

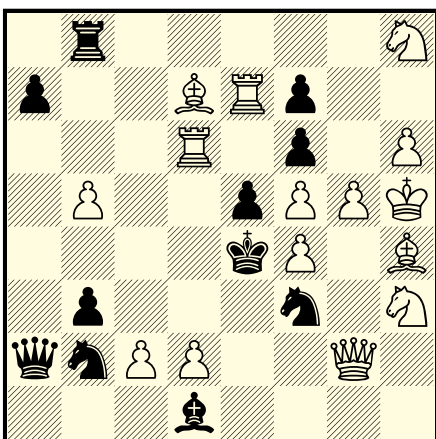
2019-2021 WCCI entries – selfmates

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All problems appeared during 2019-2021 period at:
<https://sites.google.com/view/mihailoswebsite/mihailos-chess-composition>

1

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9th FIDE World Cup 2021
2.place – Silver Medal



s#5[✓]... C⁺ 15 + 11

Solution:

1. c3! ~ 2.Qe2+ Bxe2 3.Rd4 Sxd4#
1...Qa4(a) 2.Sf2+(A) Kxf4 3.Sh3+(C) Ke4 4.Bc6+ Kxf5 5.Qg4 Qxg4#
1...Bc2(b) 2.Bc6+(B) Kxf5 3.Bd7+(D) Ke4 4.Sf2+ Kxf4 5.Sg6 fxc6/Bxc6#
1...Sc4(c) 2.Sf2+(A) Kxf4 3.Sd3+(E) Ke4 4.Sc5+ Kf4 5.Qh2 Sxh2#
1...fxg5(d) 2.Bc6+(B) Kxf5 3.Be4+(F) Kxe4 4.Rd4+ Kf5 5.Qxg5 Sxg5#
1...Be2(e) 2.Rxe5+ fxe5 3.Qxf3+ Kxf3 4.Bc6+ e4 5.Bxe4 Kxe4#

Logical tries – 1.Sf2+/Bc6+ switchback maneuvers (checking on f3-f5 line *fails*):

- 1.Sf2+(A)? Kxf4 2.Sh3+(C) Ke4 3.Bc6+ Kxf5 4.Qf3+ Bxf3# but 5.Bxf3?
1.Bc6+(B)? Kxf5 2.Bd7+(D) Ke4 3.fxe5 ~ 4.Bf5+ Kxf5 5.Qxf3+ Bxf3# but 3...Sd3(f)!

Logical tries – 1.Sf2+/Bc6+ continued attack maneuvers (activation of B/S battery *fails*):

- 1.Sf2+(A)? Kxf4 2.Sd3+(E) Ke4 3.Sc5+ Kf4 4.Qh2+ Sxh2#
2...Sxd3(f)! 3.Rd4+ e4 4.Qh2 Sxh2#
3...Sxd4 4.Qg4+ Bxc4#
3...exd4! 4.Qh2+ Sxh2# but 5.Re2?
1.Bc6+(B)? Kxf5 2.Be4+(F) Kxe4 3.Qe2+ Kxf5 4.Qxe5+ fxe5 5.Rxe5+ Sxe5# but 3...Bxe2(e)!

By-play try:

- 1.fxe5? ~ 2. Qe2+ Bxe2 3.exf6 Se5#
1...bxc2(g) 2.Sf2+(A)(Bc6+(B)?) Kf4 3.Sd3+(E) Ke4 4.Sc5+ Kf4 5.Qh2 Sxh2#
3...Sxd3 4.Rd4+ Sxd4+ 5.Qg4 Bxc4#
1...Sd3(f) 2.Bc6+(B)(Sf2+(A)?) Kxf5 3.Be4+(F) Kxe4 4.cxd3+ Kf5 5.Qxf3 Bxf3#
1...Qa4(a) 2.Bc6+(B) Kxf5 3.Qg4+ Qxg4#
1...fxg5(d) 2.Sxg5+ Kxf4 3.Rd4+ Sxd4 4..Qxg4 Bxc4#
1...Be2(e) 2.Bc6+ Kxf5 3.Be4+/Bd7+
1...Re8 2.exf6+ Rxe7 3.Qg4+ Ke5 4.Qd4 Sxd4#
But 1...Rxb5!

