Avatar 1681

Chapter 1681: The Response of the Top Pros

In terms of damage taken, Samsara was actually doing quite well. The damage from Darkness Boundary was negligible. It was a prime example of a skill that was effective for its ability to create openings through its crowd control effects.

However, despite being Blinded in Qiao Yifan's Darkness Boundary, Samsara didn't take much damage. It wasn't that Happy wasn't trying. It was just that they had to respond to Samsara's answers.

With four characters blinded, most teams would scatter to make it easier to escape from the Darkness Boundary. Even if one or two were focused down by the enemies and delayed, the others would quickly escape and be able to turn around and help their teammates escape.

But this wasn't what Samsara did.

After being blinded, the four of them moved together as one unit. It seemed like a disaster in the making, but Jiang Botao's Empty Waves created a beautiful protective barrier for them with Nebula Wave Slash, preventing Happy from reaching them.

They had made mistakes and overlooked certain players on the enemy team, but when it was time for them to take on the necessary burden, they didn't panic. They maintained the confidence and calm that a championship team should possess. The four on Samsara couldn't see what was going on around them, but they had their characters turn and move, calmly leaving the Darkness Boundary under the protection of Nebula Wave Slash.

The only one who hadn't been blinded, Zhou Zekai, had also given them the greatest support possible. Under Su Mucheng's barrage of artillery fire, he had miraculously interrupted Qiao Yifan's follow-up ghost boundary.

Unfortunately, Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash wasn't the only one with Phantom Demon capabilities.

Ye Xiu, Lord Grim.

While Zhou Zekai was completely preoccupied, Ye Xiu was easily able to set up a Darkness Boundary, linking it together with One Inch Ash's. As soon as the four on Samsara exited the first, they stepped into the second.

The Nebula Wave Slash from Jiang Botao's Empty Waves didn't last forever. Providing protection for them until they left the first Darkness Boundary was its limit. Both the Lightning Wave Formation and Nebula Wave Slash were now out of the picture. Darkness surrounded them, and they were no longer protected.

Tang Rou's Soft Mist was already rushing towards them.

This time, how would Samsara stop Happy's advance? Zhou Zekai? He was only one person. Happy was attacking from four directions. It was impossible for him to take care of all of them.

Pincer, go around three, follow two, fall back...

These were Happy's initial arrangements. And at this moment, their characters were shining with brilliance after completing them. It was because of their positioning that Samsara had overlooked an enemy player twice. It was because of their positioning that the number one player, Zhou Zekai, had no way to protect the other four on Samsara.

The other four on Samsara had finally responded though. They had been a bit surprised at first, but they quickly regained their composure. Jiang Botao immediately shouted "Scatter" in the chat.

Samsara had moved together as one previously because of Nebula Wave Slash. The skill had provided them with a protective barrier that enabled them to push forward without worry. Once they left the Darkness Boundary, they would be able to launch a fierce assault towards Happy's healer. However, they hadn't expected Dual Linking Ghost Boundaries from Happy. Given their current situation, they had no way to protect everyone all at the same time while blinded. As a result, they could only go with the usual tactic, and scatter.

Everyone on Samsara was a top player. It might be the same tactic, but it was completely different when executed by Team Sasmara.

When normal players scattered, it would be every man for himself. The more that got away, the better.

However, when Samsara scattered, there was logic and order to it. They scattered to minimize the casualties.

The key: the healer!

If all four scattered, who would be the easiest for Happy to focus down? The healer.

No one mentioned it in Samsara's team chat because no one needed to. Any one of the others could be focused, but if Fang Minghua's Laughing Song was taken into Happy's grasps, Samsara would be in an extremely terrible position.

This was the difference between pro players and normal players. Minimizing the damage taken wasn't necessarily the most optimal goal. Keeping the situation balanced, maintaining intact formation, controlling the tempo, etc. All of these aspects needed to be considered.

The first thing Samsara did was provide support for Fang Minghua's Laughing Song. This task obviously couldn't be given to the other three who were blinded. Unless they had another skill similar to Nebula Wave Slash, they wouldn't be able to protect him from all sides.

The only one who could take the task was Zhou Zekai.

Scatter! Attack!

All of these thoughts, all of these changes happened in a split second.

Dragon Breaks the Ranks! Shining Cut!

Two figures dashed out. One Autumn Leaf and Cruel Silence. Blind didn't stop them from using skills. Both of them used movement skills. As for which direction they went in? Forward! Both of them went forward.

The order was to scatter, but neither One Autumn Leaf nor Cruel Silence did. The two characters rushed out towards the same direction.

They were running away, but in the process of doing so, they didn't forget to keep up the pressure on Happy.

Of course, their aim wasn't the most accurate because of the Blind. The direction that they went in might not have any targets, but even so, they might be able to escape from the Darkness Boundary. Even if they didn't, they would be one step closer to their objectives.

Dancing Rain, Little Cold Hands.

The two were in this direction, and both were very afraid of an enemy getting close. Sun Xiang and Wu Qi coordinated their escape and rushed forward together. During their escape, they needed to keep up the pressure on Happy. At this moment, there was nothing they could do about Happy's attacks towards them. However, by doing this, Happy would need to take into consideration how much of a threat Sun Xiang and Wu Qi would be to Su Mucheng and An Wenyi. Would they need to prepare countermeasures against this threat?

This was Samsara's response.

This was a response befitting a top team.

Their response forced the enemy to answer back. Even if four of them were in a bad position, their reply back was filled with aggression.

At the same time, Jiang Botao's Empty Waves swung his Divine Chain.

Ice Wave Slash!

Ice crystals swept forward without a target. Empty Waves stepped on the path of ice that he paved, moving in the opposite direction of One Autumn Leaf and Cruel Silence.

This direction, Shattering the Lands!

Tang Rou charged forward, the moment the four Samsara players scattered.

One Autumn Leaf and Cruel Silence dashed out, while Soft Mist used Shattering the Lands.

The two characters had used movement skills, allowing them to escape from Shattering the Land's range. Unfortunately for Jiang Botao, he was heading straight towards it.

He couldn't see, but there was one person in Samsara who could.

"Jiang, right 30' Shattering the Lands" Zhou Zekai warned the moment Soft Mist attacked. His meaning: Jiang Botao, 30 degrees to the right, Shattering the Lands.

If the attack was there, then the character was there.

How to respond? Zhou Zekai didn't say. He didn't have the time to give too detailed of a response.'

Empty Waves hadn't even taken two steps along the icy path that he paved, when Jiang Botao noticed Zhou Zekai's warning.

Shattering the Lands was an AoE attack. It was 30 degrees to his right and had already come out. Empty Waves had taken two steps in that direction. His chances of avoiding it: zero.

I can't dodge! I can only attack back!

Empty Waves turned around. He turned right 30 degrees and swung his sword!

Jiang Botao couldn't see anything, but in his mind, he could see the Shattering the Lands descending.

Light Wave Slash!

The fastest wave slash shot out.

Would it hit?

Jiang Botao didn't know, so he didn't stop there. Empty Waves swung his sword again.

Fire Wave Slash!

The strongest of the wave slashes flew out at an angle slightly lower than the previous Light Wave Slash.

Boom!

Shattering the Lands crashed down.

Magic swept the ground. However, at the same time, everyone could see that Soft Mist was engulfed in flames. The Fire Wave Slash had hit.

Chapter 1682: The Center of Cruelty

Hit!

Fire Wave Slash landed!

Through Zhou Zekai's concise tip in the team chat and his own intuition, Jiang Botao was able to land Fire Wave Slash on Soft Mist while blinded.

Although his Empty Waves wasn't able to dodge Shattering the Lands, there was nothing else he could have done. He had been on the back foot, but was able to force a trade, and quite an impressive one too.

Battle magic erupted, raging flames blazed.

The two skills displayed their destructive power. The earthquake triggered by Shattering the Lands sent Empty Waves tumbling. At the same time, the Fire Wave Slash swallowed Soft Mist, sending her crashing to the ground in a blaze of fire.

"Fire hit"

Zhou Zekai confirmed the hit in the team chat. He was telling Jiang Botao that his Fire Wave Slash had hit. It was equivalent to telling Jiang Botao where Soft Mist was.

Jiang Botao understood. His stumbling Empty Waves raised his sword.

The crowd cheered and clapped excitedly at this play, but the pro players were truly stunned.

Not for the Fire Wave Slash, but for the raise of his sword.

Because this time, Empty Waves was bearing the brunt of Shattering the Lands. Battle magic battered him, sending Empty Waves stumbling the entire way through. Empty Waves was still blinded too! Even under these conditions, Jiang Botao was able to keep Empty Waves' balance and prevent him from falling to the ground. This was incredible enough already, yet he was also able to keep his sense of direction!

Sword raised, gunshot!

Cloud Piercer fired.

Zhou Zekai wasn't only paying attention to Tang Rou and Jiang Botao. As the only person on Samsara who could see, he needed to keep track of everything taking place on the battlefield.

Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf and Wu Qi's Cruel Silence launched a sudden assault. To no one's surprise, Su Mucheng and An Wenyi chose to retreat. They knew that once the two left the Darkness Boundary, it would be disastrous if they got too close. Thus, they might as well take precautions. As they retreated, they also took the opportunity to attack. Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain fired mercilessly towards the two blinded characters.

