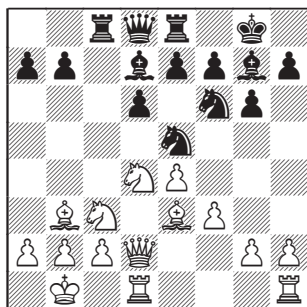


Chapter 20 **1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cd 4.♘xd4 ♘f6**
5.♗c3 g6 6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 0–0 8.♚d2
♗c6 9.♙c4♙d7 10.♙b3 ♚c8 11.0–0–0
♗e5 12.♗b1 ♚e8

Presently, this move is at least as popular as 12...♗c4 and it focuses the attention of most of the Dragon players, including some of the best in the world. White must play very precisely in order to obtain the advantage.



13.h4

I will remind you once again that the move 13.g4?! is premature, because after 13...b5 Black seizes the initiative and he has excellent practical results.

13...h5

13...♗c4 14.♙xc4 ♚xc4 15.g4 – see 12...♗c4.

It is too slow for Black to play 13...a6?! 14.g4 b5, Hug – Kirschner, Baden 2001, 15.h5 b4

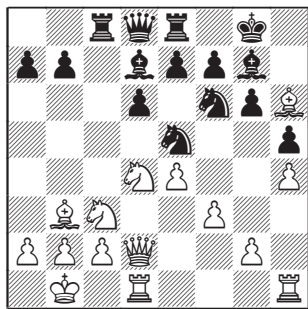
16.♗ce2 ♗c4 (Black should avoid 16...a5 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.♙h6 ♙h8, because of White's thematic response 19.♙f8! ♚xf8 20.♚xh8+ ♗xh8 21.♚h6+ ♗g8 22.♚h1 ♗h5 23.♗f4+- and he wins.) 17.♙xc4 ♚xc4 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.♙h6± and Black can hardly solve his problems.

If he plays 13...a5 and only after 14.a4, he chooses 14...h5, then White can continue with 15.♗db5, having in mind that he can counter 15...♗c4?! 16.♙xc4 ♚xc4, Djukic – Simic, Vrnjacka Banja 2006, with 17.e5! dxe5 18.♙g5+-

Black plays sometimes 13...♚a5 and later 14.g4 b5 (About 14...♗c4 15.♙xc4 ♚xc4 – see 12...♗c4; it would be insufficient for Black to try here 14...♚xc3 15.♚xc3 ♚xc3 16.bxc3 ♚c8 17.♗b2± Calzetta – Vila, Pamplona 2002, or 14...h5, Atri Sangari – Briffel, Moscow 1994, 15.g5 ♗h7 16.f4 ♗c4 17.♙xc4 ♚xc4 18.♚d3±, followed by f4-f5.) 15.h5 ♗c4 (The other possibility for Black is 15...b4 16.♗ce2 ♗c4 17.♙xc4 ♚xc4 18.♗b3±) 16.♙xc4 bxc4. The b-file has been opened indeed, but Black cannot exploit

this effectively: 17.hxg6 fxg6 (It is too risky for Black to opt for 17...hxg6 18. ♕h6 ♕h8 19. ♖h2 ♜b8 20. ♕d2! – and here after 20... ♠h5, White has the powerful resource 21. ♠cb5 ♖b6 22.gxh5±, while in case of 20... ♕g7, then 21. ♠d5±) 18. ♠de2!? (This is a quite typical redeployment of White's light pieces, he frees the d4-square for his bishop.) 18... ♜b8 19. ♕d4 ♜b7 (19... ♖a3, Guenther – Habibi, Bad Ragaz 1994, 20.b3±) 20.g5 ♠h5 (Black is not out of the woods after 20...e5 21. ♕e3±) 21. ♕xg7 ♠xg7 22.b3 ♠e6 23.f4± – Black's king is vulnerable and White is well prepared to exploit this.

14. ♕h6



Black must make his choice now. His basic alternatives are **a) 14... ♕h8**, **b) 14... ♖a5** and **c) 14... ♠c4**.

White obtains the advantage much easier after the other moves for Black.

In case of 14... ♕xh6 15. ♖xh6, it is not good for Black to opt for 15... ♜xc3 16.bxc3 a5, in view of

17.f4 ♠fg4 18. ♖g5 a4 19.fxe5 axb3 20.axb3 and White is clearly better in all the lines: 20... ♠f2 21. ♜df1 ♠xh1 (21... ♠xe4 22. ♖f4+-) 22.e6 ♕xe6 23. ♠xe6 ♖c8 24. ♠f4+-; 20... ♠xe5 21. ♗b2±; 20... dxe5 21. ♠f3 ♖a5 22. ♗b2± Timoshenko – Uribe Arteaga, Lorca 2007. In the game Der Weide – Sebe-Vodislav, La Fere 2004, Black tried 15...a5 immediately, but even then it is good for White to play 16.f4. After 16... ♠fg4?! White can continue quite effectively with 17. ♕xf7+! ♠xf7 18. ♖xg6+ ♠f8 19.e5 e6 20. ♠e4! (This is an important resource, since this knight is headed for the g5-square.) 20... dxe5 (20...d5 21. ♠g5+-) 21. ♠g5! ♠xg5 22.hxg5 (The h-file has been opened and White's threats have become impossible to parry.) 22...exd4 (22... ♖e7 23. ♖xh5 ♖g7 24. ♠b3 ♠f2 25. ♜xd7 ♖xd7 26. ♖h8+ ♠e7 27. ♖f6+ ♠d6 28. ♖xe5+-) 23. ♜xh5 ♖c7 (23... ♕c6 24.f5+-; 23... ♕a4 24. ♖h8+ ♠e7 25. ♖g7+ ♠d6 26. ♜xd4+ ♠c6 27. ♜xd8+-) 24. ♜xd4 ♠e7 (24... ♖xc2+ 25. ♖xc2 ♜xc2 26. ♜xd7+-) 25. ♖h7+ ♠d8 26.c3+- White's position is winning. It would be more resilient for Black to defend with 16... ♠c4 17.f5 ♠g4 18. ♖f4±, but even then his opponent's advantage would be obvious.

If 14... ♜c5, then 15. ♕xg7 ♠xg7, Czaeczine – Schoene, Willingen 2003, 16.f4 ♠eg4 (In case of 16... ♠c4, White follows with 17. ♕xc4 ♜xc4 18.e5 ♠g4 19. ♜he1±, while