Comment: An *Adabashev* combination with two pairs of variants, logical tries (that correspond to the *Adabashev* variants), and a by-play try 1.fxe5? with changed and transferred play.

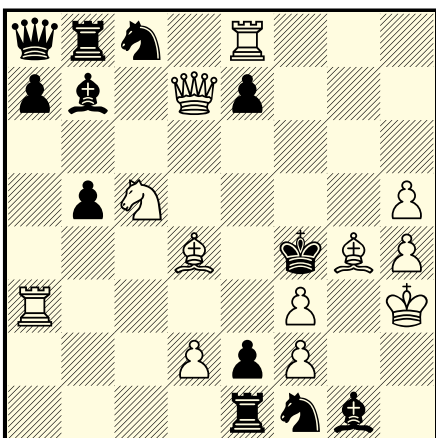
A brief summary:

- **First Adabashev pair – switchback attacks by Bd7 and Sh2:** after 1...Qa4(a) and 1...Bc2(b), White continues with switchback attacks by Be7 and Sh2 that enable reciprocal white pawns f4/f5 annihilations and line clearances

→ Continued on the next page

- **Second Adabashev pair** – **continued attacks by Bd7 and Sh2**: after 1...Sc4(**c**) and 1...fxg5(**d**), White via continued attacks by Be7 and Sh2 activates Bd1/Sf3 battery
- The **first** pair of the **logical tries** (switchback attack) – the strategy is to clear f3-f5 line so that the white queen can check on f3 (this failing "line clearing for **white** queen" strategy is replaced in the post key play by the contrasting but succeeding one – "line clearing for **black** queen/bishop")
- The **second** pair of the **logical tries** (continued attack) – the goal is the same as in the second Adabashev pair; namely, White aims to activate B/S battery by utilizing continued attacks by Bd7 and Sh2 followed by successive checking by R/Q or Q/R
- By-play try 1.fxe5? brings a different play with some *changed* (after 1...Qa4(**a**) and 1...fxg5(**d**)) and reciprocally dual-avoiding *transferred* continuations (after 1...bxc2(**g**) and 1...Sd3(**f**)).

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s#6*

C+ 12 + 12

Set play:

1...Bxf3(e) 2.Se6+ Ke4 3.Bf5+ Kxf5 4.Sc5+
4...Kf4 5.Qg4+ Bxg4#
4...e6 5.Rxf3+ Qxf3#.

Solution:

1.Bf5! ~ 2.Sd3+ Kxf3 3.Sxe1+ Kf4 4.Sg2 Bxg2#

1...Ba6(Bb~)(a) **2.Sd3+** Kxf3 3.Be4+
3...Kxe4 **4.Sc5+** Kf4 5.Qf5+ Kxf5 6.Rf3 Qxf3#
3...Qxe4 4.Qxg4 Qxg4#

1...Be4(b)! **2.Se6+** Kxf5 3.fxe4+
3...Kxe4 **4.Sc5+** Kf4 5.Qf5+ Kxf5 6.Rf3 Qxf3#
3...Qxe4 4.Sg7+ Kf4 5.Rf3+ Kxf3 6.Qg4 Qxg4#