Boom boom boom!

Dancing Rain's artillery shells bombarded One Autumn Leaf.

Samsara's fans didn't think much of it. However, many of Happy's fans consisted of former Excellent Era fans. This scene made them feel quite uncomfortable.

One Autumn Leaf, Dancing Rain, Best Partners for four consecutive years. To the Excellent Era fans, they were used to seeing Dancing Rain providing cover for One Autumn Leaf, and One Autumn Leaf protecting Dancing Rain from enemies getting close.

But now, Dancing Rain was trying to kill One Autumn Leaf...

This wasn't the first time, and it wouldn't be the last.

Perhaps the scene of the two characters fighting together shoulder-to-shoulder might never appear again. But no one knew how long it would take for them to get used to this scene. Maybe it would be like this forever. Whenever Dancing Rain and One Autumn Leaf appeared on the battlefield together, everyone's first thought would be the two as partners, not enemies.

Enemies...

Every Glory fan who held a deep impression of these partners couldn't help but repeat these words in their heads. Then, they saw One Autumn Leaf charging towards Dancing Rain, not to protect, but to

pressure her. They saw Dancing Rain aiming at One Autumn Leaf, not to provide cover, but to stop his advance.

"I'm sure a lot of you are feeling sad seeing this scene..." Even Pan Lin couldn't help but comment on something outside of the scope of the match. "But this is one of the cruelties of competition."

The viewers watched the cruelty happening, and felt for the players on stage.

Gunshot.

A bullet flew from Cloud Piercer's gun towards Dancing Rain.

Zhou Zekai was pressuring Dancing Rain. It could be considered as an attempt to interrupt this cruelty. However, Su Mucheng was the center of this cruelty, and she needed to persevere and continue for her team. She dodged Cloud Piercer's attack and continued to bombard One Autumn Leaf with artillery shells.

You really are strong...

Ye Xiu was also on stage. He could see everything as well. He knew that facing One Autumn Leaf was perhaps even more difficult for Su Mucheng. When Ye Xiu saw One Autumn Leaf, he at least knew that he himself wasn't the one there. But to Su Mucheng, One Autumn Leaf had always standing beside her. He was still standing there, but now, his spear was pointed at her.

One Autumn Leaf might not be a friend anymore, but I still am!

Cloud Piercer fired at Dancing Rain. Empty Waves raised his sword. By relying on his intuition, he was going to attack Soft Mist again. A figure suddenly flickered in front of him without any warning.

Ye Xiu, Lord Grim!

Lord Grim had been wandering around the left side, mainly using long-ranged attacks to strike Samsara's holes. Suddenly, a shadow clone was left there, his real body cutting to the center of the battle.

Colliding Stab!

Lord Grim made his move. Jiang Botao had no idea what was happening. Zhou Zekai, who was supporting Sun Xiang and Wu Qi, hastily shifted targets in response to this sudden change. Warning Jiang Botao in the team chat would be too late.

Boom!

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella struck the plate armor on Empty Waves.

Empty Waves still swung his Divine Chains, but the gathered magic brushed past Soft Mist's side.

Jiang Botao felt Empty Waves move. He felt Empty Waves getting hit by an attack.

Who? By what?

Lord Grim pressed his sword against Empty Waves, planning on bringing him away with him using Colliding Stab.

Cloud Piercer's gunfire arrived, but another person on Happy had arrived as well.

Qiao Yifan. He coordinated together with Ye Xiu's Lord Grim from the right wing. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim had entered the Darkness Boundary, but he didn't. His One Inch Ash quietly circled around behind Cloud Piercer.

There was only one pair of eyes on Samsara. Zhou Zekai had too many things he needed to take care of. His vision was limited. Happy had intentionally been focusing the main battle in one location, leaving an opening for Qiao Yifan to take advantage of.

Get close, good enough, cast!

The ghost god's power gathered around his blade. Qiao Yifan was extremely nervous.

Would his attack hit?

He stared intently at Cloud Piercer's back. He was afraid that Cloud Piercer would suddenly turn around and aim his gun at him.

Cloud Piercer didn't turn around, but he did suddenly move. As he moved, his dual guns erupted in a blaze of sparks. In an instant, his bullets reached every part of the map.

Rapid Fire! Random Firing!

Zhou Zekai was planning on using this type of burst to cover the entire battlefield by himself!

Chapter 1683: Happy's Plans

Cloud Piercer whirled around, bullets flying towards every critical point.

Even under the effects from Random Firing and Rapid Firing, his aim was as precise as ever.

Bullets...

Qiao Yifan didn't even see Cloud Piercer's gun aimed towards him. He just saw him flash by him for an instant, and a bullet was flying towards One Inch Ash.

Just a bit off!

Qiao Yifan was somewhat unwilling to let the opportunity go, but there was nothing he could do. The cast time for ghost boundaries wasn't something that he could control.

Dodge.

He could only dodge. If he didn't dodge, he would be interrupted.

But just when he dodged the bullet, he saw another one flying towards him.

Zhou Zekai wasn't only focused on Qiao Yifan. There hadn't been any pauses both times Zhou Zekai faced towards him, but his bullets went for him nonetheless. It wasn't just him, but An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands, Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain, Tang Rou's Soft Mist, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim...

The crowd went wild!

This was what they had been hoping for. This was what made Zhou Zekai so captivating. Using godlike inhuman skill to sweep away everything in his path.

Random Firing and Rapid Firing. A normal player would have no way of aiming properly, but Zhou Zekai was able to guide each bullet to wherever he liked.

One Inch Ash's ghost boundary failed.

Sun Xiang and Wu Qi suddenly acquired a powerful shield of bullets. The two finally rushed out from the Dark Boundary, recovering their sight. They immediately set their eyes on Dancing Rain and Little Cold Hands.

The situation had changed. However, there was one part that hadn't.

Ye Xiu's Lord Grim. Although Cloud Piercer's Random Firing and Rapid Firing had shot him full of bullet holes, it didn't stop him from using Colliding Stab!

Zhou Zekai realized that something was wrong. With Cloud Piercer covering every member on Happy, he saw all of Happy's movements clearly.

Su Mucheng and An Wenyi looked like they were retreating. Tang Rou's Soft Mist seemed to be trying to force his way through the rain of bullets to Cloud Piercer's side. Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash was behind him, dodging his bullets, but unable to complete any of his spells. Their movements...

Lord Grim!

They were coordinating with Lord Grim.

In other words, Jiang Botao's Empty Waves was their true target.

Too far!

After realizing this point, Zhou Zekai came to the conclusion that the distance between Empty Waves and Samsara was a problem. It might be a small one, and it was different from the coordinated assault from One Autumn Leaf and Cruel Silence. Samsara hadn't prepared for this change. Lord Grim's Colliding Stab had created it.

Gunfire focused!

The Random and Rapid Firing hadn't ended. Zhou Zekai suddenly focused his efforts onto Lord Grim.

A single bullet hitting had negligible hit stun. It wasn't enough to interrupt a skill cast, but when multiple bullets chained together in quick succession, the hit stun could no longer be ignored.

Blood splattered into the air. Lord Grim's movements had clearly become slower, and Empty Waves was pulling away from the umbrella sword pressed against his chest. The dense gunfire was forcefully slowing down Colliding Stab, while also dealing quite a bit of damage to him.

This sudden outburst created a new peak in energy from the crowd. The bright red blood was incomparable joy to the Samsara fans.

But it was only for an instant!

The wave of red blood stopped abruptly. Lord Grim was actually able to dodge the bullets.

The viewers, the pro players, all of them felt their eyeballs fall out of their heads.

What sort of inhuman skill was needed to be able to evade such dense and heavy gunfire? The control needed was astonishing, and Lord Grim was moving quite fast too, making it even more inconceivable.

Ye Xiu didn't pause for everyone to ponder over it. After dodging to the side, Lord Grim used another skill.

Falling Flower Palm!

A palm flew out, striking Empty Waves and sending him flying backwards.

Empty Waves had finally left the Darkness Boundary. Jiang Botao could see again, but what he saw was his Empty Waves flying away from his team. Before he could get a read on the situation, Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella once again slammed into Empty Waves.

Charge!

Falling Flower Palm wasn't enough. Lord Grim used Charge, evading Cloud Piercer's pursuit, while also pushing Empty Waves even farther away.

Happy's plan was already very clear at this point. Lord Grim was doing whatever he could to bring Empty Waves away, separating him from the rest of Team Samsara.

The normal viewers had yet to catch on. What they saw was Sun Xiang and Wu Qi pressuring Su Mucheng and An Wenyi. What they saw was Zhou Zekai's godlike shooting. What they saw was Fang Minghua's Laughing Song casually walking out from the Darkness Boundary. Jiang Botao's Empty Waves was being pushed back, but in their eyes, it was just a small flaw in the overall situation. Moreover, Happy had paid a significant price to achieve this. Lord Grim had taken quite a bit of damage from Cloud Piercer's burst even with his unbelievably fast evasion.

Even if he dodged, what could he do? The big stadium screen put on a slow motion replay. It was only through this replay did people realize that Lord Grim had used a skill to get away from the rain of bullets. He had used the speed from Shining Cut to escape. But this made Ye Xiu's play even more terrifying. The window that he needed to do it in had been miniscule. It practically wasn't even a window, yet he was actually able to make it?

