

Ranko SzuhaneK
**Beating the Najdorf
rare lines**



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Foreword

FROM THE AUTHOR

I remember that twenty years ago I came across and read a very interesting book entitled “Substance and Shadow” written by the late Vedic scholar Suhotra Swami.

The book is the illustration of the Vedic approach to knowledge. The book is divided into chapters describing the philosophical, psychological and practical way a sensible person should live his life. The teachings of ancient India’s famous epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata were also included in the book; almost any reader could understand the essence of this invaluable inheritance.

The game of chess also has the origin in the Vedic space and epoch. The Mahabharata asserts that the game called “chaturanga” (which in Sanskrit means “having four limbs”), was a war-simulation game that inspired the big Kshatriyas (the caste of the warriors) to choose the military strategy of that ancient epoch.

I would be very happy if the book you are holding now would be the “substance and shadow” for many active players and coaches; they may use it in the process of improving their own chess skills or those of the students whom they are teaching this exceptional game!

I would like to explain the way in which one should try to approach this book for better understanding of the aspects I previously talked about.

The sidelines or rare variations the book deals with, are being played at top level mostly by following categories of players:

1. Within the first category we can identify even some top 10 players in the world, but also many renowned super GMs. The reasons they sometimes employ these lines are purely psychological, as they want to avoid the opponent’s home preparation, and grab the surprise – factor advantage from the very beginning of the game.
2. The second category includes the young rising stars, who are very self confident and also eager to experience new positions and get some extra adrenaline. They experience both psychological and philosophical aspects of these rare lines, searching for lots of practical positions to be solved over the board.
3. Finally, the third category is the one this book is mainly dedicated to. They are the Najdorf players, to whom I present a wide range of practical ways of refuting those lines in order to have an easy game as Black.

Do not forget that you are the “substance” of this book, while the first two categories presented above are the “shadow”.

After reading the book, diligent readers may ask themselves why there are some games where excellent Black players commit such a large number of errors, eventually spoiling the

final outcome of the battle. This is a very suitable question, therefore those games were included on purpose. These players got themselves caught by the time pressure and eventually became a sitting duck for the shadow's throwers.

What should we do in order to avoid this negative outcome?

Here are some good recommendations that in my opinion will be of great help:

1. Do not panic!

2. Breathe normally and just come to your senses; do not look surprised, but take some time to secure the best way of dealing with your own mental capacity needed for the rest of the game.

3. Do that even if it means throwing a couple of minutes through the window, and do not literally think about pure chess topics. Remember, the amount of time is not wasted, but rather the best way to avoid the shadow!

Finally, after recovering, try to stick to the Najdorf-like typical positions at all cost. No hybrid of the Dragon or Scheveningen-like variation would pay off, but it will only get your opponent closer to his goal.

4. Apply the Najdorf knowledge and plans you have used for ages, and let the true "substance" bring you the desired success.

In addition, how can we notice the difference between the substance and the shadow?

Is there a borderline between the two concepts that are strongly related to each other?

As the Sun rises above us in the sky, each substance has its own shadow and this is the symbol of knowledge from the ancient times.

If knowledge contains both the substance and the shadow, a top chess player must also have them, as he should be always able to recognise the imaginary border between the two concepts and apply the one which he thinks is appropriate for the given situation.

There are games in which both concepts should be used, as nowadays chess has become a very complex matter. One cannot be a complete player without having all the segments of a grown-up personality including different areas of preparation.

Lately there has been a race against time in which we can witness the chess prodigies achieving amazing results at a very young age. Some say it is just the "computer era" combined with numerous talents given by the traditional chess nations. As a matter of fact, the problem goes much deeper than that and it is related to preparation including a wide range of objectives to be mastered by the students. I think mostly of the Indian and the Chinese young players who seem to have understood the substance and shadow theory and who have applied it with much success.

I wish you good luck and much success in applying these amazing concepts you have just learned about!

IM Ranko Szuhaneck

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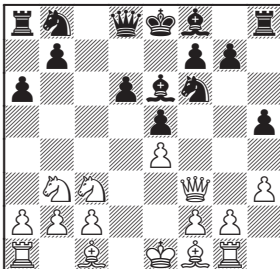
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6. ♖g1... 11.g5

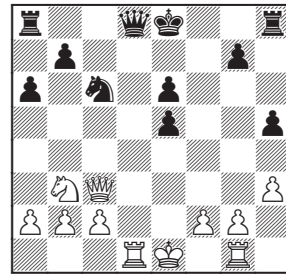
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4
 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♖g1 e5 7.♗b3 h5 8.h3
 ♙e6 9.g4

