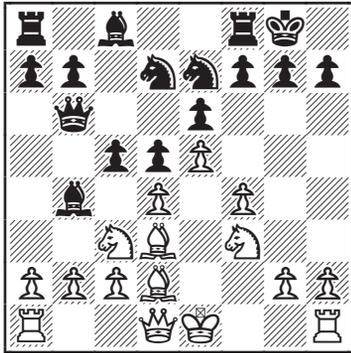


Exercise 12

(Rudolf – Goutioudi, 2001)

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2
Ne7 6.f4 Nd7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Bd3 Qb6**



Is Black Safe? **Yes**

Commentary

Sometimes White plays f4 against the French, which cuts off the communication of the Bishop to g5 and h6. Truth be told, most of the time Black is still in hot water, but the attacks can take more work. However, sometimes White doesn't have an attack at all. You have to be particularly careful when Black's Queen has flown away and White's King is still in the center, as in this position.

Black's 8th move was particularly useful in this game, as it covers the vulnerable e6-square and removes the Queen from danger. Still, it is worth knowing that when White has played f4, Black can put up dogged resistance

even when his Queen remains on d8 by playing ...f5, blocking up the K-side. For example, imagine Black had played 8... Nb6 instead of 8...Qb6, then 9.Bxh7+ gives White an advantage, but he still has to work for his win after 9...Kxh7 10.Ng5+ Kg6 11.Qg4 f5! 12.Qg3 Qe8.

Analysis, Variations, and Notes

9.Bxh7+ Kxh7 10.Ng5+ Kg6 11.dxc5

11.h4?! (threatening h5+) has no teeth since Black can perch safely on h6, shielded by the pawn on f4. 11...cxd4! leaves Black well ahead;

11.Qg4 f6 12.Nxe6+ Kf7 13.Qxg7+ (13.Nxf8 Kxf8 is no better; as we will see later, this early cash-in is seldom good for White) 13...Kxe6 14.dxc5 (14.g4?! cxd4 15.f5+ Kxf5!, and White cannot punish the King's temerity: 16.Bf4+ Kxf4 17.0-0+ Ke5 18.Rae1+ Kd6 19.Qxe7+ Kc7) 14...Qd8! 15.g4 fxe5 16.f5+ Nxf5 17.Qg6+ Nf6 18.gxf5+ Kd7

11...Bxc5 12.Na4

12.Qg4 f6 13.Nxe6+ Kf7 and Black is safe.

12...Bf2+ 13.Kf1 Qc6 14.Kxf2 f6

15.exf6 Nxf6

Black has plenty of compensation.

Game Continuation

**9.Bxh7+ Kh8 10.Bd3 Nf5 11.Bxf5 exf5
12.Nxd5 Bxd2+ 13.Nxd2 Qxb2 14.Qh5+
[1-0]**