Everyone sucked in a cold breath of air. Even the average viewer knew how terrifying such a feat was.

To do it just to keep on attacking Empty Waves, was this small flaw really that small?

From Ye Xiu's choices and his determination, quite a few people began to realize that Empty Waves' situation might not be so simple. Everyone began to shift their attention to that end.

Empty Waves, Lord Grim, a speeding bullets.

Zhou Zekai's full attention was directed there. Besides him, no one could immediately step forward to obstruct Happy's plans. Sun Xiang and Wu Qi had used their movement skills to get out of the Darkness

Boundary. Then, in order to put pressure on Su Mucheng and An Wenyi, they chased after them. From Empty Waves' position, the two of them were running away from him.

Fang Minghua's Laughing Song, who people thought would be Happy's main target, hadn't really been targeted at all. In the end, Laughing Song took his final step and made it out into the light.

However, the first thing he saw was One Inch Ash's blade, emanating with ghostly light.

Chapter 1684: The Target to Shoot

Interrupt!

Fang Minghua's first thought was to interrupt Qiao Yifan's cast. However, his Laughing Song was a Cleric. He didn't have any skills that could instantly stop One Inch Ash from completing his spell. One Inch Ash was nearly done with the cast. When the ghost god's power finished gathering, the Ghost Boundary would be complete.

"Ghost!"

All Fang Minghua could do was warn his teammates. However, Sun Xiang and Wu Qi were both closeranged characters, and were far away from him. Jiang Botao's Empty Waves was Happy's main focus. Empty Waves was even farther away. Even if Empty Waves had long-ranged skills, it wouldn't be enough.

There was only Zhou Zekai and his Cloud Piercer.

Zhou Zekai's full attention was on assisting Jiang Botao's Empty Waves. He hoped to stop Happy from reaching their goal. If he could help Jiang Botao win even the slightest opening, Jiang Botao would be able to get out.

But he couldn't!

Ye Xiu had Lord Grim dodge what attacks he could, and tank what attacks he couldn't. All so that he could continue with the plan. In short, Zhou Zekai had to keep his focus there. He needed to keep trying. But at this moment, he received Fang Minghua's warning.

Zhou Zekai was helpless. He could only have Cloud Piercer turn. He had to interrupt Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash. If not, the Ghost Boundary would certainly prevent him from attacking Lord Grim.

Zhou Zekai acted swiftly. Cloud Piercer turned quickly, but no matter how fast he acted, it would still affect his pressure towards Lord Grim.

The Ghost Boundary was interrupted again. This time, let alone Zhou Zekai, even the pro players outside felt like they had swallowed a housefly.

"These Ghost Boundaries are too tricky. Even if they fail, they mess up Zhou Zekai's rhythm. It's extremely helpful for Ye Xiu. If it were me, that would be the best I could do as well," Glory's number one Phantom Demon, Li Xuan, didn't hide his admiration for Qiao Yifan. He was giving him praise in all regards. "Stop sticking gold onto your own face. Have you noticed his positioning?" Chu Yunxiu added.

The pro players immediately paid attention to One Inch Ash's positioning. Li Xuan continued: "Of course. He's positioned behind One Autumn Leaf and Cruel Silence. He's also lined up with Empty Waves and Cloud Piercer, using Cloud Piercer to block Empty Waves' sight of him. If Fang Minghua's Laughing Song had stepped out of the Darkness Boundary even a step later, the Ice Boundary would have likely succeeded."

"What if it were Crying Devil?" Tyranny's Zhang Xinjie suddenly said.

"Ah, that's the unfortunate part, " Li Xuan nodded his head. His Crying Devil was the number one Phantom Demon, and all Phantom Demon skills required cast times. As a result, cast speed was a top priority. His Crying Devil was one tier above Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash in terms of stats. If One Inch Ash had been Crying Devil, Fang Minghua's warning would have been too late.

The pro players only took a few seconds to discuss all this. However, Happy and Samsara hadn't stopped to wait for them. Numerous changes had happened in these few seconds.

Samsara, who had been on the backfoot the whole time, were in a much better situation than before now that the two Darkness Boundaries had disappeared. Even if none of Samsara's players had been inside the Darkness Boundaries, it still separated them from each other.

Now that this forbidden zone vanished, Samsara could finally move around freely between the two sides. The first thing that Fang Minghua did was step into the previous forbidden area. In the blink of an eye, only Sun Xiang remained to put pressure on Su Mucheng and An Wenyi. Wu Qi's Cruel Silence had turned around and was moving towards Empty Waves.

Because of Qiao Yifan's timely interference, Zhou Zekai wasn't able to suppress Ye Xiu's Lord Grim. Once Tang Rou's Soft Mist made her way over, it became impossible for Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer to hold them down alone.

However, the Darkness Boundaries were gone. Fang Minghua's Laughing Song and Wu Qi's Cruel Silence rushed over, and in an instant, Samsara splitting apart earlier looked even more beautiful. The separated Empty Waves had been linked back together with the team.

Happy opened the match with two Darkness Boundaries to trap four of Samsara's players. Their opening was undoubtedly in their favor. However, despite their spectacular start, the outcome wasn't as great as they would have liked.

They hadn't been able to deal much damage while their opponents had been trapped by the Darkness Boundary. Their plan to separate Empty Waves seemed like it had failed after the two Darkness Boundaries disappeared.

Had Happy played it badly?

No one thought so.

Starting from their pincer formation, Happy's tactics had been extremely effective. Every player had performed their task outstandingly.

However, Samsara's responses weren't inferior at all. They had been at an extreme disadvantage, yet they had minimized the losses. It was true that they had lost more health, but they didn't let Happy take control of the battle.

Happy's crucial Darkness Boundaries had disappeared. Samsara began to actively take back the initiative.

Zhou Zekai had been a huge reason that Samsara was able to keep things together during this period of time. Without his existence, without his strength, who knew how badly the situation would have spiralled out of control.

Cloud Piercer's Rapid Firing was still active. However, the Random Firing skill duration had come to an end, reducing his firepower significantly. Samsara had finally stabilized the situation though. The next act was now beginning.

But to everyone's surprise, Zhou Zekai used Dual Load, instantly refreshing Cloud Piercer's Random Firing.

He's going to keep it up?

Everyone was astonished.

The opening confrontation had been intense. Even though Happy wasn't able to establish an overwhelming lead, they were winning right now. Samsara's players were rather scattered about right now. It wasn't the best time to counterattack. Samsara didn't even have an immediate target to focus on.

In any case, Zhou Zekai had already started. Bullets rained down again on the battlefield, except this time, Zhou Zekai no longer took care of everyone. He was unexpectedly aiming mainly towards Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash. As he fired, he even started moving towards One Inch Ash. Qiao Yifan was clearly Zhou Zekai's target.

There was Ye Xiu, who had beaten him in the 1v1. There was the All-Star support, Su Mucheng. There was the Best Rookie, Tang Rou, who had just 1v3ed Samsara in the group arena. However, Zhou Zekai's target was actually Qiao Yifan.

Qiao Yifan hastily had One Inch Ash dodge and retreat, but Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer wasn't letting up. When everyone looked again, at this rate, the two would be separated from the rest of their teams.

"Could it be... BOX-1?" Blue Rain's captain, Yu Wenzhou, said doubtfully.

Chapter 1685: True BOX-1

Yu Wenzhou wasn't certain. As one of Glory's four Master Tacticians, there was no way he wouldn't recognize a common tactic when he saw one. It was just that Zhou Zekai's focus towards Qiao Yifan didn't seem to fit the goals of a BOX-1.

The purpose of a BOX-1 was to shut out the opposing team's most important player. Everyone recognized Qiao Yifan's capabilities. Happy's advantageous opening had required his Darkness

Boundary. Ye Xiu separating Jiang Botao from the rest of Samsara had been thanks to Qiao Yifan's interference towards Zhou Zekai. He had been a crucial component in Happy's plans.

But was Qiao Yifan's importance to Happy greater than Zhou Zekai's importance to Samsara?

In a BOX-1, the core player rarely carried it out because you would lose your own most important player. It wouldn't be an effective play. If it were core versus core, then it was sort of understandable. But with Zhou Zekai carrying out the BOX-1, didn't it seem like Samsara was the one losing out?

Yu Wenzhou glanced towards Xiao Shiqin. Xiao Shiqin glanced towards Zhang Xinjie. The three Master Tacticians all looked at each other. In the end, no one was able to give a reason.

But this was the way the match was going. Cloud Piercer chased after One Inch Ash. With Random Firing and Rapid Firing, Cloud Piercer had been able to cover all five players on the enemy team. Now, his focus was entirely on one target. Qiao Yifan had no way of fighting back. His only option was to run for his life.

One ran, one chased. Qiao Yifan obviously didn't want to lose contact with his team, but with Zhou Zekai chasing closely after him, just being able to dodge attacks was impressive enough already. How could he have the time to pick where he wanted to go?

"Is Zhou Zekai planning on taking advantage of his class?" Xiao Shiqin suddenly thought of something and said.

What was the advantage that Sharpshooters had? As pro players, the answer was practically instinctive. Combined with the present situation, everyone instantly understood that Xiao Shiqin must be talking about their range. Because Cloud Piercer was a long-ranged attacker, while he chased away Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash, he could still provide support to his other teammates. In other words, his BOX-1 wasn't only to separate an important component in the opposing team's tactics, he was relying on his class's advantages to continue coordinating with his own team.