1...Se3(c) **2.Be3+** Ke5 **3.Bd4+** Kf4 4.Sd3+ Kxf3 5.Sxe1+ Kf4 6.Sg2 Bxg2#

1...e6(d) **2.Se6+** Kxf5 **3.Sc5+** Kf4 4.Sd3+ Kxf3 5.Sxe1+ Kf4 6.Sg2 Bxg2#

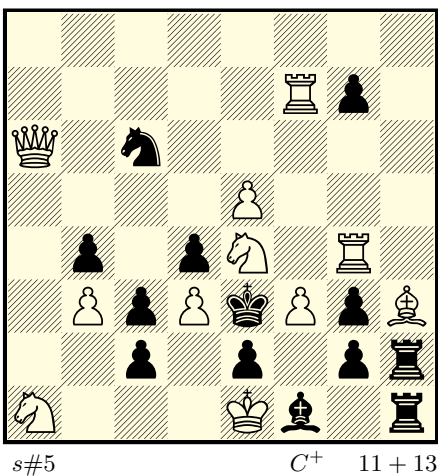
1...Bxf3(e)! 2.Se6+ Kxf5 3.Sc5+
3...Kf4 4.Qg4+ Bxg4#
3...e6 4.Rxf3+ Qxf3#

Comment: An *Adabashev* with two pairs of variants, one with the *switchback* and the other with the *delayed switchback* battery creations and play. Black B/Q *Bristol* and White B/Q *anti-Bristol* combined with *corrective play by Bb7* and black defenses on two main white queen/rook battery lines. *Direct/indirect* battery play and complete *diagonal/lateral* harmony between both pairs of main thematic variants.

A brief summary:

- 1...Ba6(a) and 1...Be4(b)!, *delayed switchback* lateral/diagonal battery creation and *indirect battery play*; **2.Sd3+** → **4.Sc5+** after 1...Ba6, and **2.Se6+** → **4.Sc5+** after 1...Be4!
- 1...Se3(c) and 1...e6(d), *switchback* masked lateral/diagonal battery creation and *direct battery play*; **2.Bxe3+** → **3.Bd4+** after 1...Se3 and **2.Se6+** → **3.Sc5+** after 1...e6
- A convenient bonus addition is the change from the *delayed switchback* **2.Se6+** → **4.Sc5+** after 1...Bxf3(e) in the set play to the immediate *switchback* **2.Se6+** → **3.Sc5+** after 1...Bxf3(e)! in the actual play
- *Reciprocal passive/active Bf5/Pf3 sacrifices* in two main variants after Bb7 random and corrective play; each of them is either passively sacrificed through the black king's capturing or actively via the black king's/queen's capturing after checks on e4.

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Try:

1.Qa2(C)? ~ 2.Qxc2 ~ 3.Qxd2 cxd2# but 1...c1S(d)!

Solution:

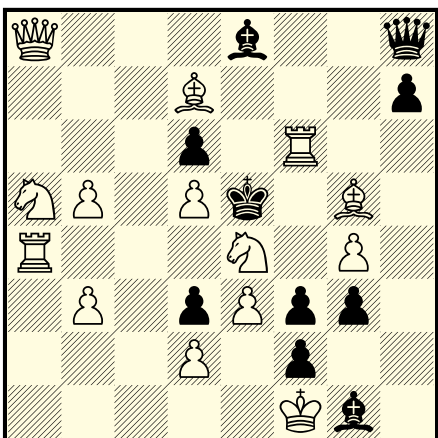
1. Sd6! ~(Sc~) 2.Sc4+ Kxd3 3.Sc~+ Ke3 4.Qxe2 Bxe2#
 1...Sb8(a)! 2.Sc4+ Kxd3 3.Sb2+!(Sc~+?) Ke3 4.Qxe2 Bxe2#
 1...g1Q(g1~)(b) 2.Qa2(C) ~ 3.Qxc2 ~ 4.Qd2 cxd2#
 2...Sd8/Sa5/Sxe5 3.Sxc2+ Kxd3 4.Sxb4+ Ke3 4.Qd2 cxd2#
 1...g1S(c)! 2.Sf5+(A) Kxf3 3.Sd6+ Ke3 4.Sc4+(B) Kxd3 5.Rf3 Sxf3#
 1...c1S(d) 2.Sc4+(B) Kxd3 3.Sd6+ Ke3 4.Sf5+(A) Kxf3 5.Qd3 Sxd3#
 1...Sa5(e)!! 2.Sf5+(Sc4+?) Kxf3 3.Sxg7+ Ke3 4.Qh6+ Kxd3 4.Qd2 cxd2#
 1...Sxe5(f)!!! 2.Sc4+(Sf5+?) Sxc4 3.Qe6+ Se5 4.Qxe5+ Kxd3 4.Qxe2 Bxe2#

Comment: An *Adabashev* with *three pairs* of variants.