9. ♙e3 A quiet line that was chosen by the World Champion Carlsen. 9...d5?! I guess that the psychological battle was already won by Magnus. He was just waiting for d5, allowing or inviting his opponent to play it, but Black is not yet fully developed to commit to it. (9...♗bd7 10.♖d3 ♖c8 11.0-0-0 b5 12.♗b1 ♙e7 13.♙e2 ♖c7 14.a3 ♗b6 15.♗d2 h4 16.♙f3 g6= Even though the engines are giving equality, Black has many options, and in my opinion a more pleasant position.) 10.exd5 ♗xd5 11.♗xd5 ♙xd5 (11...♖xd5? This is already a wrong decision, and White will punish it right away. 12.♖xd5 ♙xd5 13.0-0-0 ♙e6 14.♗a5 ♗c6 (14...b5 15.♙e2 f5 16.♗b7 ♗d7 17.♗d6+ ♙xd6 18.♖xd6 ♗e7 19.♖gd1 f4 20.♙b6 ♗xb6 21.♖xb6 ♖hb8 22.♖xb8 ♖xb8 23.♙xh5+) 15.♗xb7 ♗b4 16.a3! (16.♗d6+?! ♙xd6 17.♖xd6 ♗xa2+ 18.♗b1 ♗b4 19.♙c5± Magnus Carlsen 2876 - Sanan Sjugirov 2662, chess24.com (Internet-m/7-b blitz) 2020) 16...♗d5 17.♙c5 ♙e7 18.♙d3 ♗f4 19.♖ge1 ♗xg2 20.♖xe5 ♗f4 21.♙c4 g5 22.b4 ♖b8 23.♙xe6 ♗xe6 24.♙xe7 ♗xe7 25.♗c5+-) 12.♖d3 ♗c6 13.a3 ♖d6 14.0-0-0 ♖d8 15.♖c3 ♖c7 16.♙c4 ♙xc4 17.♖xc4 ♖xd1+ 18.♖xd1 ♙e7 19.♖e2 g6 20.♗c5±

9. ♖f3



Another original move! After 6. ♖g1 White plays his queen to f3, with the idea of 10. ♙g5 and 11.0-0-0. 9...d5 The normal reaction! 10.exd5 ♗xd5 11.♙c4 ♙b4 12.♙d2 ♙xc3 13.♙xc3 ♗xc3 14.♙xe6 fxe6 15.♖xc3 ♗c6 16.♖d1 (Cristóbal Henríquez Villagra 2600 - Ivan Šarić 2646, chess.com (ol-rapid) 2020)

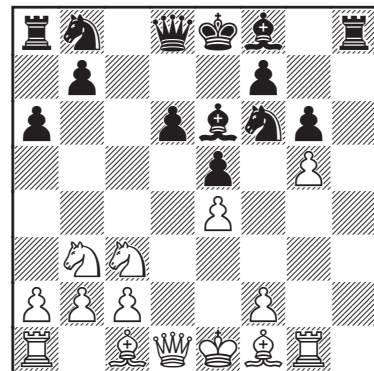


16...♖h4! 17.♖f3 e4 18.♖e3 0-0
 19.♗c5 ♗b4 20.♖d2 ♖ac8 21.♖xe4
 ♖f4! 22.♖xf4 ♖xf4 23.♗b3 ♗xc2+
 24.♗e2 ♗b4 25.a3 ♗d5=

9...hxg4 10.hxg4

White has eventually managed to play g4, but Black has the open h-file for his rook and the position is very promising.

10...g6 11.g5

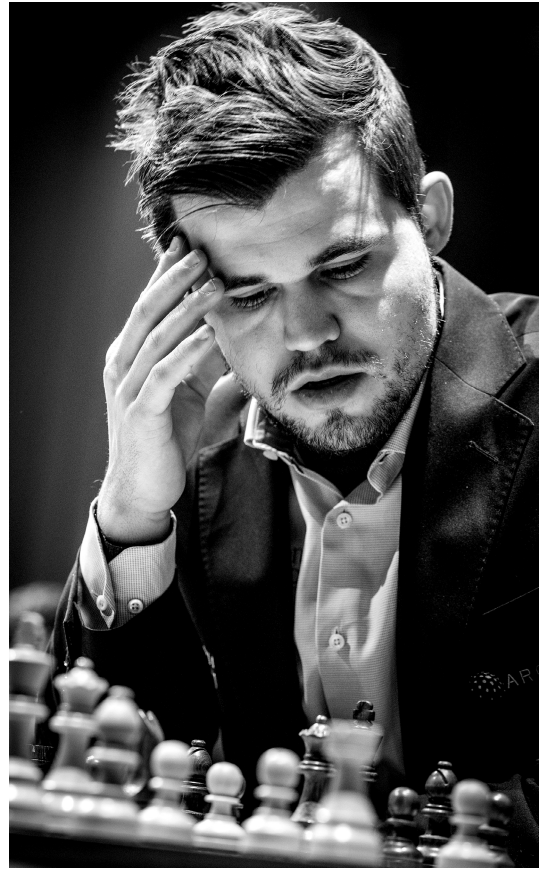
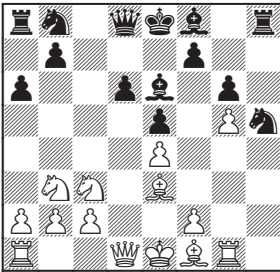


