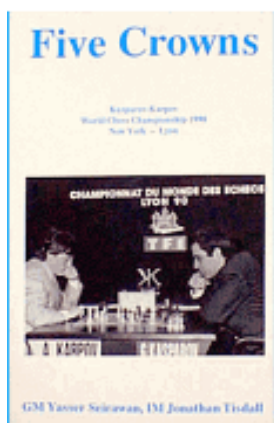


## Inside Chess

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## Yasser Annotates:

Karpov - Anand, Brussels 1991

*Anatoly Karpov-Viswanathan Anand*

QGD Semi-Slav D45

*Brussels cm (4) 1991*

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Be2 O-O  
8.O-O dxc4 9.Bxc4 Qe7 10.h3 a6 11.e4!**

Of course, this is the only way to test Black's opening setup. After d5xc4, if White doesn't use his central majority, then Black gets fine queenside play as demonstrated in Game Two.

**11...e5 12.Rd1!**



Awaiting developments while reinforcing the center. Clearly the d-file will be opened and the rook is well-positioned on d1. Black's ...a7-a6 has committed him to queenside play, thus the roles are clear. White will play in the center, Black on the queenside. The following moves are consequential for both players.

**12...b5 13.Bf1 c5 14.d5 c4**

Forced. White mustn't be allowed to play b2-b3 and a2-a4.

**15.a4 Rb8**

A key alternative is 15...b4 16.Ne2 Nc5 17.Ng3 c3 18.bxc3 b3 19.Qb1 Rb8 with compensation for the pawn.

**16.axb5 axb5 17.Ra5!**

Both forced and good. Black can't be allowed to play ...Nd7-c5 and ...Bc8-

d7 with an excellent game. Now Black's pawns are forced into a kind of death march.

### **17...b4 18.Na4!**

Very good. Although the rook's retreat on a5 is cut off, it will happily roost on a7. A knight on c5 would be formidably placed, so White ensures its exchange.

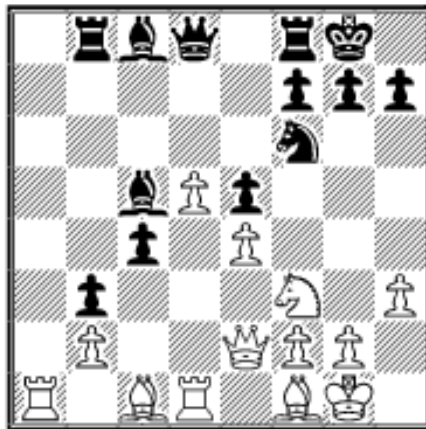
### **18...Qd8 19.Ra7 b3?!**

A major compromise. Black's risky strategy has better chances after 19...c3 20.bxc3 b3 21.Qb1 (21.Qe2 Nc5 22.Nxc5 (in case of 22.Nxe5 Bxe5 23.Nxc5 Qb6 White loses material) 22...Bxc5 23.Ra1 Nxe4 24.Qxe4 b2 25.Bxb2 Rxb2 with good play for the pawn) 21...Nc5 22.Nd2 Bd7 23.Nb2! White's pieces are tangled up, but it's easy to see that after Nb2-c4 they will spring forward. Black can try 23...Ne8!? 24.Nbc4 f5, opening up the position. It's not clear that Black's strategy is sound, but I feel he has a better chance for the initiative than in the game.

### **20.Qe2**

After 20.Qxc4?, ...Rb4 followed by ...Nf6xe4 solves Black's problems.

### **20...Nc5 21.Nxc5 Bxc5 22.Ra1**



Both players have been on a collision course to this position. Anand has put his faith in his far-flung queenside pawns, Karpov in his center. The outcome is more than just a matter of victory or defeat in one game. The result will test the mettle of Black's entire opening strategy!

### **22...c3 23.Nxe5**

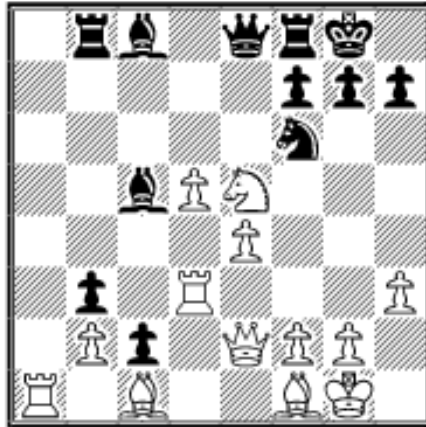
Otherwise the game transposes into a line from a previous note acceptable for Black: 23.bxc3 b2 24.Bxb2 Nxe4 25.Qxe4 Rxb2 etc.

