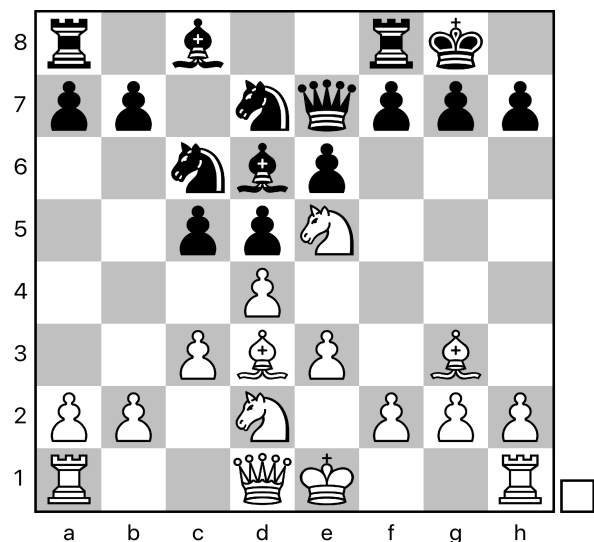


Kamsky, Gata 2714 - **Shankland, Samuel** 2616 1-0

Eastern Class Championships ("Caïssa"), Sturbridge, MA, 2014.03.16

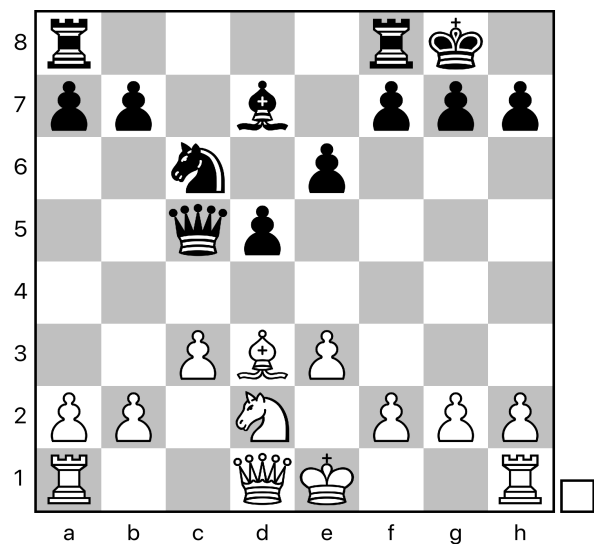
D02: Queen's Bishop game

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 e6 4.Nd2 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Ngf3 Bd6 7.Bg3 O-O 8.Bd3 Qe7 9.Ne5 Nd7

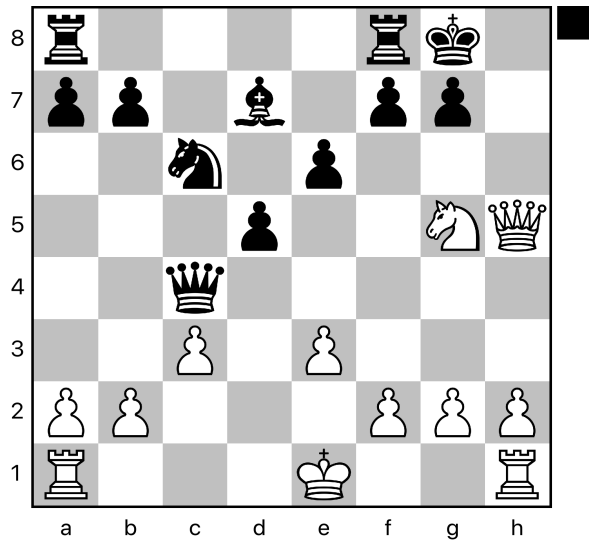


Only Kamsky knows this early in our story that Shankland has lost. Look closely at the position. It's there if you ask and maintain patience.

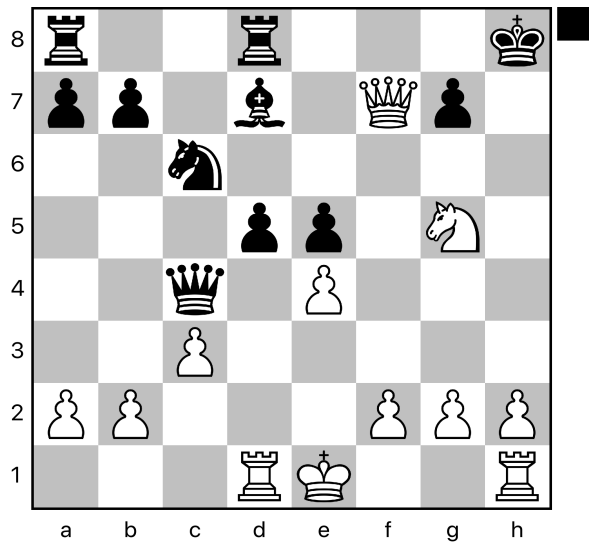
10.Nxd7 Bxd7 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.dxc5 Qxc5 It's time to dance!!