11...♟h5

11...♟f7!? Firouzja played an original move fueled by his exceptional talent. 12.♙e3 ♟c6 13.♚d2 b5 (13...♟a5?! This is too ambitious, but does not improve Black's position. 14.0-0-0 ♟xb3+ 15.axb3± ♚a5 16.♜b1 ♞c8 (Vincent Rothuis 2346 - Alireza Firouzja 2728, lichess.org (Internet-m/1-b blitz) 2020) 17.♙e2! ♚c7 18.♙g4 ♞h2 19.♚e2 b5 20.♟d5 ♚c6 21.♞d2 ♙g7 22.♞gd1+-) 14.0-0-0 ♟b6 15.♟d5 ♙xd5 16.exd5 ♟e7 17.f4 ♙g7 18.fxe5 ♙xe5 19.♙f4 ♙g7 20.♜b1 ♟c4 21.♙xc4 bxc4 22.♟a5 c3 23.♚e3±

12.♙d5

12.♙e3

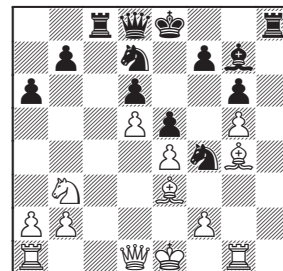
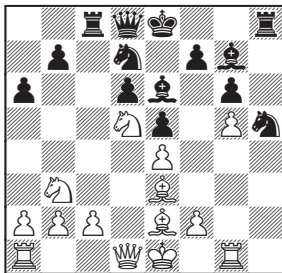


Magnus Carlsen

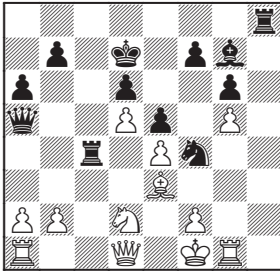
12...♟f4! (12...♟d7 13.♟d5 ♞c8 (13...♟f4 14.♟xf4 exf4 15.♙xf4 ♙g7 16.c3 ♞h4 17.♙e3 - 12.♟d5) 14.c3 (14.♙e2!? ♙g7

15.c4? A positional mistake that passes a small advantage to Black. It gives the g7-bishop new prospects to rule over the dark squares in case of capturing the knight on f4. 15...♟f4! (15...♙xd5?! 16.cxd5 ♟f4= 17.♞c1

(17.♙g4?

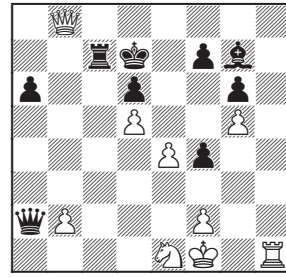


17...♖g2+! After this blow White's position becomes much worse right away. We should always beware of such possibilities when they occur, especially when the enemy king is not safe and can be an easy target. (17...♖c4? Returning the favour. Black has totally forgotten about the counterplay over the h-file. 18.♖c1? (18.♗d2 ♕a5 19.♖b3! It is important that Black was not given the possibility to transfer his other rook to the c-file and seize the advantage. (19.♕xd7+? ♖xd7 20.♔f1



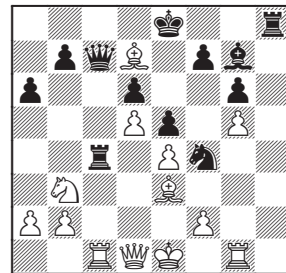
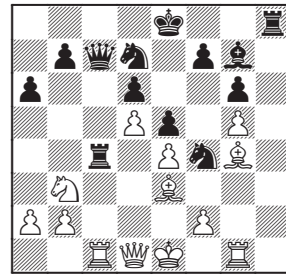
20...♖c7! This is a usual move, but the one that gives Black a slight advantage. This kind of situation can have a great impact on every player, and the standard question is what to do in moments like this?! The answer is, however, not at all easy, and cannot be given on general grounds. It lies in the essence of every chess player's assessment, rather than in the capacity of calculation ten or more moves ahead. A forced line can easily finish in a dead end if we miss something, especially when short of time. In this position, a calm 20...♖c7 keeps the pressure and gives us many possibilities of converting the advantage, while the opponent must endure an awkward defence. Needless to say that every wrong step ends up in the instant defeat. 21.♖b3 ♖hc8 This rook has nothing to do on the h-file so it is transferred here to create new threats. 22.♖e1 ♖c2 23.♖xb7+ ♖8c7 24.♖b8! Looking for some counterplay. 24...♖c1! Another way of giving White a hard time! 25.♕xf4 exf4 26.♗f3 ♖xe1+

27.♗xe1 ♕xa2 28.♖h1

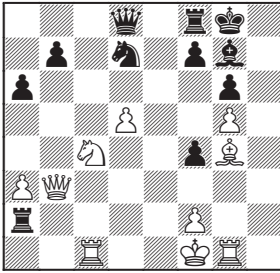
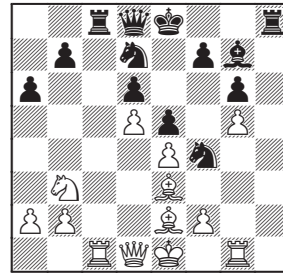


