

Avatar 1691

Chapter 1691: Flexibility

Peng!

Laughing Song's neck was split open. Lord Grim had given a solid cut. But no matter how bad it looked, since this was a level one skill, its damage wasn't high. The purpose of the skill wasn't the damage, though. Lord Grim had used the underground effect to avoid Angel's Might, allowing him to close the distance on Laughing Song.

Not good!

Fang Minghua immediately thought. In reality, Laughing Song was still quite healthy, and although the enemy ace had closed in on him, it wasn't a fatal situation. His team could still rescue him.

Fang Minghua understood this reasoning, but he couldn't control the sense of crisis rising in his heart. It was as if Lord Grim had given Laughing Song a fatal blow.

This was pressure.

Even if he had won two championships, when Ye Xiu's Lord Grim got close, Fang Minghua could still feel the stifling pressure bearing down on him.

He wanted to hurry and get away. He wanted to hurry and find a way to get to his team. He hastily looked around, but his eyes were already facing the sky.

Lord Grim quickly followed with another attack. After Underground Tunneling Technique was a knock-up skill, launching Laughing Song into the air.

This didn't mean that Fang Minghua had to give up on his original plans. He could still observe the surroundings and make decisions while in the air! Fang Minghua hastily adjusted his view, but as soon as he turned, the ground was now rapidly retreating away along with the sword pressed against Laughing Song's stomach.

Colliding Stab!

Before Laughing Song was fully airborne, Lord Grim attacked. By doing this, with Laughing Song's feet off the ground, the knockback from Colliding Stab would be at its fastest and its farthest.

Where is he taking me?

Fang Minghua quickly thought. The damage from Colliding Stab wasn't significant. It was also rarely used as part of a combo. It had two main uses. Its first use was as a movement skill. The second use was to displace the opponent. In a team competition, its second usage was more commonly seen. When focusing on a certain target, you always wanted to bring the target to an appropriate location.

Including the Underground Tunneling Technique, Lord Grim had only used a total of two skills before coming out with Colliding Stab. Along with the fact that he was still in the air, it definitely seemed like Ye Xiu was taking him somewhere.

Is Happy planning on focusing me?

Fang Minghua felt that it seemed unlikely. From what he remembered, Happy didn't have anyone nearby who could get to him. Unless they planned on forcing their way over?

So that's their plan!

Fang Minghua couldn't help but look around again. He quickly noticed another figure coming into view.

From afar, Dancing Rain had thrown a burning beacon onto him. The mushroom cloud from the Heat-Seeking Missile instantly engulfed him, but during this process, Lord Grim took care of him very dearly. He didn't let Laughing Song get sent flying away from the shockwave.

But honestly, Fang Minghua didn't want Ye Xiu's concern for him. He could understand Su Mucheng providing support with an attack over here, but soon after the dense smoke dispersed, a red shadow flickered in front of him.

Soft Mist?

With help from Su Mucheng, Tang Rou had been fighting against Jiang Botao and Wu Qi, yet in the blink of an eye, she had reached Laughing Song. This was an aggression without regard for anything else!

But because of this, Fang Minghua wasn't as flustered as before.

Happy's sudden shift in targets was rather crude. Happy had directly left Jiang Botao and Wu Qi open. The two of them weren't outside bystanders. They would quickly be in pursuit. The balance wasn't so easily grasped.

Just when he was thinking this, he saw Jiang Botao's Empty Waves and Wu Qi's Cruel Silence close behind Soft Mist, not giving an inch to her.

But soon afterwards, the distance between them suddenly widened.

Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

Soft Mist suddenly used this high-level skill. Laughing Song was still airborne, and Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was still taking care of him. There was no way he could dodge this attack. Suddenly, he was sent flying into the air again.

Soft Mist instantly closed in onto Laughing Song. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim followed close behind with a Shining Cut.

They wanted to avoid Samsara's rescue team.

Fang Minghua saw through it, but wasn't that being too naive?

Jiang Botao's Empty Waves had fewer movement options, so the distance between them widened by quite a bit. But Wu Qi's Cruel Silence was an Assassin, the best out of all 24 classes in terms of mobility. He immediately went in pursuit with a Shining Cut. Then, he activated Swift Movements and sprinted. It wouldn't take long for him to catch up.

Laughing Song could completely survive until then. After all, Happy was mainly trying to move him away. Their DPS wasn't nearly as high as it could be.

Right when Soft Mist's Dragon Breaks the Ranks ended, Laughing Song was picked up by Lord Grim.

Fling!

Laughing Song was thrown out.

What...

Fang Minghua was puzzled. Then, he saw magic ripple outwards from Soft Mist. Then, she blinked away.

Teleport!

Soft Mist teleported to where Laughing Song would fall and then followed with an attack.

Cruel Silence, who was just about to catch up, was suddenly thrown behind, let alone Jiang Botao who was even farther away. He was even farther away than Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf.

This... isn't good!

Fang Minghua was startled by Ye Xiu's and Tang Rou's practiced coordination. This meant that the two weren't doing this on the spur of the moment. Happy had practiced this tactic before.

This was a set-up!

Anyone with a bit of experience would understand. Oftentimes, pre-planned set-ups couldn't keep up with the constant changes of a match, but if this sort of set-up was able to be implemented smoothly, the other side would always have the upper hand. From the coordination between Ye Xiu and Tang Rou and the interference towards the pursuers from Su Mucheng, he could see hints of it.

Happy wasn't recklessly charging at him. They were planning on moving him around until he died!

As soon as he thought of this, he looked at the two characters carrying out this task.

Lord Grim didn't need to be mentioned. With so many movement skills at his disposal, his unspecialized sat comfortably as king in terms of mobility.

As for Soft Mist? He could see the buff from the Neutral Chasers around her legs, drastically increasing her movement speed. Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf had been left in the dust because he didn't have the buff from Neutral Chasers.

Bad! Happy's tactic was bad news for them!

Chapter 1692: A Gun Can Miss

Fang Minghua sensed Happy's intentions, and he knew that the situation was not looking good. He was very clear about the mobility of Samsara's characters. Normally speaking, Assassins, Battle Mages, and Sharpshooters were relatively mobile. His Laughing Song and Jiang Botao's Empty Waves were only slightly worse.

However, right now, Laughing Song didn't need to move on his own. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim and Tang Rou's Soft Mist were helping him move using blow-away and knockback skills. Laughing Song's current movement speed was even faster than his sprinting.

Su Mucheng helped block the pursuers and would even coordinate with Ye Xiu and Tang Rou from time to time. Together, the three of them formed a beautiful combo.

Battle Mage and Launcher?

Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng, Best Partners?

All of these were a part of this well-coordinated play. On Samsara's side, even with Swift Movements activated, Wu Qi's Cruel Silence could only keep up with them. Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf had no Neutral Chasers to buff him, and clearly lagged behind. Jiang Botao's Empty Waves didn't even need to be said. He had been left in the dust. His situation looked rather embarrassing.

"How bold!!" The pro players discussed spiritedly. Happy was clearly doing something beyond their expectations.

In the finals, especially the deciding match, everyone would always be particularly careful. That was where the saying "anticipated match, boring game" came from.

But the play that Happy was making? This was an extremely risky play. While attacking Laughing Song, they had to carry him along faster than Samsara could, and Samsara wasn't slow at all. The coordination needed was extraordinarily difficult. There were too many factors needed to be taken into consideration. Even the slightest slip-up would end in failure.

Happy's healer, Little Cold Hands, was being blown up by Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer, and Happy wasn't giving their healer even the slightest bit of help. If they made a mistake and Samsara caught up, it would be impossible for them to save Little Cold Hands. Little Cold Hands had lost half his health already. If Samsara was willing to focus him without regard for anything else, they could finish off Little Cold Hands in the blink of an eye.

Failure meant death!

Happy was determined to carry out this healer trade. They were walking on a tightrope, not leaving themselves any path of retreat. A single misstep, and they would fall into a bottomless abyss!

Compared to their brilliant teamwork, the pro players admired Happy's bravery more.

The other problem was that a majority of their efforts needed to be put into moving Laughing Song, so even though Ye Xiu and Tang Rou were both dealing damage, their DPS was mediocre. They couldn't compare to Zhou Zekai's explosive DPS towards Little Cold Hands.

Zhou Zekai felt a bit more at ease because of this, but he didn't stop paying attention to that side. Seeing that the other three on Samsara weren't able to catch up to Happy's side, Zhou Zekai had decided to give them a helping hand. He could see how difficult it was for Happy to execute this play. The slightest interference might be able to break it apart.

His Cloud Piercer wasn't faster than Cruel Silence or One Autumn Leaf, but he was a long-ranged attackers. He could attack Ye Xiu and Tang Rou from his current position.

He made his decision. Cloud Piercer suddenly stepped back and moved to the side. Then, he lifted his guns.

Bang! Gunshot, a figure, blood!

Little Cold Hands suddenly moved to the side too, positioning himself in front of the guns.

Knee Strike!

Cloud Piercer lifted his knee. He wasn't in a hurry to keep Little Cold Hands under control. Even a single bullet might be enough to break open the situation on that side. He only needed a tiny opening, and during this tiny opening, what could a Cleric do to him?

An Wenyi obviously couldn't do anything to him. He only had one thought on his mind: I have to stop Zhou Zekai from providing support no matter what.

His Little Cold Hands had no combat ability. His little tricks might work against Samsara's healer, but it was nothing in front of Zhou Zekai. The only thing he could use was Little Cold Hands' body. He could use his life to block Cloud Piercer's bullets.

An Wenyi was certain that he had never been this focused in his entire life. His Little Cold Hands had been taking a beating the entire time, but as soon as Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer moved aside to shoot towards that side, he immediately did all he could to stop him.

Sometimes, he could do it. Sometimes, he couldn't.

But he knew how crucial this moment was. He couldn't fail this time.

Little Cold Hands threw himself towards Cloud Piercer's guns.

But what followed soon after was a Knee Strike.

An Wenyi saw it very clearly.

Little Cold Hands jumped back.

The Knee Strike missed!

But with this dodge, a small opening was left behind.

Cloud Piercer raised his guns and fired twice.

Little Cold Hands jumped up!

An Wenyi had Little Cold Hands jump towards Cloud Piercer's head to block his vision.