Xiao Shiqin also played a Gunner, so he figured it out a bit faster than Yu Wenzhou, Zhang Xinjie, and the other players. When everyone realized what he was saying and looked back at the match, they felt like that really was the answer. Once Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash was pushed far enough away, Cloud Piercer suddenly turned around and fired a few shots at Lord Grim and Soft Mist.

For now, Zhou Zekai wasn't Samsara's core, but he could still help the rest of his team. His attacks towards Lord Grim and Soft Mist hadn't been random. He was perfectly in sync with his team's tempo.

With Wu Qi's Cruel Silence arrival and the assistance from Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer, Jiang Botao was finally able to find an opportunity.

Empty Waves used Earth Wave Slash. Mid-swing, he changed directions, turning it into a Wave Wheel Slasher so that he could threaten both Lord Grim and Soft Mist. Although neither of the attacks landed, he was able to create an opening for himself.

Retreat!

Empty Waves immediately retreated. Lord Grim and Soft Mist were too close to him to the extent that even after Wu Qi's Cruel Silence joined in, Jiang Botao still felt like he was in trouble. Spellblades needed

enough space to fully utilize their strengths. Although Wave Slashes were instant cast skills, their startup animation was slow compared to most other close-ranged skills. It was easy for Spellblades to get overwhelmed at very close distances.

After taking a step back, his situation became much better. For a top player like Jiang Botao, a distance of one step was like the difference between heaven and earth.

Light Wave Slash!

Empty Waves swung his sword as he retreated, using the Spellblade's fastest attack. Before, there hadn't been enough time for the attack to start up. But with a bit of distance between them, the attack would come out, and it would be too late for the other side to dodge.

Light flashed.

Saying that the attack arrived in the blink of an eye would be an insult to the speed of the attack. A distance of one step was practically non-existent. As soon as Empty Waves swung his sword, the attack landed.

This wasn't something that you could react to unless you had predicted it. As a result, Jiang Botao didn't attack Lord Grim. In his eyes, Ye Xiu was more likely to predict it, so he went for Tang Rou instead.

Sure enough, Tang Rou wasn't able to dodge it.

But just because she wasn't able to dodge it didn't mean that she hadn't done anything. Tang Rou had reacted. After dodging Empty Waves' Earth Wave Slash and seeing Empty Waves retreat, she had reacted. It was just that her reaction wasn't to dodge Empty Waves' following attack, but to immediately give chase.

Soft Mist took a step forward. She stabbed with her spear, and the sword light arrived.

Hit!

The Light Wave Slash left a bloody mark on Soft Mist. As for Jiang Botao's Empty Waves? He had been hit by Soft Mist's spear and thrown into the air.

Circle Swing!

It didn't matter which attack hit first. In any case, neither of them was able to interrupt the other. Soft Mist was hit by Light Wave Slash, and Empty Waves was hit by Circle Swing.

Tang Rou's control over the skill wasn't affected. Empty Waves, who had just gotten away, was thrown back in the blink of an eye.

Ye Xiu's Lord Grim quickly followed. He wasn't in a hurry to attack. He positioned himself so that Empty Waves was pincered by Lord Grim and Soft Mist.

Wu Qi, who had been ready to rescue Jiang Botao, missed. Just like Jiang Botao, he hadn't been ready for Tang Rou's sudden attack. Cruel Silence was very close to Empty Waves, but Lord Grim and Soft Mist were closer. Not only that, the two had Empty Waves pincered. Wu Qi couldn't directly charge in.

Suddenly, a gunshot!

Cloud Piercer's attack came again, forcing Ye Xiu and Tang Rou turn their attention towards it. If the two dodged Cloud Piercer's attack, they would give up their positioning. Empty Waves was getting back onto his feet right when Cloud Piercer attacked. And with Ye Xiu and Tang Rou distracted for a moment, Empty Waves was able to get back up.

"Sure enough!"

The pro players were certain now. Zhou Zekai was doing what they thought. Not only was he pinning down Qiao Yifan, he was also using his range to provide support to his team at crucial moments.

Jiang Botao had Empty Waves get up. Wu Qi didn't miss this opportunity for Cruel Silence to attack. Along with Cloud Piercer's support, the two on Samsara quickly switched positions. Empty Waves was finally protected behind Cruel Silence.

As a result, Samsara was able to relieve the pressure on Jiang Botao's Empty Waves. Ye Xiu and Tang Rou originally had a firm grasp of the situation. However, Zhou Zekai's interference had broken it.

"Rather than saying it's a BOX-1, it feels more like a Star Tactic," Xiao Shiqin said. Everyone nodded their heads.

"The true BOX-1 is on the other side," Zhang Xinjie suddenly said.

Zhang Xinjie emphasized details. When he saw Zhou Zekai supporting Jiang Botao and Wu Qi again and again, he immediately realized that something wasn't right. Ye Xiu and Tang Rou weren't receiving any help at all.

This was truly strange. Happy had one of Glory's best supports, Su Mucheng. Her synergy with Ye Xiu, and her synergy with Battle Mages were second to none. Her support towards Ye Xiu and Tang Rou should be excellent.

Yet where did she go?

Everyone had been focused on the battle taking place on one side, but Zhang Xinjie had started paying attention to the other battle long ago.

Su Mucheng was being forced back by Sun Xiang.

But Zhang Xinjie wasn't someone who would jump to a conclusion, so he spent more time looking at the battle taking place there. Now, he was completely certain. This was the place where the true BOX-1 was being carried out.

Sun Xiang versus Su Mucheng.

One Autumn Leaf versus Dancing Rain.

BOX-1.

Chapter 1686: The Weakest One

Happy's in a bad situation!

Seeing the BOX-1 that Sun Xiang executed against Su Mucheng, the pro players came to a unified conclusion.

A random map required many strategies to adapt to variable conditions, but facing an unchanging opponent, a few general strategic directions could still be established beforehand.

Just like how Happy's plan to target Jiang Botao had been revealed earlier, the current situation showed Samsara's general intent when facing Happy.

First, there was Ye Xiu. Last round, Samsara had tried a 3v1, but Ye Xiu had managed to hold out for a long time. So, this time, they didn't try to focus fire on Ye Xiu to take care of him quickly.

Tang Rou, after completing a turnaround for Happy with her 1v3 in the group arena just now, had dealt a great blow to Samsara's morale. However, after the team round began, Samsara didn't seem to hold any fierce grudge against her or her Soft Mist. They simply fought her normally.

Against Qiao Yifan, Samsara sent their core player Zhou Zekai to personally restrict him. This seemed more like an on-the-spot arrangement. On one side, he restricted Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash; on the other side, he still gave powerful support to his own team. Zhou Zekai made thorough use of his class's specialty to attack in two directions at once.

And Sun Xiang's BOX-1 against Su Mucheng, this seemed like a strategy that had been planned beforehand. Samsara's line of thought in this match had been to take Su Mucheng, this master of support and coordination, out of the battle.

However, Samsara's strategy wasn't limited to just this. Right now, there was still another player on the battlefield.

An Wenyi, Happy's healer, the Cleric Little Cold Hands, was standing on the battlefield unscathed.

The battle had already unfolded, but when Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf and Wu Qi's Cruel Silence charged toward his Little Cold Hands and Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain, he had already felt that something was off.

He was the healer, someone who would always be an important target of attack. When these two had approached, he hurriedly retreated, seeking Su Mucheng's cover.

But very quickly, he realized something. Whether Sun Xiang or Wu Qi, these two characters seemed to be entirely focused on attacking Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain.

He healed from the side, he used a few of the Cleric's controlling techniques from the side, but those two people were simply on guard against his interference, nothing more. Their full attention was on Su Mucheng.

If not for these two pincering her, how could Su Mucheng have been pinned down so easily? It was because of Wu Qi's help that Sun Xiang had been able to successfully establish a BOX-1 against Su Mucheng. And at that moment, Wu Qi had run back to help Jiang Botao without a glance back.

An Wenyi had already been feeling that something was wrong. At this, his fingertips grew cold.

He saw Samsara's strategy. Including Samsara's attitude toward him.

All this time, because he had been viewed as Happy's weak point, he had often become the opponents' target of attack during the team round. Happy had performed many strategies to take advantage of this.

But today, in this battle that would determine to whom the championship would belong, An Wenyi suddenly discovered that he was disregarded...

An Wenyi was always calm and logical, but this time, his emotional state suffered a blow. View him as the weak point, he accepted it. He admitted that his skill was insufficient, even among the batch of rookies in Happy, let alone the pro circle as a whole.

But now, Samsara's attitude wasn't just treating him as the weak point. They were completely and wholly ignoring him. When Sun Xiang and Wu Qi's characters closed in, they came only toward Su Mucheng, without sparing him half a glance. Right now, his Little Cold Hands was only standing there. He had no protection of any sort, but Samsara had no intention of attacking him.

This attitude was simply expressing: his existence didn't matter. His Cleric simply could not affect the final outcome of this battle.

Were they looking down on him?

Or... was this really the only value he had?

When he'd been treated as the weak point, he could still draw the opponents' attacks, and from there become the center of a trap for the opponent.

But now, in the eyes of the mighty Samsara, was he really nothing?