A brief summary:

- **First Adabashev pair** – clearing queen lines to enable checking the black king on e3: after 1...Sb8(a)! and 1...g1Q(g1~)(b) 2.Qa2 Sd8, white Sd6 and Sa1 maneuver to enable opening the diagonal/lateral queen lines (a5-e2/a2-d2) and checking the king on e3 from the second rank (e2/d2)
- **Second Adabashev pair** – utilizing S-underpromotions on c1 and g1: after 1...g1S(c)! and 1...c1S(d), reciprocal battery creation zigzag switchback by Sd6 to enable white pawns f3/d3 annihilations
- **Third Adabashev pair** – queen maneuvering to check the black king on d3: after 1...Sa5(e)!! and 1...Sxe5(f)!!!, white Sd6 completes opening the passage on the fifth rank so that the white queen via long lateral/diagonal maneuvers (that cross the black king's original e3 square) can arrive on the second rank (d2/e2) to check the king on d3
- **Three levels of correction by Sc6:** first 1...Sb8(a)! clears the 3.Sc~+ in the threat and transforms it to a more precise 3.Sb2+; then 1...Sa5(e)!! opens the fifth rank for queen maneuver and ultimate arrival on the second rank via crossing the black king's original e3 square; finally, 1...Sxe5(f)!!! enables similar queen maneuver by annihilating the pawn on e5
- **Promotional corrections on g1 and two S-underpromotions on c1 and g1;** overall, 6 black thematic defenses – 3 corrective moves by Sc6 and 3 promotions
- **Remark:** After 1...Sxe5!!! 2.Sc4+(Sf5+?) Black can also play 2...Kxd3 which would be followed by a tiny dual 3.Sb2+/Se5+ Ke3 4.Qxe2 Bxe2#; however this **does not defend the threat; moreover, it repeats the threat!**; the real effect 1...Sxe5!!! has in defending the threat is if after 1...Sxe5!!! 2.Sc4+(Sf5+?) Black plays 2...Sxc4! which is exactly the last variant specified in the solution.

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Google Sites 2021 (version)



s#5*✓... C+ 14 + 10

Set play:

- 1...Qg8(c) 2.Sc6+(A) Kxd5 3.Sb4+(B) Ke5 4.Qd5+ Qxd5 5.Sxd3 Qxd3#
 1...Bxd7(d) 2.Sc4+(C) Kxe4 3.Sb2+(D) Ke5 4.Rf5+ Bxf5 5.Sxd3 Bxd3#
 1...Qxf6(e) 2.Sc6+(A) Kxd5 3.Rd4+ Qxd4 4.Sb4+(B) Ke5 5.Sxd3 Qxd3#
 2.Sc4+(C) Kxe4 3.Bf5+ Qxf5 4.Sb2+(D) Ke5 5.Sxd3 Qxd3#

Logical tries:

- 1.Sc6+(A)? Kxd5 2.Rf5+ Qe5 3.Rxe5+ dxe5 4.Qxe8(Bxe8?) ~ 5.Bh6 g2# but ...Bh2? can't be neutralized
 1.Sc4+(C)? Kxe4 2.Re6+ Qe5 3.Rxe5+ dxe5 4.Bxe8(Qxe8?) ~ 5.Bh6 g2# but ...Bh2? can't be neutralized

Thematic tries (*white corrections* refuted by black thematic defenses):

- 1.Rf~(Rh6(G))? (~ 2.Sc6+) but 1...Bxd7(d)!
 1.Rf7!? (~ 2.Sc6+) but 1...Qg8(c)!
 1.Rf4(E)!!? (~ 2.Sc6+)
 1...Qf8(b) 2.Rf5+(F) Qxf5 3.Sc4+(C) Kxe4 4.Sb2+(D) Ke5 5.Sxd3 Qxd3#
 but 1...Bxd7(d)!