The only thing that Zhou Zekai could see was a blood-soaked Cleric's robe.

Blind firing?

Zhou Zekai had the ability to do so, but the problem was that he needed to aim at a very fast moving target. Even if he had a clear view of his target, he would need to predict where the target would move ahead of time. It wouldn't have been easy. But now that he was blinded, it was too difficult even for Zhou Zekai.

Even so, he still fired his guns.

The bullets loaded and fired. He had to at least try.

The gunshot startled An Wenyi, but he didn't dare look back. What if it missed? He had to keep going!

But at this moment, Cloud Piercer jumped up, and his Little Cold Hands was currently falling. There was a difference in timing, and this time, let alone Zhou Zekai's line of sight, even Cloud Piercer's two guns were above him.

There's nothing I can do...

An Wenyi could only watch. He had no way to stop Cloud Piercer from attacking.

Damn it...

An Wenyi hated himself for being so useless.

Gunshot...

The airborne Cloud Piercer fired two shots in quick succession. But then, An Wenyi saw Ye Xiu type in chat: "Keep it up!"

Ah?

This time, An Wenyi couldn't help but look back.

Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was using Charge to move ahead. His umbrella was in its shield form, a Priest weapon, so it didn't affect his usage of Charge. As a result, he saw Lord Grim's umbrella facing the side, blocking Cloud Piercer's shots.

"Don't get careless! Just because he's fired his gun doesn't mean that we'll definitely be hit!" Ye Xiu continued.

"Also, Little Zhou, wasn't your attack a bit too careless?"

As he said this, the canopy of the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella folded. The umbrella ribs retracted, exposing the muzzle of a gun.

Gunshot!

Ye Xiu had fired back at Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer.

Chapter 1693: Dual Guns Erupt

Block, counterattack, and taunt in the chat.

Ye Xiu's response seemed so casual. An Wenyi was so moved he almost cried.

This was his teammate, a teammate that couldn't be more reliable. He might not have been able to stop Zhou Zekai from attacking, but his teammates weren't going to be done in so easily. His teammates

were all far stronger than him. It was precisely because he had such amazing teammates that his reckless interference was especially meaningful.

I have to keep going! An Wenyi grit his teeth.

But at this moment, a bullet flew over over. Finally, it wasn't Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer harassing others, but someone harassing him.

The speed of the bullet wasn't fast, which let Zhou Zekai know that this was a Stun Bullet.

It moved slowly and had low damage, but its secondary effect was frightening. The attack had to be avoided. However, Cloud Piercer was currently airborne, making it much more difficult for him to dodge. Zhou Zekai looked at the direction of the bullet. Then, Cloud Piercer fired rapidly towards the ground, using Aerial Gun to force Cloud Piercer to the side. The Stun Bullet brushed past him just like that.

But...

Pu!

The sound of a bullet hitting flesh could be heard clearly.

How?

Zhou Zekai was startled. He saw it clearly. Cloud Piercer should have been outside of the bullet's trajectory. But what hit Cloud Piercer was unmistakably a Stun Bullet.

Behind...

Zhou Zekai realized what had happened.

But Cloud Piercer was stunned now. There was nothing he could do as he fell from the skies.

Dancing Rain!

Countless people only realized it after the replay. When Ye Xiu counterattacked, Su Mucheng coordinated with him, and fired a Stun Bullet from behind Cloud Piercer.

The two of them timed it perfectly. The Stun Bullets were fired at the exact same time. Even a godly Sharpshooter like Zhou Zekai hadn't noticed that two bullets had been fired at that moment. As for the others on Samsara, they had been waiting for Zhou Zekai to create an opportunity for them to rescue Laughing Song. How could they have known Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng would work together to attack Zhou Zekai? Even now, they were still lamenting that the attempt to block Ye Xiu had failed. They were still hoping for Zhou Zekai to try again, and hadn't noticed that a Stun Bullet had hit Cloud Piercer.

An Wenyi didn't know either. All he saw was Cloud Piercer dodging Lord Grim's Stun Bullet.

I can't only rely on my teammates. I have to work even harder!

An Wenyi strengthened his resolve, but immediately afterwards, he noticed that Cloud Piercer was stunned!

Stunned!

An Wenyi's mind worked quickly. He didn't understand how, but Cloud Piercer was stunned.

The Stun Bullet hit?

An Wenyi was puzzled. He had clearly seen the bullet miss. How did he get hit? Ye Xiu... how did he pull that off?

An Wenyi was thinking too much, but he knew that he had to seize this opening. He had been working as a meat shield the entire time, but now, there was an opportunity for him to attack back.

Little Cold Hands was covered in blood, yet the light of her holy cross shone as pure and bright as ever.

Hypnosis?

An Wenyi wanted to use this skill the most. However, although Hypnosis had a powerful CC effect, it had a long cast time. The stun duration wasn't enough for Little Cold Hands to complete Hypnosis.

The next best thing was Sacred Fire.

Five seconds of reduced damage, and three seconds of Silence. Sharpshooters utilized their normal attacks far more than other classes, so being silenced wasn't as terrifying for them. However, it would still greatly reduce his combat strength. More importantly, Clerics didn't have any better CC skills available.

No matter how great Zhou Zekai was, he couldn't cleanse the Stun. He could only watch as Little Cold Hands summoned a Sacred Fire.

The spell was cast, and holy fire engulfed Cloud Piercer. It wasn't until these flames blazed that the others on Samsara realized that something had happened to Zhou Zekai. Everyone turned to look, and saw Little Cold Hands lighting Cloud Piercer on fire...

At that distance, a Cleric without any protection was actually able to land Sacred Fire on Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer?

Stunned?

Frozen?

Hypnotized?

Dizzy?

In any case, the others on Samsara could ascertain that Cloud Piercer had definitely suffered some immobilizing effect.

Help him?

The thought popped into everyone's minds, but it was quickly thrown aside.

No matter what status he was affected by, it wouldn't last long. Zhou Zekai was only facing a Cleric, who posed no threat to him. Cloud Piercer was also a long-ranged attacker. Even if An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands ran away during this time, he wouldn't be able to escape from Cloud Piercer's attack range.

There's no need to help him.

Everyone came to the same conclusion. However, they had to face the effects of Zhou Zekai temporarily gone.

An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands didn't run away because he knew that he couldn't. The key was Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash. He had been pinned down by Zhou Zekai the entire time. The Heroic Leap from An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands had helped him win a small opening, but that had only happened once. Afterwards, as Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer attacked Little Cold Hands, he also took care of Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash, preventing him from setting up any ghost boundaries. An Wenyi obviously wanted to protect him, but close combat was never a Cleric's specialty in the first place. When Zhou Zekai truly focused on him, there was only so much he could do. When he blocked the bullet for Ye Xiu and Tang Rou, he had gotten lucky.

One Inch Ash?

Samsara's players shifted their attention to One Inch Ash. But soon afterwards, they discovered that One Inch Ash had disappeared!

To the side of the lofty pyramid were the remains of an ancient city. Destroyed walls and pillars were scattered throughout the ruins. When Cloud Piercer had been hit by the Stun Bullet, Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash had taken the opportunity to hide who knew where.

Zhou Zekai hadn't noticed.

No one on Samsara had noticed.

Even An Wenyi hadn't noticed.

Many of the spectators hadn't noticed Su Mucheng's Stun Bullet until the replay, but Qiao Yifan had noticed it.

Because he was always paying attention to the entire battlefield. He was always observing each and every teammate and opponent.

The simultaneous Stun Bullets from Lord Grim and Dancing Rain.

Apart from Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng themselves, he was the only player on the battlefield to have noticed their teamwork.

It'll hit!

Qiao Yifan determined at that moment.

Should he place down a ghost boundary to further suppress Cloud Piercer?

He quickly dispelled the thought.

Because Qiao Yifan didn't have any ghost boundaries available that would suppress Cloud Piercer effectively.

Darkness Boundary and Ice Boundary were on cooldown.

Ash Boundary, Silence Boundary wouldn't be effective on Cloud Piercer. It would be somewhat of a waste of an opportunity.

As for Flame Boundary, which dealt damage, and Plague Boundary, which changed the opponent's stats, those were even more meaningless.

In the end, Qiao Yifan chose to move away.

Using this opportunity, One Inch Ash escaped from Cloud Piercer's firing range.

Little Cold Hands and Cloud Piercer were too close, so the stun duration wasn't long enough for Little Cold Hands to run away. However, Qiao Yifan had been trying to run away from Zhou Zekai for a long time and was farther away from him. Now that such a huge opening had appeared, escaping would be easy.

Cloud Piercer's bullet didn't chase after him. In fact, none of the other Samsara players had looked towards One Inch Ash.

Qiao Yifan's heart was beating like crazy. He knew that he had to take advantage of this opportunity no matter what.

He contacted Ye Xiu in the chat, and the two had a brief conversation.

One Inch Ash carefully hid himself behind a crumbling wall. His Silver weapon, Snow Stripe, started to glow

Chapter 1694: Phantom Demon's Obstruction

Boom boom boom...

Lord Grim and Soft Mist sent Laughing Song hurtling away. As they pushed him along, they attacked Laughing Song whenever they could. The skillful coordination between the two of them made even their teammate, Qiao Yifan, sigh in admiration. At the same time, he also noticed that Lord Grim had set it up so that Laughing Song wouldn't be able to see One Inch Ash.

"Is that also considered Vanishing Step?" Qiao Yifan thought to himself. He didn't forget to be diligent with his observations. Whether it was an ally or an enemy, he would do his best to find things that he could improve upon from them. From Lord Grim's attacks towards Laughing Song, Qiao Yifan could see hints of Vanishing Step. Usually, Vanishing Step was performed by moving into their dead angles. In this case, Ye Xiu was using Lord Grim's attacks to adjust Laughing Song's positioning, placing One Inch Ash inside Laughing Song's dead angles.

"The principle's the same, but it looks even harder than Vanishing Step," Qiao Yifan believed. Using attacks to control someone else's character was definitely much more difficult than controlling your own character.

Now, it's my turn!

Qiao Yifan wouldn't forget to keep learning even inside a match, but he wouldn't forget about his mission either. Seeing Lord Grim and Soft Mist moving Laughing Song along, his One Inch Ash immediately began casting as if he had received an order.