An Wenyi's hands were cold, and his heart grew cold as well. He knew his shortcomings, he knew that he might not have any talent, but he hadn't given up, he had kept working hard. Even when he was the weak point known to all, he had used his identity as the weak point to contribute to the team.

He appeared calm only because he was logical, only because he clearly recognized his own ability and limits. He did not resign himself to this fate. He had been working hard all this time so that he would no longer be viewed as the weak point.

And so, he'd had a few shining performances, not as the bait or the trap, but as a Cleric. He had even earned the recognition and praise of his idol, Glory's number one Cleric Zhang Xinjie. This let An Wenyi felt that his hard work hadn't been for nothing. Perhaps he was no longer the weak point, perhaps he would soon be able to shine.

But now, that didn't seem to be the case.

In the eyes of Samsara, this strongest team in the Alliance, he wasn't even considered the weak point. He was no more than a worthless piece of trash...

No one could know the sheer loss in An Wenyi's heart right now.

He had been working hard all this time, but in the end, was the difference between him and everyone else really still so large? Had his so-called improvement been no more than wishful thinking? In reality, was he still that most useless one?

"Something's wrong with Happy's healer." Once again, it was Zhang Xinjie, who would observe every detail on the battlefield, who noticed first.

Right now, neither Samsara's Fang Minghua nor Happy's An Wenyi had encountered any harassment. But it was for different reasons – Happy was currently unable to spare any hands to target the healer, while Samsara was purposely ignoring Happy's healer. All of the pro players could see this quite clearly.

"It seems like... he doesn't know what he should do?" Thunderclap's Xiao Shiqin said, after observing Little Cold Hands' actions.

"All this time, he's struggled to survive under high pressure. Today, now that Samsara's ignoring him, does he not know what to do?" Tiny Herb's Wang Jiexi tried to figure out An Wenyi's current mood.

None of them correctly guessed An Wenyi's mood, because these god-level players had never met this kind of treatment before. The weak point, the flaw, the dead-last, these descriptions had never been associated with them. Those who could feel that distress in An Wenyi's heart right now were only those who had experienced what he had – those who'd been ignored, who'd been treated coldly, who hadn't been valued.

Wind Howl's Tang Hao was smiling bitterly. This disregard from Samsara put him in a particularly bad mood.

Blue Rain's Captain Yu Wenzhou also sighed, and said: "He's suffered a psychological blow."

A psychological blow?

Many of them exchanged glances. It was inevitable that Happy would be somewhat lacking on technique or strategy. But psychologically, on this team, the old and the young, the strong and the weak, they were all demons. When had they ever revealed any kind of psychological problems?

"Samsara's given An Wenyi a fatal blow..." Yu Wenzhou said.

"What do you mean?" A number of people asked.

"Denied his worth once and for all," said Yu Wenzhou.

Denied An Wenyi's worth once and for all?

Everyone's gazes returned to the battlefield, as the situation on the battlefield grew more and more intense. Happy had already been at a disadvantage, and the performance of their healer was currently unusually clumsy. This kind of performance was the so-called "pig teammate," more terrible than a godly opponent.

"There is a problem, and it can only be mental," many people said, nodding.

An Wenyi's skill wasn't anything special, but in this kind of situation where there was no interference, his judgment and accurate grasp of timing combined with the high intelligence and high crit stats of Little Cold Hands should be enough to serve as Happy's most solid backing. But now, it seemed as though he'd lost his mind, that he had no idea what the thought process of a battle should be.

A psychological problem was always a big problem.

Especially for those who always seemed to be very psychologically strong, who never had any problems. As soon as a problem did appear, then it would be even more difficult to deal with.

An Wenyi lacked self-confidence because he was too logical. He logically recognized that his strength still wasn't enough, and that he therefore shouldn't have self-confidence. Carefully, bit by bit, he'd built up his confidence. But now in this battle, the final battle, the battle that would determine everything, Samsara's total disregard shattered the confidence that he had so carefully raised. It destroyed all of those hopes he'd had for himself, hopes that had been born with such difficulty.

By now, he had no idea how to continue, he needed to help...

"Hey!"

At this moment, a message appeared in Team Happy's chat.

"Hurry and heal!" It was Ye Xiu speaking. It looked like he was just reminding An Wenyi to keep up with the tempo.

"Don't think too much. It's true, you're not very exceptional." Who would have thought that Ye Xiu would suddenly send another sentence? This kind of sentence, appearing at a moment like this? In the eyes of any pro player, this was practically cooperating with the psychological knives that Samsara was throwing.

"This guy is insane!"

"Is this considered curing poison with poison?"

Everyone was shouting.

"But..." A transition appeared.

"Even if you're a piece of straw, when you're tied to a deluxe mitten crab, then you have the worth of that crab!"

Everyone was stunned.

These words seemed to have some philosophy to them. It was just that this metaphor... it seemed a bit self-inflating. What the mitten crab in the metaphor referred to couldn't be clearer. This guy, he was simply too shameless. Did he know how to be humble?

But when An Wenyi saw these words, he too was taken aback.

That was right... No matter how worthless he was, he had a group of beautiful teammates at his side! Relying upon their light, even if he could reflect only a little bit of it, he would be bright enough that he couldn't be ignored, right?

My skill isn't as good as your healer's, and my control of the situation definitely cannot compare to that of your experienced and thoughtful Fang Minghua.

But even if what I can do is only one-tenth of what your Fang Minghua can, even if you think it's a negligible, insignificant ten percent, what if our Happy only needs that ten percent?

No need for doubt, no need for confusion. He only needed to do all that he could do, and the rest of it, he would leave to his teammates! What was he thinking about? Had he gotten too used to being treated as the weak point? Did he think that he was the core that the opponent needed to take care of?

That had never been the case!

He had always been no more than the weakest player in Happy. That had always been the case.

The fortunate thing was, he had a group of amazing teammates.

Chapter 1687: The Weakling's Counterattack

No matter how bad I am, I'm Happy's healer!

An Wenyi regained his calm, regained his reason. He quickly observed the present situation.

Things weren't going well for Happy. Everyone on the team had been separated. Even Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain, with her ultra long-range, had lost contact with the team.

Which side needed the most help?

An Wenyi immediately examined each of the battles taking place.

Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain was pinned down by Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf. Even if he tried to help, a Launcher would have a hard time forcefully breaking past a Battle Mage.

What about Ye Xiu and Tang Rou?

It was a 2v2 against Jiang Botao and Wu Qi. Jiang Botao's Empty Waves had escaped from their grasps. Wu Qi had joined up with him, and now, the two sides were going back and forth. For a moment, neither side seemed to be able to gain the upper hand. However, behind Jiang Botao and Wu Qi was Fang Minghua's Laughing Song, who was providing support to them. Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer would also help from time to time. In the long-term, it seemed like he would be needed there.

However, An Wenyi didn't immediately go over to help. He turned towards Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash.

Although Su Mucheng was pinned down by Sun Xiang, the one in the worst shape was actually Qiao Yifan.

Qiao Yifan had no way to use any of his skills. Ghost boundaries had cast times. Without any place to hide, any attempts to place down a ghost boundary would be interrupted. Zhou Zekai wouldn't let him out of his sight. With Random Firing and Rapid Firing active, the previous wave of attacks had sent One Inch Ash fleeing like a mouse. The duration of those two skills had ended, but Zhou Zekai was still keeping Qiao Yifan in check. Any time One Inch Ash tried to swing his sword, a bullet would fly his way.

Qiao Yifan was helpless. He could only keep moving, while searching for an opening or a place for him to hide. However, Zhou Zekai never let up. If One Inch Ash moved, he would move too. Utilizing the Sharpshooter's range, Cloud Piercer had an exceptional radius of defense. Against many classes, this defense would appear somewhat lacking, but for a spell-based class like a Phantom Demon, it was more than enough.

Qiao Yifan needs help!

Seeing One Inch Ash struggling to break free from Cloud Piercer's pursuit, An Wenyi reached a conclusion.

As a result, An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands started moving.

"What is he thinking?"

The pro players had seen Ye Xiu's words to An Wenyi, but they didn't know how much help those words would be to An Wenyi. When they saw Little Cold Hands suddenly start moving, they had no idea what he was thinking. It didn't seem like he was trying to reach a place where he could cast spells.

"He's…"

As Little Cold Hands approached his target, everyone started to see.

Cloud Piercer!

An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands was actually charging straight towards Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer.

"What is he thinking?!" Everyone was dumbfounded.

Wasn't this upside-down? The weakling that Samsara had chosen to ignore was actually running towards Samsara's greatest, most dazzling player? Had he gone insane?

"Is he planning on giving up his life to block the bullets?" someone guessed. An Wenyi had done this many times in previous matches. The other teams would regard their healer as the target that needed the most protection. On the other hand, Happy would sometimes throw their healer out to the wolves to act as a meat shield.

"What's wrong with that? The healer's job is to protect the team!" Tyranny's Zhang Xinjie said.

True!

Protect the team. Everyone understood the healer's responsibility, but was this sort of method really that effective? Zhou Zekai just needed to turn his attention to him for a second to stop him, no?

An Wenyi obviously understood this reality. This was also why he chose to charge directly towards Cloud Piercer.

Ignoring me?

Fine!

I'm going to run at you, so keep on ignoring me!