28...f3!! This is the icing on the cake! Black needs to force the opponent to take on f3 so that he can repel the counterplay that the enemy queen and rook would be able to generate. 29.♗xf3 (29.♖g8 ♖c4+ 30.♔g1 ♖e2 31.♖xf7+ ♔c8 32.♖xf3 ♖xe1+ 33.♔g2 ♖d2+) 29...♖xb2 30.♖xb2 ♕xb2 31.♔e2 a5+) 19...b5 20.♔f1 ♖c7=)

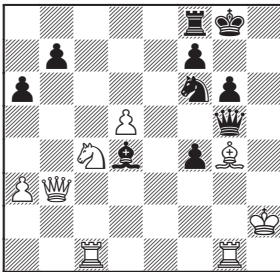
19.♔d2!! White's king was deprived of castling rights, but now he finds the best way to help his army. (19.♕xd7+?



19...♔xd7 ♠ Thomas Beerdsen 2459 - Bharadwaj Dhanush 2343, chess.com (Internet-blitz) 2017) 19...♖h2 20.♗xc4 ♜xc4 21.♞c2 ♞xc2+ 22.♔xc2 f5 23.exf5 gxf5 24.♙xf5 ♘xd5=) 19.♔f1 0-0 20.♘d2 ♖b4 21.a3 ♖xb2 22.♙c4 ♖b5 23.♙xf4 exf4 24.♙xd6 ♖b2 25.♙c4 ♖a2 26.♞b3

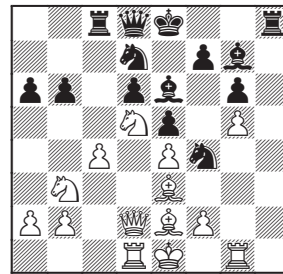


26...♖xf2+! 27.♔xf2 ♙d4+ 28.♔g2 ♞xg5 29.♔h2 ♘f6

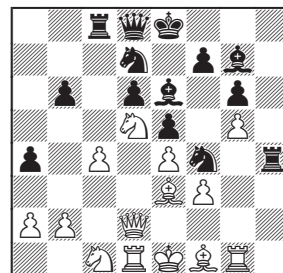


30.♙e6!! An extraordinary resource that helps White to stay in the game! 30...♞h5+ 31.♞h3 ♙xg1+ 32.♖xg1 fxe6 33.♞xh5 ♘xh5 34.♖xg6+ ♘g7 35.dxe6 ♔h7 36.e7 ♖e8 37.♖f6 ♖xe7 38.♖xf4 ♔g6∞ Black is a pawn up but I really doubt it could be transformed into a full point.) 18.♖xg2 ♖h1+ 19.♔e2 ♖xd1 20.♖xd1 ♖c2+ 21.♖d2 ♞c7 22.♖g1 ♖xd2+ 23.♙xd2 ♞c2 24.♙xd7+ ♔xd7+)

17...0-0! 18.♔f1 ♖e8 19.♖xc8 ♞xc8 20.♖g3 f5 21.gxf6 ♘xf6 22.♙xf4 exf4 23.♖xg6 ♔f7 24.♖g2 ♖h8 25.♖g1 ♞h3+ 26.♔e1 ♞h2 27.♖f1 ♘xe4 28.♘d2 ♘xd2 29.♞xd2 ♙e5 30.♞c2 ♔f6 31.♙f3 ♞h3 32.♖h1 ♞f5 33.♞xf5+ ♔xf5 34.♖xh8 ♙xh8 35.b3 ♙d4 36.♔e2 ♙c5=) 16.♞d2 It is hard to decide to capture this knight. The common sense tells us that the g7-bishop can turn into a beast if set free. 16...b6 17.♙xf4 (17.♖d1

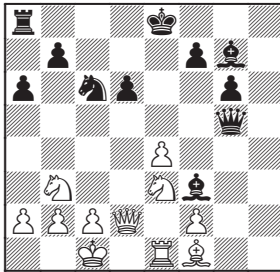
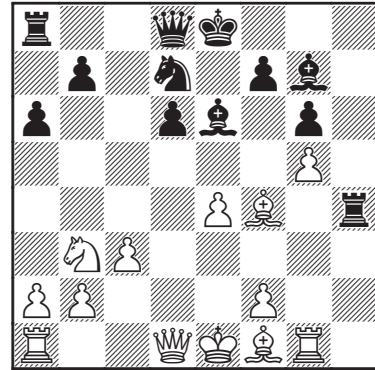


17...♖h4! Neither king was able to castle. However, the black monarch is much happier than his counterpart. 18.♙f1 a5 19.f3 a4 20.♙c1