The ghostly power flowed along his blade like water. Suddenly, it dripped down, and sunk into the ground, spreading outwards.

Outside of the ruins, Wu Qi's Cruel Silence was still the fastest among Samsara. Even though Samsara had noticed that Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash had suddenly vanished, rescuing Laughing Song was necessary. For now, they could only stay in pursuit, while being wary of their surroundings.

Nineteen steps away!

Wu Qi was keeping track of the distance. The distance between Cruel Silence and Laughing Song wasn't steady. Sometimes, the distance would widen. Sometimes, the distance would shrink. After all, the two sides weren't simply running. Ye Xiu and Tang Rou had to coordinate together, and Wu Qi needed to avoid Su Mucheng's interference.

Sure enough, not marking Su Mucheng had a huge impact. Samsara could feel it deeply. If not for Dancing Rain's interference, they might have been able to catch up to Lord Grim and Soft Mist by now.

However, the situation couldn't be considered too terrible.

Wu Qi was confident. With him in close pursuit, Lord Grim and Soft Mist could only attack on occasion. Laughing Song would still be able to survive for a long time.

During this time, would the two on Happy be able to keep this up without making a single mistake?

Zhou Zekai's previous long-ranged assistance had failed, but that didn't mean it would stop there. Suppose the worst case: An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands was able to prevent him from providing support every single time. In that case, Zhou Zekai could simply focus on killing Little Cold Hands, and then help them. There was more than enough time.

There was also Su Mucheng's interference. Samsara was preparing to restrict her. Jiang Botao's Empty Waves was slower than the others. He was being left farther and farther behind, so it was pointless for him to continue chasing. He might as well turn around and go for Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain.

The others hadn't noticed the Stun Bullet from Su Mucheng onto Cloud Piercer, but Zhou Zekai had. He told his team, and the team felt like a BOX-1 on Su Mucheng was necessary. They shouldn't be giving her free rein.

However, Samsara hadn't expected Happy to make such a bold play. Moreover, Ye Xiu's methods were rather risky, which was why they all charged over there. If they had known this would end up being a competition in speed and that Happy had specifically practiced for this, they would have split up the work long ago. For example, Jiang Botao's Empty Waves was a Spellblade, who wasn't suited for a race.

They had promptly made the necessary adjustments. It couldn't be said that their reaction was slow, so they weren't feeling too frantic at the moment. The only problem was Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash.

That guy had suddenly disappeared. For Samsara, he was a huge worry. Phantom Demons had immense crowd control. If they were suddenly caught in one of his ghost boundaries, it would be devastating.

Even though they were worried, Samsara didn't slow down. The only thing that they could do was give chase.

Since they weren't clear about One Inch Ash's situation, worrying about him too much would only distract them. Samsara was quite resolved about this point.

Wu Qi's Cruel Silence carried on the glorious speed of an Assassin, moving swiftly like an arrow. With a flicker, he appeared into Qiao Yifan's line of sight.

Suddenly, he slowed down.

What's going on?

Wu Qi was startled for a moment, but he quickly realized what had happened. The earth beneath Cruel Silence's feet looked as if it had been dyed with black ink. His every moment suddenly seemed heavy.

Ash Boundary increased the weight of the affected characters, reducing their movement speed. The effects had spread onto Cruel Silence.

The distance between Cruel Silence and Laughing Song suddenly widened. Cruel Silence could only trudge his way through slowly. He turned his head, and saw One Inch Ash hiding behind the wall.

Wu Qi sent a message, telling his team of One Inch Ash's position.

However, it would take him some time before he walked out of the Ash Boundary. Jiang Botao's Empty Waves was charging towards Dancing Rain. Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer was no longer stunned, but he couldn't see One Inch Ash from his position. It would be hard for him to cover him.

There was only Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf left.

One Autumn Leaf had also been caught by the Ash Boundary. However, he had been slightly behind Cruel Silence, who was at the very center of it. That meant that he would be able to exit the Ash Boundary much sooner.

Right now, they needed to keep close to Lord Grim and Soft Mist, which meant that they had to keep pushing forward. However, if he wanted to leave this Ash Boundary, he would need to fall back.

One Autumn Leaf moved back. He had no other choice.

Cruel Silence slowly moved forward as he waited for a skill to come off cooldown.

Shining Cut!

With this movement skill, Cruel Silence would be able to quickly get out of the Ash Boundary.

But then, he saw the ghost god's power gathering around One Inch Ash's tachi, Snow Stripe.

This...

A deathly silence descended.

The Shining Cut that had just gone off cooldown was suddenly sealed.

Silence Boundary. All skills were silenced while inside of it.

Weighed down by Ash Boundary and silenced by Silence Boundary, Cruel Silence could only slowly walk forward.

Even though One Autumn Leaf had escaped, if he wanted to push forward, he would need to go around the ghost boundary.

Lord Grim and Soft Mist were getting farther and farther away, but he would need to go around the ghost boundary while also being careful of One Inch Ash. Sun Xiang was feeling particularly annoyed.

But right now, he was facing an even more difficult choice.

Should he continue chasing after Lord Grim and Soft Mist, or should he go after One Inch Ash?

He wasn't the only one thinking this question. Outside of the match, the pro players were also in a fervent discussion.

One Autumn Leaf was very far from Lord Grim and Soft Mist. If he continued to give chase, would he be able to catch up? Lord Grim and Soft Mist had no way escaped outside of Cloud Piercer's attack range. If Zhou Zekai wanted to provide support to his side, he would need to give up on Little Cold Hands. However, giving up on Little Cold Hands was risky. Little Cold Hands didn't have much health left. If he gave up on him, and Laughing Song wasn't rescued in the end, it would be like losing an army after having given away the bride. It looked like Zhou Zekai was clearly prioritizing killing Little Cold Hands. Without his support and at this distance, would giving chase do anything?

But if he didn't give chase... the other side would be completely free. They could stop and focus on attacking. It would be a 2v1, and it wouldn't be long before Laughing Song was killed. A healer for healer trade would be Samsara's loss. That was certain.

Both options were unfavorable for Samsara...

"But what if he could kill One Inch Ash here?" someone suddenly said.

Both sides would kill the other side's healer, but Samsara would also take down One Inch Ash. That would be a 1v2 trade, and that was undoubtedly a trade that Samsara would take.

"But that would be quite difficult, no?" Li Xuan said. He had the right of speech on anything related to Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash. As the number one Phantom Demon, he knew what Qiao Yifan should do next.

"I know it." Seeing Qiao Yifan's response, Li Xuan nodded his head.

One Inch Ash walked out.

His position was already exposed. There was no point in hiding behind the wall anymore, so he walked out from behind the wall. Not just Wu Qi, but Sun Xiang also knew exactly where he was.

However, One Inch Ash was standing inside his ghost boundary.

Ghost boundaries weren't just to control and restrict the enemy. Ghost boundaries such as Sword Boundary could also buff the Strength and Intelligence of allies. At the same time, the ghost boundaries that debuffed the enemy could also be considered a form of protection for allies as well, no?

Countless players, especially the close-ranged ones, loathed ghost boundaries. The more extreme ones even considered ghost boundaries as a BUG.

Because if the Ghostblade stepped into his own ghost boundary, how were the close-ranged classes supposed to fight him?

How?

Fight the Ghostblade while being unable to see inside a Darkness Boundary? Or while slowed in an Ash Boundary? Or while unable to use skills in a Silence Boundary?

It was impossible!

That was why Sun Xiang could only look at him hatefully. It wasn't that close-ranged classes had no methods to deal with ghost boundary. However, these methods were slow and required time. But what Samsara lacked the most was time. While he slowly contended with Qiao Yifan, Ye Xiu and Tang Rou would kill off Laughing Song in the blink of an eye and then come back to help Qiao Yifan.

"If Jiang Botao were still there..." Wang Jiexi said.

Jiang Botao's Empty Waves was a Spellblade. Spellblade attacks weren't long-ranged, but mid-ranged. But since he didn't need to get close, he didn't need to slowly contend with a Ghostblade. Moreover, with another player's fighting strength, Samsara would be able to kill One Inch Ash much faster if they focused him. They could decisively give up on Laughing Song, and go for a 2 for 1 trade.

But unfortunately, Jiang Botao wasn't there.

Chapter 1695: A Glimmering Technique

Was it a problem with Samsara's arrangements?

After Pan Lin and Li Yibo analyzed the present situation, most of the viewers thought so. If Jiang Botao were there, the situation would be much better. However, Jiang Botao wasn't there. If that wasn't a problem with their arrangements, then what was it?

But the pro players disagreed.

Saying that it was an issue with Samsara's arrangements was like giving advice in hindsight. At that time, Samsara's decision to send away Jiang Botao had been correct. On the other hand, their decision to ignore Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain at the start and have everyone go rescue Fang Minghua was questionable.

At this moment, because of Jiang Botao's absence, Qiao Yifan posed an enormous problem for Samsara. Then again, if Jiang Botao's Empty Waves had been there, Qiao Yifan probably wouldn't have made the same play.

Instead of saying that it was a problem with Samsara's arrangements, it would be better to say it was a timely decision from Qiao Yifan. Through his astute observations of the overall battle, he was able to create a new situation that looked as if it stemmed from an error on Samsara's part.

"An outstanding team player," the pro players praised. Every single time this happened, it was a form of torture to Tiny Herb. The profound stares from everyone said everything. No matter how calm they may be, they couldn't help but feel a bit uncomfortable.

Samsara had no time to admire Qiao Yifan's incredible play. For them, this incredible play meant huge trouble for them.

Lord Grim and Soft Mist, should they chase them or not?

It was a difficult decision. Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf circled around the ghost boundary.

Chase!

Sun Xiang saw it. After he and Wu Qi were blocked by Qiao Yifan, he saw Ye Xiu and Tang Rou slow down, waiting to see what he and Wu Qi did before taking the next step. If Samsara turned on One Inch Ash, those two would probably stop completely and focus on killing Laughing Song as fast as possible.

Samsara didn't wish to see this happen. Whether or not they could catch up wasn't important, they would at least be putting pressure on them. That way, Happy had to keep moving Laughing Song along, and perhaps those two might make a mistake.

Chase, he had to give chase. If the two of them couldn't, then at least one of them should.

