued to walk forward. The entire stadium went wild.

Team Samsara, their second player was actually Zhou Zekai, their captain Zhou Zekai?

This was even more shocking than Zhou Zekai playing first in the previous group arena. In that round, Samsara had at least left Sun Xiang as their fifth player. Their first player was very strong, but they still had a reliable anchor. Even though the final outcome wasn't what they'd hoped for, at least there was this kind of logic in their arrangement.

But this match?

Sun Xiang had already gone first, so setting Zhou Zekai as the fourth player was the most logical choice; putting him in fifth would give more stability, putting him in third would be more aggressive. But now, they put him right in second... what was this?

The order of the players was decided on the spot. If Sun Xiang's performance as the first player had been especially strong, a 1v2 or even a 1v3, then sending up Zhou Zekai second to aim for as many points as possible was still fairly logical. But right now, first player Sun Xiang had fallen without any victories, yet Samsara didn't save Zhou Zekai to anchor. Instead, they directly sent him up as their second player. Truly, not many people could understand this stance.

"They're sending up Zhou Zekai second? This..." In the broadcast, commentator Pan Lin faltered in his words.

"Can't understand it at all!" Li Yibo, who always liked to save face, no longer tried to stay vague. He directly admitted this.

What was Samsara thinking?

In the end, the ones who could understand their logic were still the other pro players. After getting over their initial shock and thinking it over, they could understand the thought behind Samsara's arrangement.

Sun Xiang first, Zhou Zekai second.

This was a whole, these two things couldn't be considered separately. In this group arena where the battle order could be changed on the spot, Samsara hadn't taken full advantage of this point. From the very start, they had worked out an order, and the core of this roster was Sun Xiang first, Zhou Zekai second.

So, at the very start of the match, Sun Xiang hadn't cared about whether Happy had reported to the judge yet, he had simply directly walked to the competitor booth.

This wasn't because he was careless and overconfident, nor was it because Samsara was trying to play any tricks. This was the plan that Samsara had decided upon for this final match from the very beginning, a roster order that was sharp to the extreme.

Sun Xiang first, that was necessary.

Zhou Zekai second, that was also necessary.

This was a kind of "back to the wall" killing intent. Even though Samsara wasn't facing that kind of desperate situation right now, they still brought out this kind of determination.

So, Sun Xiang didn't care at all whether Happy had reported to the judge. No matter who their first player was, he would be fighting them.

Nor did Zhou Zekai care about whether Sun Xiang had played the opening match well. He resolutely continued as Samsara's second player.

Fighting with their backs to the wall, that meant they could only advance, they could not retreat. Even though Sun Xiang's loss meant that Samsara's arrangement was facing a very big difficulty, it was exactly for this reason that Zhou Zekai couldn't back down. If he retreated now, if they made further adjustments, maybe they could create a seemingly-more stable roster, but for Samsara, that back to the wall determination and killing intent would disappear.

Therefore, Zhou Zekai didn't back down.

This player, who was silent to the extreme offstage, had absolute confidence and courage when it came to battle. He had the determination to carry everything on his shoulders. Because he was the true core of this team, because he was the captain of this team, he led this team forward, lifting up everyone's morale, relying not on words, but on actions.

Applause rose up.

It was unknown how much of Zhou Zekai's determination and conviction Samsara's fans could sense. They only knew that when it came to their captain, they needed to support him unconditionally, no matter the time or place.

Second battle of the group arena, begin. Happy, Ye Xiu, Lord Grim; Samsara, Zhou Zekai, Cloud Piercer!

Ye Xiu could be said to be the last one in the whole stadium to know of Samsara's arrangement. When he saw Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer appear on screen, he was very surprised as well.

But very quickly, he was like those pro players who had determined Samsara's thought process. Ye Xiu sensed the back to the wall killing intent of the other side.

And right now, Sun Xiang had already fallen. This killing intent was almost entirely reliant upon Zhou Zekai to maintain. If he, the second player, also didn't play as well as they hoped, then Samsara's group arena today might be even more disastrous than last round's. Samsara's energy was entirely gathered upon Zhou Zekai right now.

13%.

This was the health that Ye Xiu's Lord Grim had remaining. There was no chance that he could defeat Zhou Zekai with this amount of health, but if he could cause even a bit of trouble to his opponent, then that would be a direct hit blow to Samsara.