20...b5(±) 17...exf4 18.♙xf4 ♙xc4
 19.♙xd6 ♖h4 20.f3 ♙xe2 21.♗xe2
 ♗e5 22.♙xe5 ♖xd2+ 23.♗xd2 ♙xe5
 24.♖h1 ♖xh1 25.♖xh1 ♗e7(∞) 14...♗f4
 15.♗xf4 exf4 16.♙xf4 ♗e5 17.♙e2
 ♙g7 18.♙e3 ♖e7 19.♖c2 ♖h4 20.0–0
 0–0 ♙c4 21.♗b1 ♖xe4 22.♗d2 ♙xe2
 23.♗xe4 ♙xd1 24.♖xd1 ♖c6 25.f4 ♗g4
 26.♙g1 ♗d8 27.♖d3 ♗c7 28.♗d2 ♖e6
 29.♗b3± White built a very promising position, while Black's pieces are just busy defending all the weaknesses in their camp.)
 13.♙xf4 exf4 14.♖d2 ♙g7 15.0–0–0
 ♖h4 16.♗d5 ♗c6 17.♗xf4 ♙g4 18.♗g2
 ♖h5 19.♖e1 ♙f3 20.♗e3 ♖xg5 21.♖xg5
 ♖xg5

14.♗xf4 exf4 15.♙xf4 ♙g7 16.c3 ♖h4



22.♗f5! The only move to keep a small edge. 22...♙f6 23.♗xd6+ ♗f8 24.♗xb7
 ♖b8 25.e5! ♗xe5 26.♗7c5 ♖d8
 27.♖xg5 ♙xg5+ 28.♗b1 a5 29.c3 ♗d7
 30.♗xd7+ ♖xd7 31.♗xa5 ♙d2 32.♙b5
 ♙xe1 33.♙xd7 ♙xf2 A very interesting position emerged. The bishop pair should be a good enough compensation for the pawn.
 34.♗c2 ♗e7 35.♙c6 ♙g4 36.a4 g5
 37.♗d3 ♙e6 38.♙g2 g4 39.♗c6+ ♗d6
 40.♗d4 ♙c8 41.b4 f5 42.a5 f4 43.♙e4
 f3 44.b5 ♙xd4 45.cxd4 f2 46.♗e2 g3
 47.♙g2 ♙d7 48.b6 ♙b5+ 49.♗f3 f1 ♖+
 50.♙xf1 ♙xf1 51.♗xg3 ♙a6 52.♗f4
 ♙b7 53.♗e3 ♗c6=

12...♗d7 13.♙e3 ♗f4!?

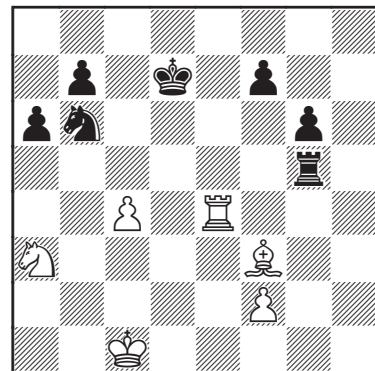
This pawn sacrifice will help Black to activate the dark-square bishop.

17.♙e3!

Now it is White's turn to give back the pawn in order to retain the advantage.

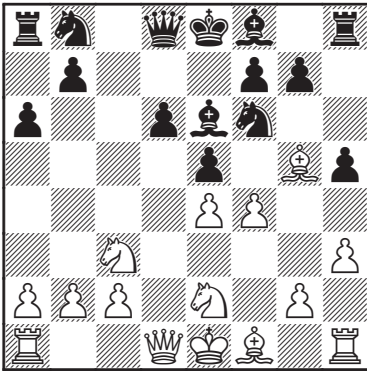
17.♖d2 ♙e5 18.♙e3 ♗c5 19.♗xc5
 dxc5 20.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 21.f3 ♙h2
 22.♖g2 ♙d6 23.♗f2 ♗e7 24.♖g1 ♖h8
 and Black has some compensation.

17...♖xe4 18.♖c2 ♖h4 19.0–0–0 ♖c7
 20.♗d4 ♙xa2 21.♗f3 ♖h5 22.♙f4 ♙e5
 23.♙xe5 dxe5 24.b3 ♖c8 25.c4 ♙xb3
 26.♖xb3 e4 27.♖e3 ♗c5 28.♗d2 ♖h4
 29.♙e2 ♖a5 30.♖h1 ♖a1+ 31.♗b1
 ♗a4 32.♖a3 ♖xa3+ 33.♗xa3 ♖xh1
 34.♖xh1 ♖c5 35.♙d1 ♗b6 36.♖h4
 ♖xg5 37.♖xe4+ ♗d7 38.♙f3±



6.h3... 9.f4

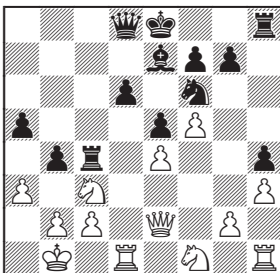
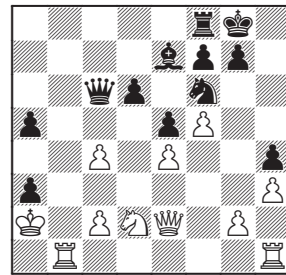
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4
 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.♗de2 h5
 8.♕g5 ♕e6 9.f4