Sun Xiang understood this point, and immediately sent a message to Wu Qi through the team chat. The two split up. Qiao Yifan was left to Wu Qi, while Sun Xiang had One Autumn Leaf circle around to continue giving chase.

Suddenly, sword light flashed. Moonlight Slash into Full Moonlight Slash, the classic Ghostblade combo appeared in front of One Autumn Leaf. Sun Xiang wasn't looking for trouble, but Qiao Yifan was. Postured like a Sword Demon, a Phantom Demon attacked.

How could Qiao Yifan, who excelled at reading the big picture, not recognize the severity of the situation? Little Cold Hands' death was certain. Whether Ye Xiu and Tang Rou could finish off Fang Minghua's Laughing Song was crucial. For this to happen, blocking Sun Xiang and Wu Qi from getting to them was essential. Qiao Yifan couldn't let them through no matter what. Unfortunately, One Inch Ash's CC skills were on cooldown. No matter how much damage Flame Boundary dealt, or how much defense Plague Boundary lowered, it wouldn't stop the other side from getting through.

Out of choices, Qiao Yifan could only have One Inch Ash take the fight to One Autumn Leaf.

Sun Xiang's reaction was quick. One Autumn Leaf sidestepped twice, evading One Inch Ash's attacks. One Inch Ash was extremely close to him. Sun Xiang really wanted to beat him up with his Evil Annihilation. He suddenly had an idea, and quickly typed in the chat: switch!

Having Wu Qi, who was trapped in a ghost boundary, deal with Qiao Yifan wasn't as easy as it sounded. Affected by both Ash Boundary and Silence Boundary, Cruel Silence's combat prowess was extremely weak. In an actual 1v1 against One Inch Ash, he would certainly be on the losing side. He might even be completely dominated. Close-ranged classes claiming ghost boundaries as "BUGs" wasn't without its reasoning.

But right now, Qiao Yifan was ignoring Wu Qi, instead going for Sun Xiang. If One Inch Ash were pinned down by One Autumn Leaf, then when Cruel Silence left the two ghost boundaries, it wouldn't be too big of a delay considering an Assassin's speed.

So, switch!

Sun Xiang was ecstatic seeing this opportunity appear. It seemed like the attentive Qiao Yifan had made a mistake because of his heavy responsibilities.

Tyrant's Destruction!

The moment he typed out "switch," One Autumn Leaf unleashed a Tyrant's Destruction to push One Inch Ash farther away from his ghost boundaries. Without ghost boundaries, a Phantom Demon would be at a huge disadvantage in close combat. A Phantom Demon's essential tools, ghost boundaries, required cast times, but how could there be any time for them to cast anything in close combat? As for their remaining attacks, those would low-level Elementalist and Battle Mage skills. However, these skills were mainly reserved for survival, not actual combat.

But Qiao Yifan's reaction was unexpectedly fast as well. When the Tyrant's Destruction swung his way, One Inch Ash leapt backwards and then moved to the side. His rhythm was light and brisk. His movement gave people a sense of familiarity, but it seemed rather strange on One Inch Ash.

"What's this?" The number one Phantom Demon, Li Xuan, blurted out. He was incomparably familiar with Phantom Demons, but his first thought was that his movements seemed strange.

The experienced pro players had the same feeling, but for a moment, they couldn't quite pinpoint why. After this next step, One Inch Ash stepped to the side again.

"Overlapping Sidesteps," someone shouted. When this name was said, everyone immediately understood where this sense of deja vu came from.

Overlapping Sidesteps wasn't a rarely-seen technique. In fact, it was a very common one. However, because many classes had their own unique playstyles, many classes had their own unique techniques.

Overlapping Sidesteps was one such technique. It was a very basic movement technique. It was done by using small steps at a fast pace to circle around the opponent's side or back to complete a back attack.

Back attacks dealt extra damage, which was a mechanic common to all classes. However, there was one particular class, which had additional bonuses for back attacks.

Assassins!

The Assassin class advancement skill "Assassination Arts", buffed the damage from back attacks even further. Assassins were inherently fast and nimble, so players tried to go for back attacks whenever

possible. Any class could perform Overlapping Sidesteps. It was just that Assassins made the best use of the technique. As a result, Assassins were usually the best at this movement technique.

One Inch Ash obviously wasn't an Assassin. A few close-ranged classes would sometimes use it, but Ghostblades, particularly Phantom Demons, seemed to have no relation with this technique. But at this moment, One Inch Ash was using it, making the people watching feel like it was an unfamiliar sight. However, the distinct characteristics of the technique could clearly be seen. It didn't look like he was doing it on a whim. Only a practiced and skilled Assassin had this level of mastery.

Why would a Ghostblade, a Phantom Demon, have practiced an Assassin's technique to this extent? To the point that he could even execute it so smoothly at such a critical moment?

Many people felt puzzled, but those with an understanding of Qiao Yifan's background, especially the Tiny Herb players, didn't find it particularly strange. When Qiao Yifan had been a part of Tiny Herb, the team had him play an Assassin. It was a class that he had bitterly practiced with in the pro scene for half a year.

He had switched classes to a Phantom Demon, but he hadn't abandoned the techniques that he had practiced as an Assassin. He had worked hard to learn those Assassin techniques. Even though his new class wasn't suited for them, he felt like keeping them under his belt could never be a bad thing. After all, he had a teammate who was proficient with all classes, and Qiao Yifan had seen him use techniques from numerous classes, transforming the rotten into the miraculous. He didn't have the talent to be proficient in all classes, but everything he had already practiced was a weapon. There would be a day, a moment, where it would be useful. Even a single time would be enough for it all to be worth it.

And this moment had come.

Overlapping Sidesteps!

A very ordinary technique that many Assassins were extremely familiar with. This technique was used to get to the side or behind an opponent as fast as possible, but this didn't mean that the opponent would be unable to move. Against an opponent of Sun Xiang's calibre, a two-step Overlapping Sidesteps was something that he could keep up with. What's more, these Overlapping Sidesteps were being done by a Phantom Demon, not an Assassin.

No one could have expected a Phantom Demon to use Overlapping Sidesteps, let alone have such mastery over it. It was as if he were an actual Assassin.

When Sung Xian realized this and reacted, One Inch Ash completed his third step.

Three steps, three small steps, and One Inch Ash circled around from One Autumn Leaf's front to his side. Only then did Sun Xiang react. Only then did One Autumn Leaf move. But One Inch Ash had already made his move.

Lunge!

A low-level Blade Master skill, an extremely fast stab.

It was too fast. It was impossible to dodge. One Autumn Leaf was hit.

The damage from the skill wasn't high, but the skill had a knockback effect.

Sun Xiang's expression changed. He realized what this knockback meant.

To One Autumn Leaf's side was the Ash and Silence Boundary.

Chapter 1696: First Death

Weight increased, skills sealed.

Chase after Lord Grim and Soft Mist under the effects of both Ash Boundary and Silence Boundary? Kill Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash? Don't even bother thinking about these possibilities. Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf had been pushed into the overlapping ghost boundaries.

Ghost boundary effects usually only lasted a few seconds, but on the pro stage, a few seconds was more than enough to alter the course of the match.

Lord Grim and Soft Mist immediately stopped their high-speed movement, instead switching into kill mode. The two characters poured out their attacks and skills. Laughing Song's health plummeted as if someone had turned on the tap.

Sun Xiang and Wu Qi could only watch quietly.

They were the closest to Laughing Song, but these ghost boundaries made them feel as if they were the farthest away.

Jiang Botao's Empty Waves had already started suppressing Dancing Rain. It wasn't possible for him to switch targets and worry about others. No matter the development, suppressing Su Mucheng would always be an important win condition. Samsara had indeed been too hasty before. Suppressing Su Mucheng should have been a task carried out at all times.

There was also Zhou Zekai.

Whenever the team was in a stalemate, at a disadvantage, or in an uncertain situation, Zhou Zekai would always stand out, using his powerful presence to lead Samsara out, turning the tides and putting them on the road to victory. It was almost to be expected.

As a result, countless eyes looked towards Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer.

The Samsara fans hoped for another miracle from Zhou Zekai.

Happy's players would never relax their guard against this top player. Among them, there was one pair of eyes that was practically glued to Cloud Piercer. His gaze never went anywhere else.

An Wenyi.

He didn't know that Qiao Yifan had sealed off Samsara's two pursuers with his ghost boundaries.

He didn't know that Ye Xiu and Tang Rou had stopped to hurry and kill Laughing Song.

He didn't know that Su Mucheng was fighting against Jiang Botao, trying to find an opportunity to help her teammates.

He didn't even know how much health Little Cold Hands had left, nor did he look at Cloud Piercer's health. The only thing he paid attention to was Cloud Piercer's movements and his two guns.

Left? Right? Retreat? Jump?

An Wenyi stared at the movements of the guns. His Little Cold Hands reacted accordingly. In the pro scene, he was seen as a clear weakness of Happy's, but at this moment, he was keeping watch over the best of the best in Glory.

Based on what?

An Wenyi didn't know. Or perhaps it was just his conviction. His conviction to stop Zhou Zekai from escaping. His conviction to win.

To be the champion!

The Glory Alliance's champion.

One year ago, two years ago, An Wenyi could only dream of those words. He had just been another player among the hundreds of millions who played Glory. He had been a Cleric, who admired Glory's number one player, Tyranny's Zhang Xinjie, and supported Tyranny as a result. That was why he had joined Tyranny's in-game guild, becoming one of the regular healers among Tyrannical Ambition's teams.

For the vast majority of players, being a regular in a Club guild was considered being among the top players in Glory. But in Tyrannical Ambition, he wasn't even good enough to be one of the elites. The guild's elite team would usually be personally led by the guild leader. For him, the elite team had already been unreachable.

But in less than two years, he stood on the pro stage, fighting against players who had formerly been on a different plane of existence. He shook hands and greeted his idol, Zhang Xinjie. And now he was in the finals, fighting for the championship title.

So what if he was Happy weak point? If he could win the championship, nothing else mattered.

Fight and hold him down!

An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands was a like a piece of sesame soft candy. He was tangled around Cloud Piercer, blocking off his guns and his vision.

Keep going! Keep going!