Solution:

1. Rf8!! ~ (Qg7(a)) 2.Sc6+(A) Kxd5 3.Rd4+ Qxd4 4.Sb4+(B) Ke5 5.Sxd3 Qxd3#
 1...Qxf8(b) 2.Sc4+(C) Kxe4 3.Bf5+ Qxf5 4.Sb2+(D) Ke5 5.Sxd3 Qxd3#
 1...Qg8(c) 2.Sc6+(A) Kxd5 3.Sb4+(B) Ke5 4.Qd5+ Qxd5 5.Sxd3 Qxd3#
 1...Bxd7(d) 2.Sc4+(C) Kxe4 3.Sb2+(D)
 3...Ke5 4.Rf5+(F) Bxf5 5.Sxd3 Bxd3#
 3...Qd4 4.Rf4+(E) Ke5 5.Sxd3 Qxd3#
 (1...Q~! but no empty square for the queen!)

Technical/conceptual try (*threat reversal fails* due to long diagonal move 2...Qa1+):

- 1.Sc6+(A)? Kxd5 2.Rh6(G)!!? (~ 3.Rd4+ Qxd4 4.Sb4+ Ke5 5.Sxd3 Qxd3#)
 2...Qf8(b) 3.Rd6+(H) Qxd6 4.Sb4+ Ke5 5.Sxd3 Qxd3#
 but 2...Qa1#! 3.Rxa1?

Comment: An *Adabashev* with *two pairs* of variants with *Siers* and *delayed Siers* batteries. Rf6's *corrective play* creates thematic tries refuted by black thematic defenses 1...Qg8(c)! and 1...Bxd7(d)! on which the mates are provided in the set play. *Transfer* of white continuations after 1...Qxf6(e) from set to actual play, *Zagoruiko 3x1* after Qf8(b), and a *transformation* from *logical* black force annihilation stalemate-zugzwang tries 1.Sc6+(A)? and 1.Sc4+(C)? to *modern* battery creations in the actual play.

A brief summary:

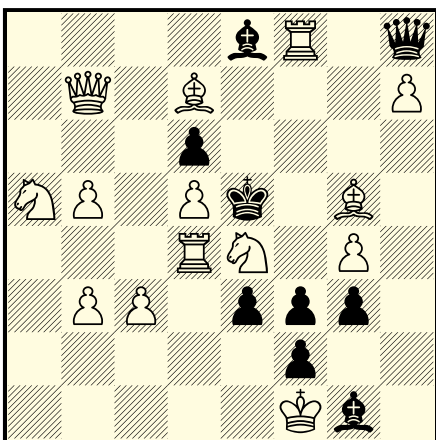
- **First Adabashev pair – delayed Siers Q/S and R/S batteries:** the threat and the play after 1...Qxf8(b) rely on forming diagonal/lateral batteries that enable rook and bishop sacrifices to ultimately bring the black queen to d3

→ Continued on the next page

- **Second Adabashev pair – Siers Q/S and R/S batteries:** the plays after 1...Qg8(**c**) and 1...Bxd7(**d**) rely on forming diagonal/lateral batteries that enable annihilations of Pd5 and Se4 so that the black queen and bishop can travel via these squares (after white queen and rook sacrifices on d5 and f5) to reach d3
- The white continuations after 1...Qxf6(**e**) provided in the set play are *transferred* and split between the threat and thematic variant that follows 1...Qxf8(**b**) in the post key play
- **Corrective** play by Rf6 – the three thematic tries after random and corrective play by Rf6 are refuted by black thematic defenses; the key is another corrective move by Rf6
- **De-correction** after 1.Rf4!!? – random move by Rf6 is refuted by 1...Bxd7(**d**)! as the rook can't play on f5 anymore; since 1.Rf4!!? ensures that the rook stays on the f-file, this weakness is corrected; however, the rook from f4 introduces a new weakness by guarding e4 and it effectively *de-corrects* as well (guarding e4 prevents 2.Sc4+(**C**)?? and the continuation provided on 1...Bxd7(**d**) in the set play)
- **Analogous** 1.Sc6+(**A**)? and 1.Sc4+(**C**)? stalemate-zugzwang black force annihilation tries can't ultimately neutralize Bh2!
- **Zagoruiko 3x1** after ...Qf8(**b**) and a *cycle of white moves* (**F/C/D**) after 1...Qxf8(**b**) in try 1.Rf4(**E**)! and (**C/D/F**) in the post key play after 1...Bxd7(**d**)
- **Threat reversal** 1.Sc6+(**C**)?/2.Rh6(**G**) fails after long move from one to the other end of the main diagonal 2...Qa1+!

