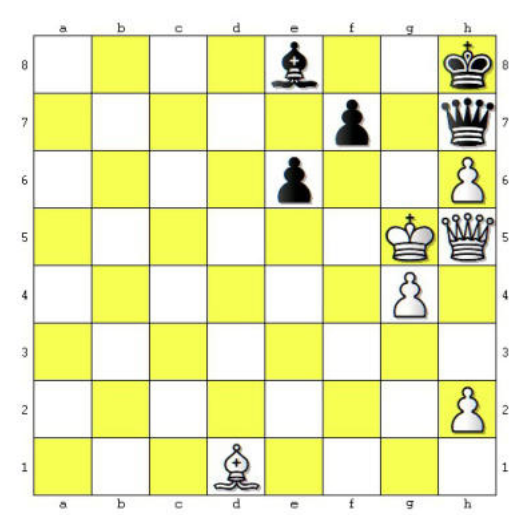




Martin Minski

White to move and win

7th Commendation

A lovely little example of paradox.

Everything about this study is summarized in the phrase chosen by the Author himself to underline the point of the study:

"The Pawn is better than the Queen!"

Light weight and short solution, but I feel this work has personality and deserves a distinction. And in this specific case, the comment was as important as the study itself, in my evaluation.

A fun fact: 3. Kf4 is apparently winning, so in first instance one could call "major dual!", as I effectively did. But then I told myself: "Wait! Think a moment. You are surely missing something". And then, after a few seconds of reflection, all was clear: that move is only drawish! 3. ... Bxh5 {!} 4. gxh5 and draw because of tripled pawns on H file with the wrong-squared Bishop.

Never trust too much the engines – I will never say this enough times!

Solution: 1. Kf4!

(1. Kh4? Qe4! =) (1. Kf6? Qd3! =)

1. ... Qe4+!

(1. ... Qd3 2. Qe5+! +-)

2. Kxe4 f5+ 3. Qxf5!

(Logical Try 3. gxf5? exf5! [3. ... Bxh5? 4. f6! Bd1 5. f7! +-] 4. Qxf5 Bg6! 5. Qxg6 stalemate!)

3. ... exf5+ 4. gxf5

(4. Kxf5? Bd7+! 5. Kf6 Bxg4! =)

4. ... Bd7

(4. ... Bg6 5. fxg6! No stalemate +-)

5. f6 1-0