19...♖xc3! This sacrifice is always in fashion when it comes to this type of positions. The most important thing for the Najdorf players is to realise that material disbalance has no negative meaning for Black, but the opposite. In many cases White loses his coordination and struggles for a draw, which is usually very hard to secure. 20.bxc3! 0–0! Another good option. Please remember that no attack or fight for the initiative can be carried out without the sufficient piece activity against the enemy king. 21.c4 (21.♗e3 ♗xe4 22.♗d5 ♗g3 23.♖g4 ♗xh1 24.♖xh1 bxc3 25.♖a1 ♕g5 26.♖b1 White is also trying to activate his pieces. 26...♖h7 27.♖b3 ♖h6 28.g3 ♖c8 29.♖xc3 ♖b7 30.♖e4 hxg3 31.♖xg3 ♖b8 32.♖b3 ♖a7 33.♖xb8 ♖xb8 34.♖a2 ♖b7) 21...bxa3 22.♖a2 ♖b6 23.♖b1 ♖c6 24.♗d2

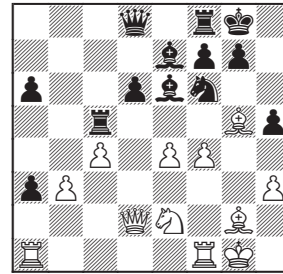
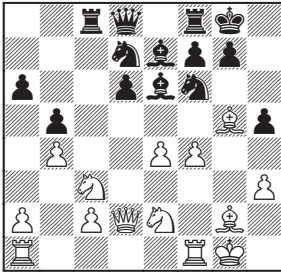
9...♗bd7 10.f5

10.♖d2 ♖c8 11.g3 (11.f5 ♕c4 12.0–0 ♕e7 13.♖b1 b5 14.♕xf6 ♗xf6 15.a3 a5 16.b3 (16.♗g3?! ♕xf1 (16...h4?! 17.♕xc4 ♖xc4 18.♗f1 (18.♗ge2 b4 19.axb4 axb4 20.♗d5 0–0 (Luca Rotolante 2010 - Hovhannes Grabuzyan 2557, chess.com (Internet-bltz) 2020) 21.♖d3 ♖c5 22.♖b3 ♖d7 23.c3 ♗xd5 24.♖xd5 ♖b5 25.♖e1 ♕g5) 18...b4 19.♖e2



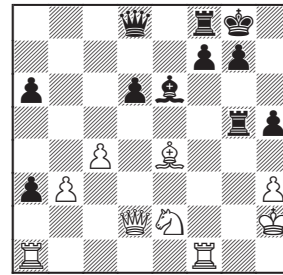
24...d5!! An instructive example with all the thematic blows included. After 19...♖xc3, it is time for 24...d5 and Black has overwhelmed his opponent getting a nice opening result. 25.♖b5 dxe4 26.♖hb1 ♕b4 27.♗f1 ♖d8 28.♗e3 ♖d2 29.♖f1 ♖d6) 17.♖hxf1 b4 18.axb4 h4 19.♗ge2 axb4 20.♗d5 ♗xd5 21.♖xd5 0–0 22.♗c1 ♖a8 23.f6 ♕xf6 24.♗b3 ♖a6) 16...♕xe2 17.♕xe2 b4 18.♕b5+ ♖f8∞) 11...b5 12.♕g2 ♕e7 13.0–0 0–0 14.a3 (14.b3?! Not a good strategic deci-

sion. The move is absolutely useless, as 15.f5 is not a real threat. 14...exf4 15.gxf4 b4 (15...♖c5!? 16.b4 ♗cd7

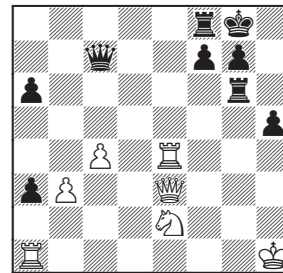


19...♗xe4! An interesting sacrifice! Black gains the initiative and also pressure against the enemy king, which is more than enough compensation. It is advisable to follow this path in positions like this. Our initiative flows very smoothly, while for the opponent it is very difficult to find unique defensive moves without making a mistake. 20.♗xe4 ♗xg5 21.fxg5 ♖xg5+ 22.♖h2