An Wenyi thought to himself. He wasn't sulking though. It was a logical decision. He was certain that by doing this, he would lure away Zhou Zekai's attention. Switch targets to him? Stop him from approaching? All of those could happen, but An Wenyi believed firmly that if Zhou Zekai had Cloud Piercer aim his guns at him, Qiao Yifan, Ye Xiu, and Tang Rou would definitely seize this window of opportunity to do something.

This was the way he survived in Happy. This was the way he survived in the pro scene. If it was just his healing, then there was only so much he could contribute. He needed to do other things to make up for his lack of skill, such as using his own character's health.

The crowd began letting out cries of surprise.

Happy's weakest member was actually running straight into the jaws of Samsara's strongest, and he was a healer too.

What is he thinking?

Is he trying to kill himself?

The viewers had begun to notice, and so had the players on the battlefield.

"This guy..." Fang Minghua was a healer, and he needed to keep his eyes and ears open at all times. As a result, he was the first to notice An Wenyi's surprising movements. At first, he thought that An Wenyi was acting like a child throwing a tantrum. Seeing how Samsara was ignoring him, An Wenyi was using this sort of method to force Samsara to pay attention to him.

But when he looked closer, he saw how steadily Little Cold Hands was moving. He saw how Little Cold Hands would look around from time to time. It made him realize that this definitely wasn't him acting like a child. An Wenyi had made this decision in an attempt to turn the situation around.

What is he planning?

Little Cold Hands hadn't done anything yet, but Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash suddenly acted.

Move!

He had been moving constantly, but after taking these two steps, when Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer adjusted his aim, a figure suddenly appeared in front of him.

Little Cold Hands?

Zhou Zekai ignored him. It was just a Cleric. Even if he got closer, he was no threat.

Step to the side!

Cloud Piercer stepped to the side, opening his vision again, and fired.

Bang!

A bullet flew out. Little Cold Hands also followed and stepped to the side.

Too slow...

Zhou Zekai saw Little Cold Hands and figured out An Wenyi's intentions, but he knew what An Wenyi's weakness was. He knew that his reaction speed and technique were lacking. As a result, if he moved and then attacked, An Wenyi wouldn't be able to keep up.

Sure enough.

When Little Cold Hands moved to the side, the bullet had already been fired and it went right past him.

But there was no One Inch Ash in Zhou Zekai's line of sight.

Move to the side again.

Zhou Zekai found a new angle and attacked again. An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands followed along again, but nothing changed. His reaction speed wasn't fast enough to keep up.

However, Zhou Zekai was frowning.

Even though An Wenyi failed to block his attack, even though Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash still wasn't able to place down a ghost boundary, An Wenyi was still an additional burden for Zhou Zekai, requiring him to put in extra effort. It was as if there was a moving obstacle between Cloud Piercer and One Inch Ash now. Zhou Zekai had no choice but to expend more energy to avoid this obstacle.

Switch targets and kill Little Cold Hands.

That was what most people were thinking he should do. However, if he did that, his attention would mainly be focused on Little Cold Hands. Qiao Yifan would likely seize this opportunity to escape.

Things weren't so simple... if someone else could keep Qiao Yifan pinned down, then it wouldn't take him long to get rid of that pesky Cleric!

But there was no one...

Because he had forced Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash away from everyone else. He was the only one nearby that could keep him under control.

This separation had originally been his advantage, but right now, it was being used against him.

Once you ride a tiger, it's hard to get off, and the one who put him in this situation was Happy's weakest member, the one Samsara had decided to ignore.

An Wenyi, Little Cold Hands...

Regardless, this situation could not continue. He had to get rid of him, even if it meant giving Qiao Yifan an opening. There was nothing else he could do.

Just when Zhou Zekai was about to act, a figure suddenly slammed into Little Cold Hands from the side.

Laughing Song?

Fang Minghua's Laughing Song, Samsara's Cleric, had unexpectedly brandished his cross and charged straight into Little Cold Hands.

Was this a... fight between Clerics?

Everyone was dumbfounded. What sort of match was this? What was going on with these two teams' healers?

One of them ran straight towards the jaws of the enemy, while the other ran over to swing his cross...

Was that really the only way?

The viewers were a bit puzzled. This was supposed to be a match of the highest level, so why was it looking like a match of the lowest level?

Zhou Zekai let out a sigh of relief.

Fang Minghua had noticed his predicament, seeing that Zhou Zekai was having trouble because of Little Cold Hands.

Take over and pin down Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash? Fang Minghua's Laughing Song wasn't capable of doing that, but he could contend against Little Cold Hands. Both of them were Clerics, who didn't have much combat capabilities. But if it was a 1v1, Fang Minghua felt like he should have the upper hand against An Wenyi, no?

Thus, in the finals that represented the highest level of pro play, the strange scene of two Clerics whacking each other appeared.

No skills were used. It was just the two of them swinging their crosses, using normal attacks to beat each other up.

It wasn't that Clerics didn't have crowd control skills. It was just that with An Wenyi's determination and caution, Fang Minghua felt like this was the most reliable method.

Chapter 1688: Heroic Leap

How did it turn into two Clerics beating each other up?

This scene could occasionally be seen in the game, usually when players were bored, but it was unheard of in pro play. There were times when healers were forced to fight, but those were out of helplessness, for self-defense. However, this was likely the first time a Cleric had intentionally rushed in to attack another Cleric.

When a cross swung, there would be a sound effect as well. This sound seemed incredibly unfamiliar to everyone's ears.

Laughing Song, Little Cold Hands. The two Clerics traded blows. The two characters happened to be male and female, an almost tragic sight to witness, like a family fight in the streets.

Who studied how to fight at close combat as a Cleric? Even Fang Minghua, who was an experienced player, hadn't. An Wenyi didn't need to be said. Although he had been scouted from the game, with his rational mind, he never participated in something as boring as a Cleric brawl, let alone studied it.

Pipipi! Papapa!

The crosses flashed with white light, weaving back and forth, occasionally colliding. A rain of white light poured down, pelting the two Clerics. However, their health barely moved. They were Clerics. How much attack power could they have?

Fang Minghua was starting to feel a bit of regret. He was regretting how he had used Charge to get close.

Charge was a Knight skill. Because it was a pre-advancement Priest skill, he could also learn it. Using it to attack wasn't something a Cleric wanted to use it for, after all, it was an effective skill for movement and escaping. And because of this, no Priest class would let go of this skill.

It had become a habit for Fang Minghua. He had needed to get to An Wenyi quickly, so he had instinctively used the skill. Now that he and An Wenyi were fighting, he realized how useful Charge would have been now.

I'm not experienced enough!

Fang Minghua didn't have any experience closing in on an opponent and attacking.

But just when he remembered Charge, he suddenly realized: not good!

Laughing Song had used Charge, but what about Little Cold Hands?

He hadn't seen Little Cold Hands use it.

Just when he had this thought, he immediately saw Little Cold Hands pause, Charge!

Bang!

Little Cold Hands lowered his head, ready to ram into Laughing Song. The cross looked completely useless in his hands. Although it was clearly an attack skill, it looked like he was making a fool of himself.

But no matter how stupid it looked, it was a Charge, and one at a very close distance to the target.

Laughing Song was suddenly sent flying, but Little Cold Hands didn't stop. He was unexpectedly chasing after Laughing Song.

Had he gotten addicted to the thrill of close combat?

No!

That wasn't the reason.

Little Cold Hands had his Charge off cooldown the entire time, but An Wenyi didn't immediately use it. He had been waiting for an opportunity.

Finding the right timing was An Wenyi's specialty. Even if Fang Minghua had been ready for it since the start, stopping Little Cold Hands from using it wouldn't have been so easy.

Laughing Song was sent flying.

Little Cold Hands rushed out.

His direction, Cloud Piercer!

An Wenyi hadn't forgotten his original intention. He hadn't come here to fight the enemy Cleric. He had come to interfere with Zhou Zekai. He had come to create opportunities for his team. He had come to turn things around so that the team could win!

Fang Minghua had relieved the pressure from Zhou Zekai, allowing him to continue controlling the battlefield. Zhou Zekai had wanted to provide some assistance to Fang Minghua, but before the

appropriate opportunity came, Fang Minghua's Laughing Song shot towards his Cloud Piercer like a bullet.

It had been too sudden. Zhou Zekai hastily had Cloud Piercer dodge to the side, but then, he saw Little Cold Hands following close behind, rushing towards him with Charge.

"Ah!"

At this instant, countless people shrieked.

An Wenyi, Little Cold Hands, this flimsy Cleric had unexpectedly attacked Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer? That bastard! It'd probably be the greatest achievement in his career!

But, no!

Zhou Zekai's reaction speed was incomparably quick. His hand speed was even quicker. He had been getting out of Laughing Song's way when he suddenly noticed Little Cold Hands. At that point, Little Cold Hands had practically reached him already, yet he had actually been able to react in time.

Bang bang bang bang!

Cloud Piercer fired his dual guns, using the recoil to increase his speed. In the end, he was able to avoid the Charge.

How close!

Zhou Zekai felt a cold sweat dripping down his back. If the Charge had hit him, his tempo would have been disrupted. Now... it was still fine. Even though it would be a bit troublesome, he could still keep things in control.