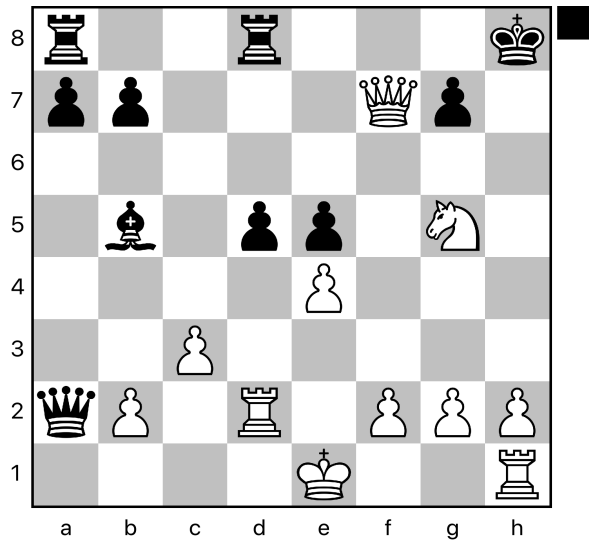
13.Bxh7+! "I fear the Greeks even [when they are] bringing gifts", Virgil's Aeneid II.49. Classical, extremely precise, sniped from a very long range. 13...Kxh7 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.Ne4!! The attack of the Knight on the Queen is protected by his own (ensuring safe passage over the enemy border under the cover of night and adding a subtle, but necessary tempo). 15...Qc4 16.Ng5



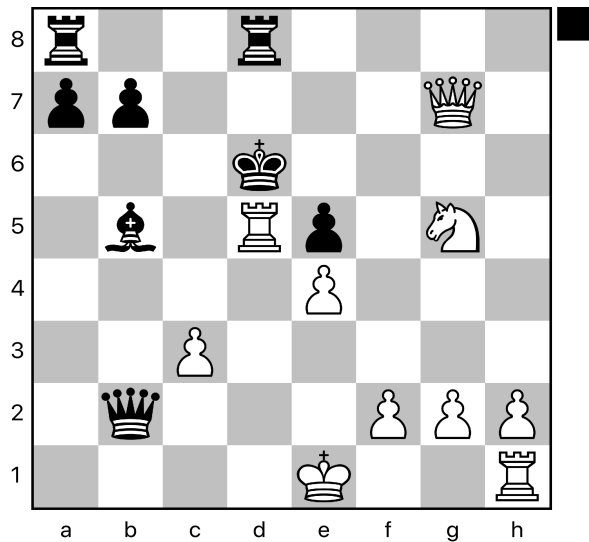
Threatening 17.Qh7+ and Shankland can only move the Rook to make room **16...Rfd8 17.Qxf7+ Kh8 18.Qh5+ Kg8 19.Rd1! e5 20.Qf7+ Kh8 21.e4!**



Notice, here, if you will, how Gata asks Shankland's own precious pawn to hide him from his Queen (and protect her long, lost sister from Gata's wrath). As well played as ever I've seen. **21...Ne7 22.Qxe7 Bb5 23.Rd2 Qxa2 24.Qf7**



... and now the stage has been set for the final act in this play, the slow march of the prisoner through the streets to the site of his public execution in the center square. 24...Qa1+ 25.Rd1 Qxb2 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Qh8+ Ke7 29.Qxg7+ Kd6 "Close your eyes. That may make it easier." 30.Rxd5+!



The Honorable Grandmaster Gata has performed the most elegant of games. ::lowers curtain:: 30...Kc6 31.Qf6+ "Shall we take a moment and agree that this Picasso of an sketch we've just observed is perhaps the most beautiful game of chess ever played? .. and a Modern London System masterpiece that has loud echos from the Romantic era. The legacy of Anderssen and Morphy is strong. We have not forgotten." D.Edmonds 2018 1-0