He had forgotten everything. The only thing remaining in his heart was his conviction. Even when Little Cold Hands was down to his last drop of life, he didn't hesitate. He wasn't looking at anything else. His final struggle was the same as any other moment. Determined and resolute, he had to block Cloud Piercer no matter what.

Bang!

This was the last gunshot that An Wenyi heard. Then, the sky and earth went spinning. He saw Cloud Piercer sweep past him in a flash.

I can't let him through!

An Wenyi thought to himself. He had Little Cold Hands reach out with his hands to grab onto the corner of Cloud Piercer's windbreaker.

Got him!

When Little Cold Hands' fingers touched Cloud Piercer's windbreaker, An Wenyi's heart burst with joy. Had he successfully stopped Zhou Zekai again?

But in the next second, the windbreaker vanished from his view. Only his hand was left, still stretched forward.

The world turned gray.

It's over...

Little Cold Hands fell, becoming the first death this match. For An Wenyi, the finals was over. His season was over. He no longer had control over the outcome, but everything he had done still remained. However, he still had one lingering regret in his heart: that windbreaker, why wasn't I able to grab onto it?

Happy's healer was dead!

Usually, this news would make the opposing team overjoyed. Even if Happy's healer was Happy's weakness, a healer was a healer, an irreplaceable asset in the team competition. Whoever controlled the enemy healer, controlled the match. Then, what if you killed the enemy healer? That was practically an early proclamation of victory.

However, apart from some sparse applause from Samsara's fans, no one was excited at this scene. No one felt like the world was theirs when Happy's healer died because everyone knew that just killing Happy's healer didn't count for anything. Whether Samsara could rescue their own healer was the important question.

Cloud Piercer rushed over like an arrow. Laughing Song had been brought outside of his attack range by Lord Grim and Soft Mist because An Wenyi's crazed struggle against him had made it so that he was unable to get closer.

"I wonder if a new method to deal with Zhou Zekai has been found," Li Yibo joked around, but he didn't get any responses from Pan Lin. He was completely absorbed into the match. An Wenyi's stupid yet smart play, the tenacity and spirit that he showed wasn't something Pan Lin could laugh about.

A new method?

It was just a joke. Everyone felt that what they had just witnessed was inconceivable, and something inconceivable often couldn't be replicated. Even An Wenyi himself wouldn't be able to repeat his performance today. Before today, he had probably never thought that he could do something like this. Even after this match, when he looked back, he himself would find it unbelievable.

A new method?

Only something with reason and context could be called a method. This sort of unconventional miracle couldn't be considered a "method".

Now, the miracle had faded away. Samsara's Zhou Zekai had finally regained his freedom. This was also someone brought miracles to Samsara again and again. What would he do for Samsara next?

One step, two steps, three steps...

Cloud Piercer quickly gave chase. There was no one to stop him. Even though Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain fired a few artillery shells at him, she wasn't able to sustain it. Jiang Botao marking her was already paying off. She couldn't do as she pleased anymore. She needed to first deal with Empty Waves' attacks before she could do anything.

They're in firing range!

Lord Grim and Soft Mist were finally in Cloud Piercer's range. During this time, Ye Xiu and Tang Rou hadn't chosen to escape. They had lost control over Zhou Zekai. They could only hurry and try to finish off Laughing Song.

Bullets flew out, and in the blink of an eye, a rain of bullets swept towards them. The two continued to attack as they brought Laughing Song over behind a crumbling wall for some cover.

But the cover only lasted a short while.

The wall was short and small. In just a few steps, Cloud Piercer had vision of them again.

One Autumn Leaf and Cruel Silence had finally left the Ash Boundary and Silence Boundary. Even though Qiao Yifan had enshrouded them with more ghost boundaries, these new ones didn't have powerful CC effects. As a result, the two didn't hesitate to force their way through them.

It looks like this is all I can do. Seeing Laughing Song's remaining health, Qiao Yifan triggered his final move.

Ghost Feast!

The chained ghost boundaries erupted, and because the ghost boundaries weren't completely overlapping, the ghost god's power enveloped an enormous area. At the same time, even though the Ghost Feast covered a huge area, its damage and effects weren't as high.

Sun Xiang and Wu Qi weren't scared by it. The two used skills to overcome the effects of Ghost Feast, and rushed out towards Laughing Song.

Laughing Song didn't have much health left, but there was still time!

Cloud Piercer's long-ranged attacks weren't able to completely interrupt Lord Grim's and Soft Mist's attacks, but they were able to influence their offense somewhat, lowering their DPS. Happy wouldn't be able to kill Laughing Song before they arrived.

It's Samsara's win!

As long as Samsara rescued Laughing Song.

At this moment, too too many people had this thought. Happy's wandering assault had completely suppressed Laughing Song, but the DPS was too low. Even though Zhou Zekai was the only one attacking Little Cold Hands, without anyone interfering, he could completely focus on offense.

Too slow. Happy had run fast, but their damage output was too low.

Sigh... those with hope for Happy had already begun sighing. But just when Cloud Piercer moved into a new angle to attack, Zhou Zekai stared blankly.

He had realized something. They had overlooked something once again.

Happy's healer was the first to die. Thus, Happy's sixth player would be the first to switch in at the support zone below the pyramid.

Steamed Bun Invasion.

Chapter 1697: Simple Detail

It was a bit too late for Lord Grim and Soft Mist to kill Laughing Song, but now, with Steamed Bun Invasion?

Ordinary viewers might have noticed how severe the problem was, but the pro players already couldn't help but begin to applaud. Because they knew that this was definitely within Happy's calculations.

They couldn't fault Samsara for overlooking this, because they had only noticed anything when Steamed Bun Invasion had entered from the support zone and joined in on attacking Laughing Song. It was only because they were in the audience and had the omniscient view that they saw Steamed Bun Invasion sooner and recognized the problem faster.

And on Samsara's side, even now, Zhou Zekai was the only one who had seen Steamed Bun Invasion, and only he had recognized this problem. Sun Xiang and Wu Qi's views were blocked just perfectly, so they hadn't yet seen the sixth player Steamed Bun Invasion, and they hadn't realized that Happy had been running this whole time not just to avoid their pursuers and escape Cloud Piercer's firing range, but also to place the final attack location right next to the support zone.

As soon as they began executing this exchange, Happy had realized that Little Cold Hands would definitely die before Laughing Song, so they had made preparations long before.

Happy had seen a little further. By the time Samsara realized the problem, it was already too late.

"Ash!"

In Samsara's chat, a message from Zhou Zekai suddenly appeared.

Zhou Zekai was extremely decisive. As soon as he realized the problem, he swiftly let go.

It was too late to save Laughing Song.

This was the conclusion he made, and so Cloud Piercer turned fire, suddenly attacking One Inch Ash.

Sun Xiang and Wu Qi were stunned. The two of them had still been desperately making their way their as fast as they could. Zhou Zekai's message, Zhou Zekai's intent, they instantly understood, but why?

Even now, the two of them still hadn't realized that this was close to the support area. They hadn't realized the problem that because Happy's healer died first, their sixth player would appear and increase their DPS.

But right now, there was no time for them to hesitate, or ask an extra question.

Turn fire!

Instantly, these two firmly carried out their captain's directions. On the battlefield, the players were mostly left to rely on their own judgment and initiative, but when there was a clear instruction or intent, cooperation came first. As for whether or not the players could instantly grasp the intent of an instruction, that depended on the tacit understanding between team members.

Sun Xiang and Wu Qi hadn't seen Steamed Bun Invasion, so they didn't understand the full situation. But the two cooperated with Zhou Zekai with unquestioning resolve.

One Autumn Leaf, Cruel Silence, the two characters suddenly spun around, swiftly charging toward One Inch Ash.

Qiao Yifan was startled. He had still been calculating which of One Inch Ash's ghost boundaries were off cooldown so he could go sneak attack a few more of Samsara's players, when all of a sudden, three of his opponents were suddenly charging toward him without warning.

Qiao Yifan's situational awareness was excellent, he was cautious and attentive, but ultimately he still lacked battle experience. Samsara's swift and decisive response caught him off-guard.

Cloud Piercer's gunfire came toward One Inch Ash first, and One Autumn Leaf and Cruel Silence were converging upon him. Even though these two still didn't understand the reason for turning their fire, their execution was clean and precise. When they switched their target, the first thing they did was cut off the path that One Inch Ash could have used to get support from Lord Grim, Soft Mist, and the others.

They wanted to force One Inch Ash into a corner. Qiao Yifan could see this, and he didn't want to tangle with them. One Inch Ash turned tail and ran.

With Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer marking him, his One Inch Ash had no chance to cast any ghost boundaries. Moreover, when he'd been slowing down One Autumn Leaf and Cruel Silence earlier, One Inch Ash had been setting ghost boundaries one after another without any rhythm. Right now, many of them were still on cooldown!

"They're on me!"

While Qiao Yifan had One Inch Ash to flee, he was also swiftly alerting everyone in Happy: Samsara was coming for him.

And the escaping Qiao Yifan wasn't simply running way in any random path. There was no way he could race against three people. Besides, movement speed wasn't a Ghostblade's strength. One Inch Ash leapt forward, tumbling over a fallen stone pillar, and after that he didn't stand up again. Hiding behind it, he frantically crept along.

Borrowing this cover, he could avoid at least some of the damage from Cloud Piercer's fire for now. Qiao Yifan knew that he couldn't escape completely. All he needed to do was stall, to hold on for as long as he could, until his own side could come help him.

The cover of the stone pillar also blocked his field of view, so Qiao Yifan couldn't see the situation of his pursuers. However, some distance away, he could see the struggle between Su Mucheng and Jiang Botao.

If he crept closer, he could achieve a bit of support from Su Mucheng's firepower!

Qiao Yifan saw very clearly that, right now, Su Mucheng might be the only one who could extend a hand of support.

But at this moment, Qiao Yifan heard a gunshot.

Different types of guns fired shots with different sound effects. Guns of the same type would sound more similar, but the differences between a rifle, a revolver, and a handcannon were simply too different.

The sound of this shot clearly had a lot of strength behind it, and there was no series of rapid sounds after it. This was very clearly characteristic of a rifle shot's sound.

A rifle...

Right now, the only one on the battlefield with that type of gun was the gun form of Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella.

Ye Xiu was currently closing in on Laughing Song, Lord Grim didn't have a reason to use firing attacks. So, was this shot meant to support him?