Stay firm, quick and forceful, no pretense!

While many people were sure that Ye Xiu would have Lord Grim recover some health and then slowly wear down the opponent, Ye Xiu had Lord Grim charge forward.

Chapter 1650: Ten Seconds to Decide Victory

Lord Grim, Cloud Piercer.

Both characters moved swiftly. No delay, no hesitation, no conversation. The two looked like they weren't even thinking, putting all their focus into just moving their characters.

Focus. Maximum speed. The two characters appeared in each other's sights after 16 seconds.

Boom boom boom!

Open fire!

This was the maximum range of Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella in gun form. At max range, the power of ranged attacks were limited. Thus, many ranged characters would not open fire as soon as they were within their attack range.

But Ye Xiu was up against Glory's number one long-range attacker, and still chose to use this exact method.

Everyone thought that at this long range, Zhou Zekai wouldn't break a sweat dodging with Cloud Piercer. But at the same time, Cloud Piercer also raised his dual pistols, and flames licked both gun muzzles.

Bang bang bang bang!

Gunshots rang out like rain.

Lord Grim's attack range was only a tiny bit longer than that of Cloud Piercer's. After all, the Launchers' super long attack range was from their skill "Artillery Mastery," and Lord Grim didn't possess this skill. The tiny range difference disappeared in the blink of an eye, and Zhou Zekai unexpectedly had Cloud Piercer to start attacking too. At that moment, he was also at his character's maximum attack range.

The two characters started from this longest range possible and followed up by just charging forward. Lord Grim, the character who showed his true power at close range, rushed forward. Cloud Piercer, the character whose true power was displayed at a distance, also unexpectedly rushed forward. It felt like they were driving two race cars playing chicken: the rules were that whoever braked first would lose.

This match was not a battle of skill. Or awareness. Or experience.

This was a battle of fighting spirit!

To meet your enemy in a narrow alley and courageously advance without half a step backwards, that kind of fighting spirit!

Samsara needed to display this kind of spirit.

They put their best players in the group arena's first and second spots. Sun Xiang had already lost. At this time, if Zhou Zekai had even slightly hesitated or shown weakness, it would heavily impact on Samsara's morale and fighting spirit.

Therefore, Zhou Zekai decided to fight resolutely and decisively. He wanted the whole team to carry his fighting spirit. He wanted to take this match in one fell swoop.

What about on Happy's side?

Many people felt that it was not necessary for Ye Xiu to do this.

Because if you sound your war-drums once, you will give your troops' courage. If you sound your war-drums twice, you will sap your troops' courage. If you sound your war-drums thrice, you will make your troops' courage disappear**.

If Zhou Zekai was so intent on forcing a fight, shouldn't you just avoid him? Slow the pace of the match and bring it to a deadlock. Completely diffuse his attacking intentions. This would sap the wind right out of their sails. Without this fighting spirit, the weakness in Samsara's player order choice would be blasted wide open, and their group arena would fall into a deep disadvantage.

But the normally calm Ye Xiu did not choose to do this. He also seemed like he was in a hurry when he had Lord Grim charge out aggressively into the fray.

The reason was actually very simple. It was only because his opponent was Zhou Zekai!

Slow down the pace and bring it to a deadlock?

In theory that sounded easy. But Zhou Zekai was the best of the best in Glory when it came to offensive play. If he chose to come at you like this, who dared claim they could slow down or stalemate him?

Nobody dared.

Therefore, Ye Xiu simply gave off a fighting spirit that didn't lose to Zhou Zekai's. He carried the same attitude and charged forward aggressively.

Even though the outcome of the match was already decided, Ye Xiu could at least make sure he didn't lose in spirit. Losing a character is fine, but he wouldn't lose in fighting spirit. If the so called "smart" way to play were ever to be countered by Zhou Zekai, then he would lose his character and seem to have a weaker spirit, which would be worse.

Ye Xiu's choice for a direct confrontation seemed obtuse and impulsive. But in reality, it was the most stable play available.

Bang bang bang bang...

Gunshots rang out endlessly. As Lord Grim got closer, the variety of attacks he could unleash became greater. Of all the low-level skills from the 24 classes, those that were in range were thrown out without pause.

Shuriken!

A flick of his hand and the Ninja's flying projectile shot out.