While he had been dodging, he had looked around, particularly at Qiao Yifan's side. Sure enough, Qiao Yifan had seized this opportunity to start casting a ghost boundary. Cloud Piercer had only barely dodged the attack from Little Cold Hands. His balance wasn't the best, but Zhou Zekai was confident. Even in this situation, he could accurately hit One Inch Ash in the chest.

Aim!

He lifted his gun. Cloud Piercer readied the trigger, when a shadow suddenly descended from the sky. In this shadow's hands was a white light, dim and insignificant. Yet at this moment, this white light was invincible!

Heroic Leap!

An Wenyi saw that his Charge would miss, so he cancelled it and turned around, Heroic Leap!

An Wenyi knew that his reaction speed was slow. He knew that his hands weren't quick. But at this instant, he put everything he had to be as fast as possible. He was pushing himself to his limits. He didn't even know if what he was doing was accurate, or if he would hit his opponent.

Heroic Leap.

This was the skill that An Wenyi had placed on Little Cold Hands' weapon. The skill name was mighty, but An Wenyi knew that the purpose of this skill wasn't its might. It was similar to Charge. It was supposed to give Little Cold Hands another escape tool.

However, right now, he wasn't running away. He wasn't trying to survive. His Little Cold Hands swung his cross, using Heroic Leap to smash into Cloud Piercer, smash into Glory's number one player, smash that being high above him. If he could hit him, it would probably be his greatest achievement.

An Wenyi didn't object at all to this point.

This moment was indeed the greatest highlight of his career.

Heroic Leap!

Little Cold Hands jumped up. Little Cold Hands fell. The feeble light knocked down Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer, this existence at Glory's summit.

At this moment, Little Cold Hands had Cloud Piercer beneath his feet.

Chapter 1689: A Change in Situation

"What is this? What just happened?"

Everyone watching the match suddenly heard a hoarse shout from Pan Lin. It sounded like he wanted to crawl out and grab the audience's neck to get to the bottom of this matter.

Even so, no one felt like he had lost his composure, because they were all going crazy just like him.

A Cleric knocking down a Sharpshooter. More importantly, the Sharpshooter was Cloud Piercer, controlled by Zhou Zekai, Glory's number one player in recent years. Even if that was just context, it was a powerful scene, placing him in the spotlight.

Everyone knew that even if An Wenyi wasn't a great player, even if he was considered one of the worst among Happy's rookies, what he had contributed today would be remembered for years. This scene was similar to Tyranny's Assassin, Cold Seasons, from many years ago. He wasn't a particularly well-known player, but his shattering Life-Risking Strike against One Autumn Leaf in the finals became the most breathtaking moment that year.

An Wenyi's attack wasn't anything special, but his Little Cold Hands was a Cleric! A Cleric knocking down Glory's number one player. This was more than enough for this moment to be written into the annals of Glory.

Although to be accurate, Cloud Piercer hadn't been knocked down. After all, Heroic Leap wasn't a skill with a forced knockdown. Zhou Zekai hadn't been able to avoid the attack in time, but it wasn't hard for him to Quick Recover and avoid crashing into the ground.

But whether or not he really did get knocked down wasn't important. With Quick Recover, Cloud Piercer would roll and then get up. In everyone's eyes, Cloud Piercer rolling on the ground was no different than Little Cold Hands sending him tumbling with a Heroic Leap.

Apart from the staunch Samsara supporters, this moment made everyone's blood boil with excitement.

But not Zhou Zekai.

Many people might think of this as humiliating to him, but he had no such thoughts. No matter how weak An Wenyi was, he was an opponent. It was just that from his skill level and his class, he should have been someone easy to deal with. But this time, this opponent had made the right decision at the right time. In that instant, he hadn't been weak at all.

But it was only for an instant.

Zhou Zekai still didn't think An Wenyi was much of a threat. Even when Little Cold Hands had hit him with Heroic Leap, what he had cared more about was interrupting One Inch Ash.

I need to hurry and interrupt him again.

This was the more urgent matter in Zhou Zekai's mind.

Roll, find the target, aim...

Before Cloud Piercer even got up, Zhou Zekai had started preparing for his next attack.

But he was too late.

On the battlefield, only an instant was needed to make a difference. From start to finish, An Wenyi hadn't been able to gain the upper hand on Zhou Zekai, but in that instant, he had won. He had won his team an opportunity.

Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash had already walked to the necessary position and had started casting a ghost boundary. If Cloud Piercer had been able to get off his shot previously, he would have been able to interrupt One Inch Ash. But it was too late to try now.

The spell was complete. The ghostly power gathered around One Inch Ash's blade, Snow Stripe. By the time the gunshot rang, One Inch Ash had already swung his sword.

Even though the others on Samsara had their own battles to take care of, they would pay attention to the changes going on in the battlefield from time to time. Seeing that Cloud Piercer wasn't able to interrupt One Inch Ash in time, they knew that a ghost boundary would be completed soon. Jiang Botao and Wu Qi began to retreat in haste.

"Haha, it's a feint!" Outside of the match, Li Xuan laughed. In that instant, Li Xuan was able to tell that One Inch Ash had hidden a little trick when he placed down the ghost boundary. Only someone like Li Xuan, Glory's number one Phantom Demon, could have noticed it.

Sure enough, the moment the tip of the blade reached the bottom of its arc, it suddenly turned.

Dense ghostly energy filled with a chilly frost blossomed like a pale blue flower.

Ice Boundary!

In the center was One Autumn Leaf!

At the final moment, Qiao Yifan, who had originally been pointing towards Empty Waves and Cruel Silence, turned towards One Autumn Leaf.

It wasn't that Sun Xiang hadn't noticed that Qiao Yifan was setting down a ghost boundary. It was just that Qiao Yifan's feint hadn't been so easy to see through. Only Li Xuan had been able to.

When he saw the direction of the Ice Boundary, as well as Jiang Botao's Empty Waves and Wu Qi's Cruel Silence retreating, Sun Xiang more or less disregarded it. By the time Qiao Yifan made the change, it was too late for him to react in time.

The biting cold instantly slowed One Autumn Leaf. Not being directly turned into an ice cube was already quite lucky.

Pu!

One Inch Ash was struck by the bullet. In order to placed down the Ice Boundary, there was no way Qiao Yifan could have dodged it. Cloud Piercer had only been just a little bit too late. It looked as if it had hit One Inch Ash before the ghost boundary had been set down.

Blood spurt out from the wound, but it was meaningless. An Wenyi had created an opening for Qiao Yifan, and Qiao Yifan had used it to alter the flow of the match.

Dancing Rain rushed out!

Sun Xiang wanted to stop her, but One Autumn Leaf was now too slow to catch up to her.

Boom boom boom!

Glory's number one support started firing artillery shells around the battlefield. She was finally doing what she was best at, supporting.

Artillery shells flew towards Jiang Botao's Empty Waves and Wu Qi's Cruel Silence. The flames from the explosions flashed in front of their eyes.

When One Inch Ash turned his blade, the two realized that they had been tricked.

The two hastily tried to get back, but the players on Happy weren't wooden trees. The two of them had given up their position to avoid the ghost boundary, so Happy immediately had someone occupy it.

Tang Rou, Soft Mist!

A Battle Mage fighting up close, while a Launcher supported from afar?

A familiar combo. Many people's thoughts immediately returned to those former days. Even though the duo hadn't been able to win the championships, the two were the greatest partners in all of Glory.

But now, One Autumn Leaf had become Dancing Rain's enemy. The one playing the Battle Mage was different. As for Su Mucheng's former partner, Ye Xiu?

He was Happy's true lead, and Happy's true core.

No one dared to overlook him, whether it was the enemy players or the viewers watching. Even when the rising stars of Happy shined again and again, those familiar with Ye Xiu would always pay attention to his each and every move.

If there were no opportunities, he could create opportunities for himself. An Wenyi had helped Happy win the team an opening. Would Ye Xiu keep biding his time? Would Ye Xiu not do anything?

Of course not!

Tang Rou had been left to deal with Jiang Botao and Wu Qi alone. At this moment, Ye Xiu turned fire!

Gunshots rang continuously.

Zhou Zekai hadn't been able to interrupt Qiao Yifan in time. When he saw Qiao Yifan's feint muddle Jiang Botao's and Wu Qi's tempo, he realized that the previous situation could no longer continue.

With One Autumn Leaf trapped in the Ice Boundary, the BOX-1 would certainly fail.

The situation had changed, which meant that he needed to hurry and adjust. He needed to find a new breakthrough point. As a result, Zhou Zekai set his sights on a target close to him.

An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands.

Ultimately, he was Happy's healer. No matter how amazing he had been previously, a Cleric was someone who the team needed to protect. Who knew how many strategies had been devised over the years to get to the enemy healer.

Right now, Happy's healer was standing right near Cloud Piercer without anyone to protect him.

Let alone the fact that Zhou Zekai's Sharpshooter could even fight evenly against Ye Xiu's unspecialized in close combat, even if he couldn't, a Cleric should lose to a Sharpshooter anyways.

At that moment, he fired again, this time, towards Little Cold Hands.

Gunshot, blood. The white robe on Little Cold Hands was dyed red. Others might think that this was a form of revenge from Zhou Zekai, but in reality, it wasn't.

The enemy healer had gifted himself over, so why shouldn't he attack him? It was the rational thing to do.