17.a4! The idea is to destabilise Black's queen-side. (17.♗d4 ♗b6 18.a4 (18.♗ce2?! ♗c4 19.♖d3 ♗h7 (19...d5 20.♗xf6 dxe4 21.♗xe7 exd3 22.♗xd8 dxe2 23.♖fe1 ♖cxd8 24.♗xe6 fxe6 25.♖xe2 ♖d6 Both sides have some weaknesses, however White must be precise to secure the equality. 26.♖ae1 ♖xf4 27.♖xe6 ♖f6 28.♖xf6 gxf6 29.♖e7 ♖f8 30.♖a7 ♖d1+ 31.♖f2 ♖d2+ 32.♖g1 ♗e3 33.♗f3 ♗xc2 34.♖xa6 ♖g7 35.♗xh5 ♗xb4 36.♖a7+ ♖h6 37.♗e8 ♗xa2 38.♗xb5=) 20.♗xe7 (20.♗xe6?! fxe6 21.♗xe7 (21.h4?! ♗f6 (Jan-Krzysztof Duda 2542 - Alexander Areschenko 2720, Warszawa 2013) 22.c3 ♖b6+ 23.♖h1 ♖e3 24.♖xe3 ♗xe3 25.♗h3 ♖ce8 26.♖g1 e5∞) 21...♖xe7 22.♗d4 ♖f6 23.♖h2 e5 24.♗f5 ♖c7 25.a4 exf4 26.axb5 axb5 27.♖xf4 g6 28.♖g3 ♗e5 29.♖d1 ♖cf8 30.♖ff1 h4 31.♗xh4 ♖xf1 32.♖xf1 ♖xf1 33.♗xf1 ♗f6 34.♖g2 ♖h7∞) 20...♖xe7 21.♗xe6 ♖xe6 22.♗d4 ♖f6 23.c3 ♗b2 24.♖d2 ♗a4 25.♖f3 ♖c4 26.♗f1 ♖c7∞) 18...d5 19.axb5 dxe4 20.♖ad1 axb5 21.♗xe4 ♗c4 22.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 23.♖f2 ♗xg5 24.fxg5 ♖c7∞) 17...bxa4 18.♗xa4 ♗b6 19.♗d4 ♗c4 20.♖f2 ♗d7 21.♗c3 ♖b6∞) 16.♗a4 ♗c5 17.♗xc5 ♖xc5 18.a3 bxa3 19.c4



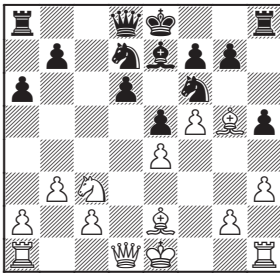
22...♗xh3! 23.♖f4 (23.♖xh3 ♖g4 24.♖e1 ♖xe4++) 23...d5! 24.♖xh3 (24.♗xd5 ♗e6 25.♗c3 ♖b8 26.♖h1 ♖g3 27.♗xe6 fxe6 28.♗d5 (28.♖xf8+ ♖xf8+) 28...♖e8 29.♖xa3 ♖e5 30.♖a5 exd5 31.♖xd5+ ♖xd5+ 32.♖xd5 g6∞) 24...♖c8+ 25.♖h2 dxe4 26.♖xe4 ♖g6 27.♖e3 ♖c7+ 28.♖h1



28... ♖c6! This is important. Black provokes the move 29. ♘d4 leaving no possibility for 29. (f4. 29... ♗b7 30. ♘f3 ♖g4 31. ♗e5 ♗g3 32. ♗d5 ♗c8 33. ♗xh5 ♗c6 34. ♗d5 ♗e6! 35. ♗xe6 fxe6 36. ♗d3 ♗xf3 37. ♗xf3 ♗xf3 38. ♗xa3 ♖f7 39. ♖g2 ♗c3 40. ♗xa6 ♗xb3 41. ♗a7+ ♖f6 and the endgame offers Black good winning chances.) 14... a5 15. ♗ac1 ♗e8 16. ♘d5 ♗xd5 17. exd5 ♗b6+ 18. ♖h2 ♘c5

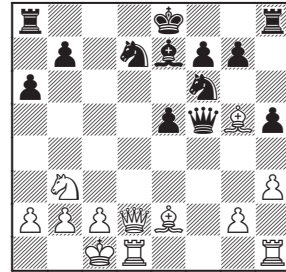
10... ♗c4 11. ♘g3

11. b3?! A weird decision. White puts all his pawns on light squares, and gives Black the possibility to achieve a decisive domination over the dark ones. 11... ♗xe2 12. ♗xe2 ♗a5 (12... ♗e7



13. 0-0! (13. ♗f3?! ♗c8 14. ♗xf6 (14. ♗d3 d5! 15. ♗xf6 ♘xf6 16. ♘xd5 ♘xd5 17. exd5 ♗a5+ 18. ♖f1 ♗c3 19. ♗e4 ♗c5) 14... ♘xf6 15. ♘d5 ♘xd5 16. ♗xd5 ♗xc2 17. 0-0 (17. ♗xb7? An error which is equal to capitulation. 17... ♗a5+-+ Zhang Pengxiang 2603 - Zhou Jianchao 2652, Hefei (rapid) 2010) 17... ♗b6+ 18. ♖h1 ♗g5 19. ♗fd1 ♖e7) 13... ♗c8 14. ♗xf6 ♘xf6 15. ♘d5 ♘xe4 16. ♗d3 ♘f6 17. ♗f3 0-0 18. a4 ♘xd5 19. ♗xd5 ♗f6 20. ♗ad1 b5 21. axb5 axb5 22. c4 bxc4 23. bxc4 ♗b6+ 24. ♖h1 h4 25. ♗f3) 13. ♗d2 ♗c8 14. ♘d5 ♗c5 15. b4 ♗xc2 16. ♗xc2 ♗xc2 17. ♗d3 ♗c8 18. ♘xf6+ ♘xf6 19. ♖e2 d5 20. ♗ac1 ♗xc1 21. ♗xc1 ♖d7 22. exd5 ♗d6 23. ♗g5 ♘xd5 24. b5