Cloud Piercer's feet did not pause. His body simply tilted and the Shuriken grazed by his chest. His right arm was still raised up, and his Wildfire continued to spit flames.

Bang bang.

A bullet flew by.

Lord Grim dodged to the side, avoiding the bullet and sending out a palm.

Qi Bullet!

This low level Qi Master skill was not instant, but the cast time was miniscule. Ye Xiu seized this small gap and had Lord Grim use Qi Bullet.

The concentrated qi went directly for Cloud Piercer's face. This move was very reminiscent of Fang Rui's dirty Qi Master playstyle; it was a trick he loved to use. Maybe it was because Fang Rui was part of Happy, but Samsara seemed to have kept special attention to small tricks like these. Zhou Zekai seemingly didn't even acknowledge the Qi Bullet. Cloud Piercer continued sprinting forward, and the qi was flung behind his head in an instant.

Hit!

There was no doubt it was a hit.

The qi hit Cloud Piercer's face and dispersed.

But so what?

It had zero effect on Cloud Piercer's posture. The obstruction of Zhou Zekai's field of view was minimized by him. During this moment of blindness, he used his memory of Lord Grim's position and his deductive skills to predict his position and never stopped attacking. He didn't give Ye Xiu any window of opportunity during this tiny moment.

Bang bang bang!

More bullets flew. Lord Grim looked like he was forced to dodge horizontally; his body was like a jumping salmon in mid-air, and the bullets whizzed past.

Zhou Zekai quickly readjusted. The gun muzzles realigned and quickly found the airborne Lord Grim.

Lord Grim went poof. A Shadow Clone!

Roundhouse Kick.

Cloud Piercer's leg flew out. At the same time, his arms crossed over and his pistols continued firing wildly: Random Firing!

Bullets sprayed out frantically in every direction. Ye Xiu used Shadow Clone Technique to get closer, but was immediately sent further again by the strong gale of bullets from Random Firing; but not before he sent out a flash of sword light and left a sword wound on Cloud Piercer.

Zhou Zekai couldn't care less. After he ascertained Lord Grim's position, he immediately concentrated Random Firing in that direction, and the attack's intensity immediately multiplied.

Shadow Steps!

Lord Grim had just given Cloud Piercer a cut and took advantage of this skill, and afterimages spread out. However, the Random Firing that was just concentrated spread out once again. The four Lord Grim afterimages were all hit. Zhou Zekai bluntly used this method to tell which of the four afterimages was real.

Collapsing Mountain!

It didn't matter which one was real or fake; Lord Grim had already jumped out with another skill.

Too close!

Zhou Zekai figured out the true body quickly, but of all the attacks Lord Grim sent his way, could not dodge this one.

Knee Strike!

In the end, Cloud Piercer managed to squeeze out this low level skill to compete with Collapsing Mountain. In terms of attack priority, Knee Strike could not compete with Collapsing Mountain. He still ended up receiving a chop to his face. Such a direct hit meant that the damage dealt was far more than that of Knee Strike too.

But Knee Strike had a very important skill: the character would gain Super Armor when using it. So even though Cloud Piercer received a square hit to his face, his posture did not move. In the next moment, the muzzles of his dual pistols were practically pressed against Lord Grim's head.

Bang bang bang bang...

Flames spurt out from the gun muzzles, and Lord Grim's head exploded in blood. But at the same time, sword light in the shape of a cross lit up Cloud Piercer's chest, and blood in the shape of a cross burst out.

The two characters moved away from each other. They had no choice: the momentum from being hit forced them back.

But the two characters were still attacking. As long as their opponent was within their attack range, they would not hesitate in the slightest.

Bullets continued to punch blood out of Lord Grim's body, and sword light continued to carve blood out of Cloud Piercer's body.

Besides blood there was only more blood. The blood flew out like rain...

When the rain stopped, Lord Grim fell. After all, he only started with 13% health.

Cloud Piercer remained standing, but he still had both guns trained on Lord Grim in his ending pose, as if Lord Grim would suddenly spring back up alive.

He lost 11% of his health.. He lost slightly less than Lord Grim, but this slight difference wasn't worth arguing over. It couldn't really prove if one of them played better.

Because it was really too short, too fast.

By 16 seconds, the characters met.

By 26 seconds, the match was over.

From the first shot that Lord Grim fired, to the moment he fell, the battle lasted no more than ten seconds.