### **23...c2**

It's not every day that you get a protected passed pawn on c2! Frightening to be sure. However, the rascal is completely blocked and White's center is extremely menacing. So despite Black's queenside gains, White is for choice.

**24.Rd3!**

Well played. From this perch, the rook supports the d-pawn, eyes the b3-pawn, and has the potential for a kingside shift. White's problem is his vulnerable e4-pawn, Black has to be quick with his tactical shots, else defeat is assured. White's principal threat is Ne5-c6.

**24...Qe8?**

This simply fails. Dealing with Ne5-c6 isn't easy. If 24...Qb6, White craftily changes direction with 25.Nc4 Qb5 26.Nd2 Ba6 27.Qf3 and the b3-pawn goes and with it the c2-pawn. Also bad is 24...Re8 25.Nc6 Qb6 26. Nxb8 Nxe4? 27.Be3 and no more tricks. The crucial element in the position is that Black's bishop on c8 simply doesn't play. The straight pawn sac after 24...Bd7 (intending ...Bd7-b5) wasn't what Anand had in mind, but he still

has kicking chances, 25.Nxd7 Nxd7!

Surprisingly, Black has a number of threats: ...Nd7-c5 and ...Bc5-d4, or ...Qd8-f6 and ...Bc5-d4. For example, 26.Bf4 Qf6! 27.Bxb8 Qxb2 is extremely dangerous. If 26.Be3 Qf6 is still strong. 26.e5!? Re8 27.e6 (27.Bf4 Rb4 28.Bg3 Bd4) Nf6 is a sharp game with no clear assessment in sight. It may make more sense to avoid an exchange on d7, 24...Bd7 25.Bg5 (White's bishop has at least released the c2-pawn) 25...Bb5!? 26.Nc6 Ra8!? 27.Nxd8 Rxa1.

Another crazy position. White may well be winning, but the position is full of adventure: 28.Nb7 Bd4 etc.

My view is that the position on move 24 is crucial to the whole line. 24...Bd7 had to be tried and if it fails, then Black has to rethink his opening. Karpov is now given a chance to ice the game.

**25.Nc6 Rb6 26.Be3 Nxe4**

Black is forced to enter a long, but narrow, tactical path. The result is a loss after 26...Bxe3 27.Qxe3, hitting the b3-pawn, Black has no chances.

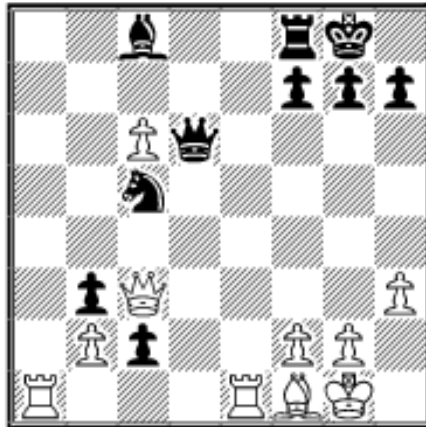
**27.Bxc5 Nxc5 28.Re3!**

Well played. After 28.Ne7+ Kh8 29.Rc3 Ba6! 30.Qe3 Na4! Black is making it messy. With the text, Karpov controls the flow.

## 28...Qd7 29.Qc4

Every move is a blow. If the knight moves, the b3-pawn falls; protecting the knight leads to favorable exchanges: 29...Qd6 30.Rc3 Rxc6 31.dxc6 Qd1 32.Rxd1 cxd1Q 33.Qxc5 Ba6? 34.Rc1 wins.

## 29...Rxc6 30.dxc6 Qd1 31.Re1 Qd6 32.Qc3!



Consolidating the extra wood. If 32.Ra5 Qd2, now Ra1-a5 is the threat. The knight has no squares after 32...Be6 33.Ra5, winning. The game is lost for Black.

Here Karpov had a few minutes left to make the time control, giving Anand his final chance. Unfortunately, White remains in complete control.

## 32...Qd5 33.c7! Bb7 34.Ra5 Ne4 35.Rxd5 Nxc3 36.Rd3 Na2 37.Rxb3 Bc8 38.Bc4!

The last difficult move. Black has no remaining tricks.

## 38...g6 39.Ra3 c1Q 40.Rxc1 Nxc1 41.Rc3 Re8 42.Rxc1 Re7 43.Bf1 1-0

A masterful performance by Karpov and a cruel blow for Anand.

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