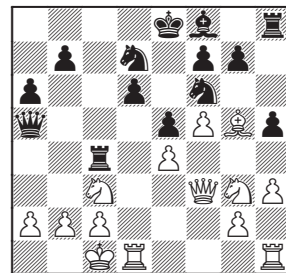
♗a3; 11. ♗d2 ♗a5 12. ♘c1 d5 13. exd5 ♗xd5 14. ♘xd5 ♗xd5 15. ♘b3 ♗e4+ 16. ♗e2 ♗xf5 17. 0-0-0 ♗e7



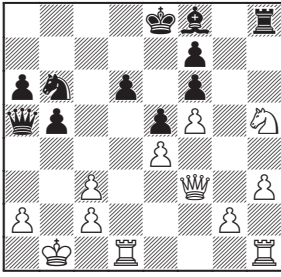
18. ♗g4! White definitely has some compensation and should take advantage of the enemy king still stuck in the centre while queen is exposed. 18... ♘xg4 19. ♗xe7 ♘f2 20. ♗hf1 ♗e6 21. ♗xf2 ♗xe7 22. ♗e2 0-0-0 23. ♗c3+ ♖b8 24. ♗ed2

11... ♗c8 12. ♗xc4 ♗xc4 13. ♗d3

13. ♗f3 ♗c7 (13... ♗a5 14. ♗d2 White has to avoid the exchange sacrifice on c3 by all means! (14. 0-0-0



14... ♗xc3! (14... b5 15. ♖b1 ♗xc3 16. bxc3 ♘b6 (16... h4 17. ♘e2 ♘b6 18. ♘c1 ♗a4 19. ♗f2 ♘fd7 20. ♘d3 ♗e7 21. f6 gxf6 22. ♗e3 ♘c4 23. ♗c1 ♗d8) 17. ♗xf6 gxf6 18. h4 (18. ♘xh5?



18...fxh5!+ (Mariya Muzychuk 2491 - Josif Dorfman 2580, Poděbrady 2013) 18...dxc4 19.g4 a3 20.f1 d2 21.f3 dxb1 22.fxb1 h6 23.c4 d3 24.cxd3 d2 25.dxe2 b4 26.a3 a5 27.axb4 dxb4=) 15.fxc3 fxc3 16.bxc3 h4 17.fxf6 dxf6 18.dxe2 dxe4 19.fhe1 dxc5 20.c4 h5 14...e7 15.dge2 c7 16.0-0-0 b5) 14.0-0-0 fxc3! White has to be always aware of this sacrifice. For both positional or tactical reasons, Black can often use this weapon. 15.bxc3 (15.fxc3? fxc3 16.bxc3 h4 17.dxe2 dxe4 Aryam Abreu Delgado 2470 - Sergio Barrientos Chavarriaga 2513, Cartagena 2012) 15... h4 16.f1 a5 17.fxf6 gxf6 18.dh2 xa2 19.dg4 h6+ 20.dhx6 fxh6

13...b5

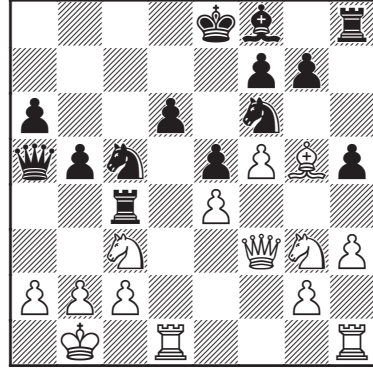
13...d4 14.f3 c7 15.0-0 c4 16.g1 h4 17.dge2 e7 18.fac1 b5 19.b3 c5 20.a3 1/2 : 1/2 Francisco Vallejo Pons 2696 - Josep Manuel López Martínez 2570, España (ch) 2009

14.0-0-0

14.a4 d4 15.f3 a5 16.dge2 b4 17.dxd4 bxc3 18.b4 fxb4 19.fxf6 (19.dxe2? dxe4 Nikita Matinian 2514 - Aleksandar Indić 2623, Batumi 2019) 19...dxf6 20.dxe2 dxe4 21.0-0 d5 22.f6 c5+ 23.g1 g6 24.f3 h6 25.a5 0-0 26.fxa6 f8 27.f3 e3

28.g2 d2 29.fxc3 dxf1+ 30.fxf1 f4+ 31.g1 b5!

14...dxc5 15.f3 a5 16.g1



16...fxc3! 17.bxc3 h4 18.dxe2 e7 19.fxf6 gxf6 20.fhg1 a3 21.g1 a4 22.c4 fxc4 23.d3 g8 24.g4 hxg3 25.fxg3 fxg3 26.fxg3 b4 27.d5 fxc2 28.fg8+ d7 29.f1 fe4 30.fxf7 d4+ 31.f2 d1+ 32.f1 d4+=