Qiao Yifan was indeed very attentive to detail. After hearing just this one shot, his mind considered many things. And on Su Mucheng's end, he noticed that her Dancing Rain was currently moving toward his own position. But it wasn't clear that it was to support him. It seemed more like she was simply making a strategic supporting movement.

Qiao Yifan didn't act rashly. He continued along his chosen path. Only when One Inch Ash was furiously running did he hurriedly swivel his view to look back.

And so, he saw Lord Grim.

He thought that the others couldn't come support him so quickly, but when he saw Lord Grim's position, he realized that Lord Grim wasn't just firing that one shot when he found the spare time. Lord Grim was actually charging straight out, chasing after the tails of those three Samsara players.

This is...

Qiao Yifan was stunned, but he quickly realized.

Stupid! How was he so stupid?

The reason why it would have been inconvenient for Ye Xiu and the others to come rescue him was because they had to focus fire to kill Laughing Song as fast as possible before Samsara could save him.

But now, Samsara's three had clearly changed their target. They were no longer trying to rescue their healer. With that, of course, killing off Laughing Song was no longer a pressing matter. Controlling and killing a Cleric, one person was enough for that. So, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim quickly broke away to leap at Samsara's tails, without any delay.

As expected of a God!

Even though Qiao Yifan had been playing with Ye Xiu for over two years now, his feelings of worship had never faded. Just now, for example, the logic was as simple as adding one plus one, but under the intense conditions of battle, to be able to recognize and react so quickly, that definitely wasn't as simple as one plus one.

At least, Qiao Yifan hadn't thought of it, and Samsara had overlooked it too, no?

In the audience, the pro players were still praising Zhou Zekai's decision to turn fire as unusually decisive! They were just like Qiao Yifan. In that moment, their minds hadn't made the connection. But then, they saw Ye Xiu's Lord Grim rushing forth ferociously. After everyone was stunned for a moment, they too all realized what was going on, and they were filled with mixed emotions. It was such a simple logic, how come they had all overlooked it?

The pro players all exchanged glances, and no one spoke.

But at that moment, just as it seemed that Cloud Piercer was closing in on One Inch Ash with single-minded focus, just as it seemed that he was going to seize him in his grasp, Cloud Piercer suddenly made a 180-degree turn. He lifted his dual revolvers, and they spat fire.

Turned fire!

Cloud Piercer actually turned fire once again, moving quickly at the same time. He actually threw One Inch Ash aside again, and charged back toward Laughing Song.

This is...

The audience was once again dumbfounded.

Had Samsara really overlooked such a simple logic? Perhaps some people would, but Zhou Zekai hadn't. He had been using this simple principle to lure Happy into lessening their offense against Laughing Song, and then, using the range advantage of his Cloud Piercer, he turned fire yet again and break the offense that Happy had mounted against Laughing Song.

A small advance and retreat, a link that everyone had overlooked, yet Ye Xiu and Zhou Zekai had set up so many schemes here.

"Perhaps these two really are on another level..." said honored guest Li Yibo in the broadcast. This was an extremely simple detail, but the real story lay within this simple detail.

Zhou Zekai controlled Cloud Piercer to charge in that direction. His long-range control was limited, but Fang Minghua wasn't dead. If Zhou Zekai's offense could allow him to seize the slightest opening, he would work as hard as he could to persist. But even so, Zhou Zekai wasn't completely confident. Ideally, Happy would have only left one person to continue attacking Laughing Song. Judging from Happy's bold and wild style today, he felt that that possibility was quite likely.

But although Happy was quite unrestrained when they were going wild, when Zhou Zekai hoped for them to go wild, to his surprise, Happy had in fact restrained themselves.

Perhaps they had seen through his intention? Zhou Zekai thought. After all, the other side had realized that they could loosen up and send an attacker away. With Ye Xiu's knowledge and shrewdness, it was very likely that they had also prepared to defend against this strategy of baiting the tiger away from the mountain.

But if they had recognized this possibility of bait, and still sent out an attacker anyway, then it had to be said that Happy really was quite daring.

But to go wild like this all the time, there had to be some price to pay, no?

Cloud Piercer charged forth, his gunfire quick and biting. Zhou Zekai had thought very deeply, but he didn't waver on his decision. He didn't have a good handle on this situation, but he still firmly believed that this was worth an attempt. He believed in himself, and he believed in Fang Minghua.

Our healer is still here!

Chapter 1698: Steamed Bun's Sand Toss

Opening!

Fang Minghua had been searching for an opening the entire time, but this one was by far the closest to him yet.

Cloud Piercer's bullets rained down. Fang Minghua could practically see the bullets flying past Laughing Song's eyes. Happy wouldn't retreat. Even if they had to take damage, they had to kill Laughing Song.

But under Cloud Piercer's firepower, how could it be so easy to just tank the damage?

Reinforced Iron Bones!

The newly subbed in Steamed Bun was quick-witted. The moment Zhou Zekai attacked, his Steamed Bun Invasion activated Reinforced Iron Bones. With Super Armor, his rhythm wouldn't be broken no matter how dense the rain of bullets. At worst, he would take more damage.

The breakthrough point would have to be Soft Mist.

Fang Minghua began paying more attention to Soft Mist's side. He watched Laughing Song's health carefully. Every second felt like a year.

This was a match point. If Samsara could successfully rescue Laughing Song, Samsara would almost certainly win. The countless Samsara fans among the crowd stood up from their seats. Whether or not their team could lock in the win gripped their hearts.

Closer, closer!

They prayed in their hearts. Because they could see that at this distance, Cloud Piercer's offense wasn't threatening enough. A bit closer... a bit closer and his gunfire would be more dense, and he would be

able to rely on chaining together his attacks to fully suppress Soft Mist's attacks. Or perhaps because she tried too hard to dodge, her rhythm would get messed up, and Fang Minghua would be able to find an opportunity to rescue himself.

Advance! This was the conviction in Zhou Zekai's heart.

Opening! This was what Fang Minghua hoped for. He would never give up until the end.

Tang Rou began feeling the pressure.

Steamed Bun immediately activated Reinforced Iron Bones. He wasn't feeling any pressure on his end, but that also meant that he was pushing it all onto Tang Rou. Zhou Zekai obviously wasn't going to waste his time trying to stop a Super Armored character.

"Maybe Bao Rongxing shouldn't have activated Reinforced Iron Bones," Pan Lin said.

"Maybe... but even if he hadn't, it wouldn't have stopped Zhou Zekai from focusing on a single target," Li Yibo said.

"That's true," Pan Lin nodded his head.

"Maybe Bao Rongxing should try and protect Tang Rou!" Li Yibo said.

"Her protection's already arrived," Pan Lin said.

Ye Xiu's Lord Grim rushed towards Cloud Piercer, firing at him.

Zhou Zekai obviously saw him, but he had the same mentality as Tang Rou and Steamed Bun right now. Offense was his number one priority. He would only deal with the attacks that would interfere with his offense.

Hurry!

There wasn't much time left. Once Ye Xiu's Lord Grim got close to him, Zhou Zekai was certain that everything would end there. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim sticking onto him was far more threatening than An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands.

He moved away, doing what he could to delay Lord Grim. He open fired. This was the final sprint. There was only one chance left.

Rapid Firing, Random Firing, Berserk Firing...

At this moment, Cloud Piercer activated every buff he had. Zhou Zekai didn't hold back, pushing his firepower to its peak.

Success or failure would be decided here, Gatling Gun!

Cloud Piercer suddenly stood his ground. He stopped firing with his dual guns, instead pulling out a heavy machine gun. Under the various Sharpshooter buffs, the bullets from Gatling Gun were practically connected as they flew out like a ray of light.

Tang Rou immediately recognized that she had to dodge no matter what. If the laser-like rain of bullets landed, she would likely be knocked back.

Soft Mist dodged. The Gatling Gun followed her. As the gun turned, the bullets were like an orderly flight of steps, creating an arc.

The arc forced Soft Mist to move in one direction. An opening finally appeared in front of Laughing Song.

Opening!

The opening that he had been waiting for who knew how long had come.

At this moment, Fang Minghua's attention was entirely on Steamed Bun Invasion. He knew that the only one who could attack and stop him was Steamed Bun Invasion. He didn't have the ability to fight against Steamed Bun Invasion, but he could avoid him. He had to avoid him.

Charge!

Laughing Song charged towards that opening. However, his gaze was locked firmly onto Steamed Bun Invasion.

Steamed Bun Invasion swung his fist as if it were a conditioned reflex. He sent a punch to intercept the fleeing Laughing Song.

But no matter how fast his reaction speed was, it was just an ordinary punch, so ordinary that Fang Minghua nearly laughed.

How easy!

Fang Minghua quickly acted. Laughing Song leaned slightly to the side as he rushed forward. Steamed Bun Invasion missed.

Fang Minghua obviously didn't think that it was over just because he had dodged this single punch. But with how easy it had been to avoid Steamed Bun Invasion's first attempt, he suddenly felt like he could see another opening on Steamed Bun Invasion.

After one opening, another one followed. Fang Minghua surged with excitement. His fingers suddenly felt even lighter and nimbler than before. Laughing Song raised his cross, ready to cast an instant Holy Cure on himself. His situation before had been so dire that he hadn't even been able to cast an instant-cast skill.

Holy light gathered around his cross. Just before it shone onto Laughing Song, Steamed Bun Invasion's ordinary fist suddenly opened wide, releasing a handful of sand.

Sand Toss?

The holy light extinguished.

Fang Minghua couldn't describe what he was feeling with words. That punch was a Sand Toss? You can Sand Toss like that? If it's Sand Toss, then throw it earlier? Why would you clench your fists so tightly? If the hand holding the sand hit me, what would that have done?

Sand Toss. Fang Minghua suddenly had countless questions about this common Brawler skill. Laughing Song had already been hit by the sudden Sand Toss. Fang Minghua hadn't been able to react to it in time.

His screen turned dark.

A max-leveled Sand Toss had a 100% chance to Blind if it hit the face. The effect lasted eight seconds.

The countless Samsara fans closed their eyes. Eight seconds of Blind. Laughing Song had no chance of escaping anymore. Zhou Zekai had created an opening for him, but Fang Minghua could only rely on himself to take it. However, with eight seconds of Blind, there was no hope left for Fang Minghua.