Chapter 1690: The Warrior Shining Like a Shooting Star

Whoever controlled the enemy healer, controlled the battle.

These words were a common saying in Glory. The team competition revolved around attacking and defending the healer. Compared to fighting for wild bosses in the game, even more strategic and tactical complexities were involved. The difficulty of wild bosses was mainly due to the sheer number of players involved. However, on the pro stage, everything needed to be far more precise.

In this team competition, both sides had taken unconventional routes. Happy chose to target Jiang Botao's Empty Waves. They didn't seem to show any particular attention towards Fang Minghua's

Laughing Song. As for Samsara? Their attack towards Happy's healer wasn't tactical; it was psychological. For a time, their method had been effective. However, An Wenyi was quickly brought back by Ye Xiu. Then, he violated everything a healer should do, and brought Happy back from a disadvantage.

However, the price he paid was completely exposing himself to Zhou Zekai and Cloud Piercer's dual guns.

With the enemy healer sitting right there out in the open, Zhou Zekai didn't mind changing the team's original strategy of ignoring him to killing him. Strategy and tactics had to be adjusted according to the circumstances.

An Wenyi had predicted this outcome when he took the risk. He obviously tried to run, but Zhou Zekai didn't give him a chance. Once Cloud Piercer failed to interrupt One Inch Ash, he immediately shifted his attention to An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands.

As he attacked Little Cold Hands, he didn't forget to be wary of One Inch Ash behind him. At the same time, he also checked how the rest of his team was doing.

Tang Rou's Soft Mist rushed forward, ready for a 1v2. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim pulled away and turned around.

He's coming!

Zhou Zekai saw everything clearly. He had predicted that Happy wasn't going to give up on their healer so easily. From the looks of it, the rescue would be coming from Happy's strongest force.

If Ye Xiu's Lord Grim got close to him, not only would Little Cold Hands be saved, his control over One Inch Ash would drop drastically. By then, Lord Grim and One Inch Ash would form a team, and he would be the one in a predicament.

Fortunately, while Happy had sent aid for Little Cold Hands, Samsara didn't leave Zhou Zekai alone to fend for himself.

Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf had been slowed by the Ice Boundary, but he was able to leave the Ice Boundary in the end. Because of Zhou Zekai's interference, Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash wasn't able to set up any other ghost boundaries.

After walking out from the Ice Boundary, One Autumn Leaf's movements were back to normal. However, it was no longer possible for him to continue shutting down Dancing Rain. Much of the success for the BOX-1 was because of Wu Qi's help. The two of them had teamed together to quickly shut down Su Mucheng.

Now, Wu Qi was no longer there to help. With just Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf alone, it wasn't easy for him to seal off Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain. Su Mucheng was very experienced with these sorts of situations. Sending just one player alone to deal with her would likely end up with Su Mucheng kiting, while she continued to support the rest of the team.

Sun Xiang knew how challenging it would be to face Su Mucheng, and given the present situation, he couldn't waste any more time.

Charge!

This time, One Autumn Leaf didn't target his former partner, but rather his former owner.

Ye Xiu, Lord Grim!

Sun Xiang wanted to stop Ye Xiu from interfering with Zhou Zekai. If he could stall long enough for Zhou Zekai to finish off Happy's healer, victory was theirs.

But Lord Grim turned around and switched targets!

Lord Grim had been rushing to Little Cold Hands' aid. But as soon as he saw One Autumn Leaf running towards him, he immediately gave up on his original plan and ran away towards a different direction.

Swish swish...

Two movement skills came out in quick succession. Countless peoples' eyes were still on the afterimages left behind by Lord Grim. However, for Fang Minghua, in front of him was the real Lord Grim.

Laughing Song had previously gone to fight against Little Cold Hands, but he had been sent flying by Little Cold Hands' Charge.

By the time he steadied himself, Little Cold Hands had sent Cloud Piercer tumbling along the ground. But similar to Zhou Zekai, Fang Minghua didn't let this scene cloud his judgement. He also didn't feel much threat from Little Cold Hands. The attack had indeed been impactful, though. The entire flow of the match could potentially reset.

What came after was as he expected. Starting from when Cloud Piercer failed to interrupt One Inch Ash's Ice Boundary, the situation changed. Su Mucheng was finally able to escape from the BOX-1. Jiang Botao and Wu Qi had their tempos disrupted from One Inch Ash's feint.

But... the key to the match is still in our hands!

Fang Minghua had also noticed Little Cold Hands. That attack had helped Happy change the situation, but at the same time, he was now a lamb in a tiger's den.

Whoever controlled the enemy healer, controlled the battle!

Fang Minghua trusted that Zhou Zekai wouldn't forget such a critical point in the heat of the moment. Even though he was at the top of Glory, he would never forget about the fundamentals.

Zhou Zekai didn't let him down. His reaction was even faster than he had hoped. He only fired at One Inch Ash once before focusing on Little Cold Hands. Fang Minghua could see that Little Cold Hands' back was already dyed with blood.

This is how it should be.

Fang Minghua felt much calmer. He immediately began doing what he was supposed to do. But then, he saw Lord Grim.

Lord Grim had originally rushed over to Little Cold Hands' aid, but when One Autumn Leaf also rushed over to intercept him, he suddenly changed directions.

Fang Minghua faintly realized something as Laughing Song began to run. But Lord Grim was too quick. In the blink of an eye, Lord Grim sealed off his escape route.

So that was his true aim!

Fang Minghua felt a shudder in his heart. Rescue Little Cold Hands? No! Ye Xiu's goal had been him from the very beginning. Little Cold Hands was bait to lure away Zhou Zekai and Sun Xiang.

Who did Laughing Song have to protect him?

No one.

Jiang Botao, Wu Qi, Sun Xiang, none of them could help him. The only one who could help was Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer.

However, Little Cold Hands was stuck by his side. He couldn't contend against Cloud Piercer, but by sticking to his side, even just sticking his hands out and waving them around would be a form of interference.

This is... a trade?

Fang Minghua discovered that An Wenyi had already given up on himself. He had no plans on surviving.

He had barely healed anyone. Instead, he used this simple and crude method to cling onto Cloud Piercer.

Happy's weakest to stop Samsara's strongest? Was that Happy's strategy? Was this Tian Ji's horse race?

Then, by using the opportunity that An Wenyi opened up, Happy would attack Laughing Song, and both healers would be eliminated?

Fang Minghua knew that Happy was more than willing to trade healers. He wasn't being conceited. He was no doubt superior to An Wenyi as a healer. He had this confidence. In fact, every pro healer would have this confidence.

That was why Samsara had intentionally ignored An Wenyi, because even if An Wenyi was given free reign, he wouldn't do better than Fang Minghua. In Samsara's eyes, there was no risk to doing this.

How could they have expected An Wenyi to not be a healer when he was given free reign? He unexpectedly became an attacker, an extraordinarily weak attacker. Samsara ignoring him suddenly became his stage to shine.

Unfortunately, his attack was like a shooting star. In just a flash, it faded away. But in the end, he was able to change the situation. Then, Happy seemed to no longer have any use for him. Happy was clear that in a battle of healers, An Wenyi would lose to Fang Minghua.

As a result, they abandoned him to trade for Fang Minghua.

Today, Little Cold Hands' identity as a healer was a bait.

He shone brilliantly for an instant before fading away, and by doing this, he was going to drag down Samsara's healer with him?

I won't let you have your way!

Fang Minghua had Laughing Song retreat to get as much distance between himself and Lord Grim. His teammates had noticed what was going on. They would certainly try and help him. They knew that this trade wasn't worth it. It wasn't just the difference in value between healers. Without Fang Minghua, Samsara had no healer. However, without An Wenyi, Happy still had Ye Xiu and his Lord Grim!

Lord Grim's healing capabilities weren't great, and as the team's main attacker, Ye Xiu couldn't sacrifice too many of his offensive stats to strength Lord Grim's healing. He might not be a great healer, but he could heal at crucial moments, which could potentially save a life. In terms of technique, while every pro healer could dare to say that they were better than An Wenyi, no would dare to say they were better than Ye Xiu.

Stall and wait for help.

This was Fang Minghua's plan. He had a skill ready to be used as Lord Grim closed in...

Fang Minghua could feel his palms sweat. He knew Ye Xiu's terror, which meant that he was even more careful with how he timed this skill.

Angel's Might!

A Paladin skill, a forced knockback that ignored Super Armor. Fang Minghua wanted to rely on this skill to win more time for his steam, but he needed to get the timing right. He was afraid that if he used it too early, it might not be effective, or Lord Grim might interrupt him.

He stared closely at Lord Grim. Lord Grim and started attacking him from afar. Fang Minghua tried his best to dodge as he endured and waited.

It's time! Now!

Angel's Might!

It was only level one, but in an instant, the divine protection flashed around Laughing Song and quickly spread.

But Lord Grim vanished.

There was no shadow clone. It wasn't Shadow Clone Technique. There was no trace of magic. It wasn't Teleport... even if he used those movement skills, he might not be able to escape. Those were displacement skills, but Angel's Might was an AoE, no?

Where did he go?

Fang Minghua felt a chill. He suddenly realized a possibility.

In the center of the spreading light, Lord Grim tunneled through the earth from beneath Laughing Song.

Ninjutsu – Underground Tunneling Technique!