“What the fuck? He can’t even dodge a Sand Toss?” Countless players cursed.

The pro players were speechless.

This Sand Toss... what should they say! It felt like a joke. It could be considered a cheese, a cheap play by a normal player.

But Steamed Bun had brought this cheese to the highest stage on Glory, extinguishing Fang Minghua’s last hopes.

“Unlucky!!!”

Everyone could sympathize with Fang Minghua. Now that everyone had seen it, everyone felt like they could easily deal with it. Against this delayed Sand Toss, you could dodge or interrupt it, easy as pie.

But Fang Minghua was the first to be cheesed. When he saw that punch, the thought of it being a Sand Toss probably hadn’t even crossed his mind, and because of that, what should have been child’s play ended his life.

Apart from sympathy, the pro players could only give him their sympathy. Pan Lin and Li Yibo didn’t know what to say. It was such an important match point, and it was resolved through a little trick? This decisive match was filled with all sorts of weirdness.

But in the end, Fang Minghua’s time was over. Praying for Zhou Zekai to pull off another miracle was hopeless. Ye Xiu’s Lord Grim had reached Cloud Piercer. With Lord Grim’s mobility, Zhou Zekai’s Cloud Piercer had no way to kite him. The two began an intense duel.

Not long afterwards, Samsara’s Laughing Song died. For both teams, the first to die was the healer.

Everyone had faith in the words: whoever controlled the enemy healer, controlled the match. Now that both healers were dead, who knew what direction the match would move towards. At least, it would still be a 5v5.

However, many of the viewers felt somewhat strange when they saw the names of Happy’s characters. Coincidentally, all of these people happened to be players from the tenth server.

Lord Grim? Soft Mist? One Inch Ash? Steamed Bun Invasion? Only Dancing Rain was slightly off. But the others, wasn’t this the team in the tenth server that had set countless dungeon records?

Chapter 1699: What a Brawler

Today, the tenth server players were no longer noobs. Many of them had reached the Heavenly Domain, and begun their higher-level journey there.

But whether they'd gone to the Heavenly Domain or remained in the tenth server, any gamer who had experienced that pioneering period in the tenth server could never forget the dungeon record war at that time. Even if every server would experience a period like that, even if most people were only bystanders, no new server's dungeon records had ever been so thoroughly dominated by the same people. The records they achieved seemed to symbolize eternity.

And now, the names that had left these records appeared in the ultimate battle of the finals. Neat and orderly, just like the original, a team with no healer, only DPS.

Dancing Rain, Cleansing Mist, the names of these two accounts weren't the same. But they were the same class, the names used the same characters. By now, everyone had basically guessed that the Cleansing Mist of that time had been used by the person currently playing Dancing Rain, Su Mucheng.

For a pro player to go for a normal server's dungeon record, many people would suspect them of bullying normal players. If this had been exposed at that time, Su Mucheng probably would have suffered all sorts of condemnation. But now, the situation was different. Everyone had witnessed Happy as this team grew, step by step. The dungeoning team that had swept those records, that had been their earliest form. Now, they stood upon Glory's highest stage.

The players who had started in the tenth server, who had been only noobs back then, were thoroughly moved. They had never experienced any Glory history before the tenth server. They had only heard about the past, they had never really been deeply affected by it, because it was at a distance. But Happy had risen suddenly from their tenth server, to stand on Glory's ultimate battlefield. In their eyes, this team was a symbol of their era. This was a new team, who, in the middle of their era, had grown up with them, and burst forth.

In this moment, countless tenth server players were blazing with passion. With Team Happy, they could truly feel immersed in this moment. Never before had a team left such a clear and heavy mark upon a server – never before, never until now.

This is our era, this is our symbol!

Tenth server!

Many gamers who had come from the tenth server suddenly erupted with this cheer, confusing many other players. This kind of immersion, this kind of significance of a symbol – without experiencing it themselves, they could never understand.

Even in the live audience, Samsara's home stadium, a commotion rose up. Of course, a number of Samsara fans had come from the tenth server as well.

However, although the sight of these names may have caused memories to resurface, these gamers would not change sides because of this.

The match continued. A list of characters could not kill an opponent.

Ye Xiu and Zhou Zekai were fighting, and it was hard to tell who had the upper hand.

Su Mucheng and Jiang Botao were circling, although Dancing Rain was clearly moving closer to Lord Grim's side, trying to establish a connection.

Tang Rou and Steamed Bun had finally taken care of Laughing Song, and the two of them were swiftly rushing toward Lord Grim.

Happy's next target was Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer?

That seemed to be the case. Happy was not a team that could be predicted through common principles, and it wasn't like they hadn't focused the opponent's core before. In that team battle against Tiny Herb in the regular season, they had focused and killed Wang Jiexi's Vaccaria, which had become a textbook example of this strategy.

And in conditions where both sides no longer had a healer, attacking the absolute core of the "one-man team" Samsara, Zhou Zekai, was simply following a logical train of thought. In the Tiny Herb match, when they'd focused Wang Jiexi's Vaccaria, even trading two for one was worth it.

However, Samsara immediately detected this clear intention.

This confrontation between Zhou Zekai and Ye Xiu right now was no less intense than their 1v1 had been last round. On one side, bullets flew; on the other, a weapon shifted between a thousand forms. But when he saw more of Happy's players running toward him, Zhou Zekai knew this couldn't continue.

Cloud Piercer began to fight while falling back.

If only talking about movement speed, no character could keep up with Lord Grim. But when a sharpshooter used Aerial Fire to move, the technique came with a natural protection of firepower. If the opponent wanted to give chase, they had to defend against the bullets that came their way.

Neither side had a healer anymore. Decisions like blindly tanking damage now had to be weighed carefully. But Ye Xiu completely ignored this fact about the present situation. Lord Grim opened his Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, Charge!

Lifting a shield only decreased the damage, it didn't completely negate it. Such a move still meant that he was tanking the damage to attack.

But Ye Xiu had other reasons for doing this. Tang Rou and Steamed Bun were just about to arrive, so at this moment, it was of course crucial that he stick to Cloud Piercer so that they had a beautiful 3v1 situation. Even if Cloud Piercer didn't die, any amount of damage was helpful. Right now, the situation was that there were no healers. His Lord Grim would sacrifice some blood now to see more blood spill from Cloud Piercer later.

The Charge instantly closed the distance between the two characters. Even Zhou Zekai himself knew that there was no way his Cloud Piercer could shake off Lord Grim in the span of a few steps. When the Charge activated, he was already controlling Cloud Piercer to change directions.

Sidestep!

Cloud Piercer stepped to the side, letting Lord Grim's Charge go past him. The skill allowed the user to move very fast, but because it was so fast, it was difficult to adjust or control the movement.

But Ye Xiu was no ordinary person. When he saw Cloud Piercer dodging, he immediately cancelled the Charge. Against his own inertia, Lord Grim twisted his body to change directions. However, Zhou Zekai had also predicted that he might be able to make this kind of response, and his character was already backing even further away. He wanted to use these kinds of nonstop direction changes to shake off Ye Xiu's Lord Grim.

This match had seen a Cleric brawl, it had seen the cheap trick of Steamed Bun Invasion tossing a handful of sand. It had been almost embarrassing for the audience to watch. But when they saw the direct confrontation between Ye Xiu and Zhou Zekai, this level, this skill, this technique demonstrated was just going up and up.

Changing directions to get away, it was a very foundational technique. But when it came to Ye Xiu and Zhou Zekai, with the speed and frequency of these changes, not to mention the feints thrown in, it was almost too much for the eye to see. On the pro players' side, the seniors of the various teams all treated this as teaching material for their rookies to watch and learn. At the same time, their hearts were trembling as well.

Zhou Zekai didn't manage to have Cloud Piercer shake off Lord Grim, but Ye Xiu hadn't been able to let Lord Grim get a solid control of Cloud Piercer. But reaching this point was already extremely difficult. For a Sharpshooter to be tangled with Lord Grim to this extent and still avoid being at a disadvantage, perhaps only Zhou Zekai could pull that off. And for someone to struggle with Cloud Piercer like this without letting him slip away, aside from Ye Xiu there weren't very many who could.

But overall, if this situation continued, it was Zhou Zekai who would be at a disadvantage. As long as Ye Xiu could pin down Cloud Piercer like this, he was achieving his goal. Tang Rou and Steamed Bun's characters were growing closer and closer. A Brawler had mid-range attack skills, and Steamed Bun Invasion was already preparing his move. Most people had no way of guessing what attack this guy would use. If you thought too deeply, you would end up like Fang Minghua. If your thoughts were too shallow, then, well! Steamed Bun's skill was right there, he could use any number of high-level techniques.

Brick!

In the end, when Steamed Bun Invasion stepped within attack range, in his hand was still his favorite, Brick.

The Brick flew, but the distance was a bit far. While Cloud Piercer was struggling with Lord Grim, he lifted his guns – bang bang, and that Brick was shattered in midair.

"Whoa, you've got some skill!" Steamed Bun's strange words immediately arrived. In all of Glory, everyone knew that Zhou Zekai very much had some skill. Truly, everyone found Steamed Bun's shocked tone incomprehensible.

"Boss I'm coming, watch me!" Steamed Bun was still shouting. With this tone, it really seemed as though there were some powerful attack in the making. But if you wanted to say that this was him giving a signal to coordinate with Ye Xiu, that didn't seem too right. A signal for cooperation, it wouldn't come with such a grandiose announcement in the public chat.

And so, Steamed Bun Invasion attacked again.

Molotov Cocktail!

Another flying projectile, what use was that?

The high-level pro players could no longer take any of Steamed Bun's crude actions seriously. The Brick had been shattered by Zhou Zekai's fire in midair, what could this Molotov Cocktail do? What's more, even if Zhou Zekai didn't manage to shoot it down, then if it hit, it would just cause some AoE burn damage. Cloud Piercer would just lose some health, that was all. It wouldn't help control the opponent at all!

Every class type had a subclass that excelled in control.

For the Swordsman class, that was the Ghostblade. For the Gunner, the Spitfire; the Mage, Witch; the Nightwalker, Warlock; the Priest, Exorcist. And among the Fighter classes, the Grappler's so-called control revolved around the strong priority of that class's grab skills, which would simply bind the opponent. If talking about the true meaning of "control," the one at the front of the Fighters was still the Brawler class.

Right now, Happy just needed to control Cloud Piercer. But then, Steamed Bun Invasion came in with a Brick, which was too far and posed no threat. And then, a Molotov Cocktail, which, even if it hit the opponent, would pose no threat of control.

"What kind of bullshit is this." Among the pro players, Tang Hao could barely stay seated. He felt that this kind of Brawler level was embarrassing to the Brawler class as a whole. Even though Steamed Bun had played a big role in killing Laughing Song, the skill he'd displayed then was nothing impressive. Everyone sympathized with Laughing Song; no one praised Steamed Bun for being exceptional.

And now, in such a critical moment, Ye Xiu was working so hard to keep Zhou Zekai from escaping! Steamed Bun Invasion had mid-range attack options, he could start supporting early, but these two attacks didn't give Zhou Zekai any difficulty at all.

"Get a brain, won't you!!" Tang Hao couldn't help but begin shouting.

Chapter 1700: Red-Black Clash

The players laughed up their sleeves.

Tang Hao was a rather haughty person. Let alone a rookie, he even looked down on many of the famous pro players. Steamed Bun had triggered him. It was as if he were Happy's coach. Seeing Steamed Bun's performance turned his expression unsightly.

Steamed Bun Invasion's "brainless" Molotov Cocktail ended up just like what everyone had expected. It was barely an inconvenience for Zhou Zekai. However, without a healer, health became much more precious, so Zhou Zekai didn't let the Molotov Cocktail hit him. Cloud Piercer raised his guns. This time, he didn't even need two shots. He sniped the Molotov Cocktail from the air with just one shot.

Boom!

The Molotov Cocktail shattered and burst into an enormous fireball. The fire spread outwards.

Zhou Zekai's expression turned pale. Even though it was only for an instant, he clearly felt that the instant the fireball spread outwards, Soft Mist and Steamed Bun Invasion had been enveloped by it.

This was a form of cover!

Zhou Zekai reacted swiftly, immediately realizing that he had been a bit careless. But that was also in part because of how sloppy Steamed Bun's Molotov Cocktail was. No one had expected this sloppiness to have such a huge effect. The Molotov Cocktail provided large-scale cover for Happy.

At this moment, there was no time for Zhou Zekai to think about too many things. He tanked Lord Grim's attack, while moving to the side. He was repositioning himself to find a new angle of attack, and to avoid Steamed Bun's and Tang Rou's potential follow-ups.

They're here!

Zhou Zekai was mainly looking in Soft Mist's and Steamed Bun's direction. Sure enough, the blazing fireball was split apart in the center by a flash of red.

Soft Mist, Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

That was close!

It was a good thing Zhou Zekai reacted quick enough, predicting what might happen next. If not, Cloud Piercer wouldn't have been able to dodge Soft Mist's Dragon Breaks the Ranks.

Soft Mist closed the distance in an instant. Ye Xiu had coordinated with Tang Rou and Steamed Bun, making sure that Lord Grim wouldn't obstruct Soft Mist's Dragon Breaks the Ranks. Unfortunately, Zhou Zekai had reacted too fast, preemptively dodging it.

Dragon Breaks the Ranks missed!

After all, with that type of cover, neither side could see each other. Tang Rou immediately rushed out with Dragon Breaks the Ranks, but she didn't know that Zhou Zekai had moved away. By the time Soft Mist pierced through the fireball, it was too late for her to adjust her attack.

Cancel!

Tang Rou didn't feel bad about wasting the skill. She cancelled Dragon Breaks the Ranks. However, the momentum brought by the skill wasn't small. Cancelling wasn't the same as finishing the move. There wasn't as much control over her movements. As a result, Soft Mist continued to be pushed forward. Tang Rou had Soft Mist forcefully turn. Her sliding feet pressed a hole into the ground.

Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart!

Another high-level skill! Even when facing Zhou Zekai, Tang Rou didn't back down. In the blink of an eye, her Soft Mist switched places with Lord Grim, taking the role as the main attacker. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim moved to her side, becoming her support.

Not good!

When the pro players saw Ye Xiu and Tang Rou switch positions, they knew that the two of them together would be extremely difficult to defend against. No matter how capable Zhou Zekai was, Cloud

Piercer was still a Sharpshooter. A 1v2 in close quarters wasn't just a difficult situation, but a dangerous situation. What's more, Steamed Bun Invasion had also charged through the fireball. His hands were waving around in the air. Who knew what ridiculous play he would pull off next.

Everyone's attention was focused on this side. Everyone was wondering whether Happy would be able to kill Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer. The other parts of the battle didn't seem as important. Soft Mist's Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart was just about to pierce into Cloud Piercer. Cloud Piercer was trying to dodge, but no one knew if he would be able to. Suddenly, a black shadow flickered between the two.

Hua!

Two spears, one red, one black, clashed. The unstoppable Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart was knocked askew by the collision. The collision had been created by an attack with even higher priority than Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart. It was the attack that Soft Mist had just used.

Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

One Autumn Leaf!

Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf suddenly returned. He hadn't targeted anyone with Dragon Breaks the Ranks. Instead, he put himself between two characters to protect Cloud Piercer.

Tyrant's Destruction!

One Autumn Leaf knocked aside Soft Mist's spear. Then, he cancelled Dragon Breaks the Ranks, and followed with Tyrant's Destruction. He was planning on sweeping aside both Soft Mist and Lord Grim.

Tang Rou refused to back down. She cancelled her Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart, and followed with a Tyrant's Destruction of her own.

The two spears collided again. The same skill against the same skill. With both skills maxed, their damage and priority were the same. The winner of the clash would be decided by the character's stats.

For Soft Mist, apart from Dancing Fire Flowing Flames, she had other Silver equipment that Happy had scrambled together. Soft Mist's stats wouldn't lose to most other Battle Mages in the pro scene, but compared to the Battle God, One Autumn Leaf, there was still a clear disparity. The two skills collided, and Soft Mist clearly lost. Not only did One Autumn Leaf's Evil Annihilation stop the momentum from Soft Mist's Dancing Fire Flowing Flames, it continued along its original trajectory.

Even so, the power of One Autumn Leaf's attack was reduced significantly. Whether it was speed or damage, the skill was no longer a threat.

But One Autumn Leaf had the upper hand. If he switched moves, his would come out before Soft Mist's.

Sky Strike!

Evil Annihilation suddenly swung upwards. The Tyrant's Destruction changed into Sky Strike. The slow spear suddenly accelerated.

Soft Mist's Dancing Fire Flowing Flames had been knocked aside. It wouldn't be easy for her to block this Sky Strike from her position. This was obviously why Sun Xiang had chosen to switch to Sky Strike. The average viewer wouldn't be able to understand this tiny detail.

Even if the Sky Strike wouldn't be easy to parry, Tang Rou still didn't back down. She struck back with a Sky Strike of her own. This time, there wouldn't be a collision. It would be a trade.

It was a trade, but one came before the other. One Autumn Leaf's was faster. Once Soft Mist was launched into the air, it was hard to say if her Sky Strike would reach One Autumn Leaf. Tang Rou wasn't sure either, but she continued onwards.

Bang!

She hadn't parried, but the sound of a parry could be heard. Soft Mist's Sky Strike swept forward, but One Autumn Leaf's Sky Strike had been blocked by Lord Grim's Dragon Tooth from the side. Tang Rou didn't back down, not only because of her confidence in herself, but her confidence in Ye Xiu. She trusted that Ye Xiu would help her when she needed it.

One Autumn Leaf's Sky Strike was blocked. It was too late for him to dodge Soft Mist's Sky Strike. After being hit by Dancing Fire Flowing Flames, he was launched into the air.

But Tang Rou had Ye Xiu, and Sun Xiang had Zhou Zekai. After being protected by One Autumn Leaf, Cloud Piercer didn't immediately run off. As soon as One Autumn Leaf was launched into the air, a figure appeared behind him. Cloud Piercer had a long sniper rifle aimed steady.

Thunder Snipe!

Zhou Zekai had Cloud Piercer take out this powerful skill. The long sniper rifle was aimed right at Soft Mist's head.

The sparks flying out from the muzzle of the gun seemed to stick to Soft Mist. At this distance, it was impossible for Soft Mist to dodge the Thunder Snipe. Blood burst from Soft Mist's head.

A huge loss!

The spectators all thought the same. Both sides had gone back and forth. Even though Soft Mist had successfully knocked One Autumn Leaf into the air, the damage from Thunder Snipe was on an entirely different level. What's worse was that One Autumn Leaf was in the perfect position to be attacked, but with the Thunder Snipe, there was no possibility of Soft Mist following up. The knockback from Thunder Snipe was massive. Soft Mist was still stumbling back.

Ye Xiu was still there.

But Lord Grim didn't have any attacks that could match Thunder Snipe's damage. The damage from that one snipe wasn't something that he could regain with a single attack.

Sword Draw!

Cold light flickered, a blade unsheathed. Lord Grim attacked both Cloud Piercer and One Autumn Leaf, while also protecting Soft Mist. It was the best he could do.

One Autumn Leaf couldn't dodge while in the air. The Sword Draw was fast too. He had no time to parry it either. He could only take the hit. However, Zhou Zekai had predicted that Ye Xiu would respond in some way. After successfully landing Thunder Snipe, he retreated. It was almost as if Lord Grim and Cloud Piercer were in sync. The Sword Draw was dodged cleanly.

Cloud Piercer retreated. Close combat against close-ranged classes was very unfavorable for a Sharpshooter. Zhou Zekai took this opportunity to pull apart from Happy's characters. As he retreated, he continued to attack and protect One Autumn Leaf. At the same time, their sixth player, Du Ming's Moon Luring Frost, had finally arrived, and was about to enter the fray.

But he was still a bit far from this side of the battle.

"I'm here!" Steamed Bun typed into the chat. This was a common habit amongst in-game players. Once Steamed Bun became a pro player, he didn't throw this habit away. In the competitive scene, others might be using the chat to wage psychological warfare on the opponents. On the other hand, Steamed Bun used the chat to say meaningless nonsense.

Okay, you're here. So what?

Many of the viewers replied back inwardly.