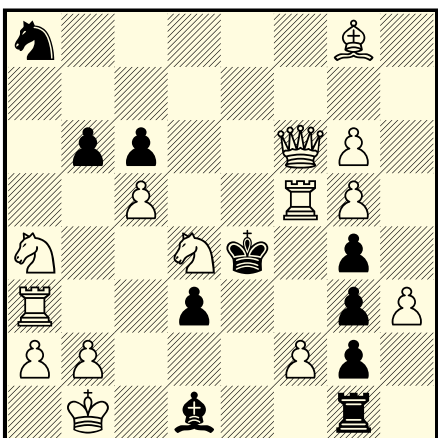
Initially I had chosen the position in the diagram below. Two of its features seemed quite appealing: 1) it doesn't have any of the thematic continuations/mates set prior to the key; and 2) it has a nice critical Umnov switchback try and a corresponding anticritical solution. Despite its charm I eventually had to arrive to understanding that the problem on the previous page is incomparably better,

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- Logical try:**
1.Rxe8+? Qxe8 2.Bxe8 Bh2 3.Qf7 (h7Q+??/h7R?) Bg1 4.Qh5 Bh2 5.Qh2 e2# (g2?? the pawn is pinned) but 5...gxh2!
- Thematic try:**
1.Rb4? but 1...Qg8! (2.Sc6+ Kxd5 3.Sb4+?? Ke5 4.Qd5+ Qxd5 5.Sd3 Qxd3#)
- Solution:**
1. Ra4! ~ 2.Sc6+(**A**) Kxd5 3.Rd4+ Qxd4 4.Sb4+(**B**) Ke5 5.Sd3 Qxd3#
1...Qxf8 2.Sc4+(**C**) Kxe4 3.Bf5+ Qxf5 4.Sb2+(**D**) Ke5 5.Sd3 Qxd3#
1...Qg8 2.Sc6+(**A**) Kxd5 3.Sb4+(**B**) Ke5 4.Qd5+ Qxd5 5.Sd3 Qxd3#
1...Bxd7 2.Sc4+(**C**) Kxe4 3.Sb2+(**D**)
3...Ke5 4.Rf5+ Bxf5 5.Sd3 Bxd3#
3...Qd4 4.Rf4+ Ke5 5.Sd3 Qxd3#
(1...Qxh7 2.Sc4+ Kxe4 3.Sb2+ Ke5 5.Sd3 Qxd3#)

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Logical tries:

- 1.Qxc6+(**A**) Kxd4 2.Qa4+(**B**)?? Bxa4#
1.Qe6+(**C**) Kxd4 2.Qxg4+(**D**)?? Bxg4#

Solution:

1. Qd6! ~ 2.Qxg3 ~ 3.Qxg4+ Bxg4#
2... d2(**a**) 3.Ka1 ~ 4.Qxg4+ Bxg4#
1...d2(**a**) 2.Sc3+ Kd3 **3.Se4+!(Sc~?)** Kxe4 4.Qxc6+(**A**) Kxd4 5.Qa4+(**B**) Bxa4#
1...R~(Rf1)(**b**) 2.Re5+ Kf4 **3.Rd5+!(Re~?)** Ke4 4.Qe6+(**C**) Kf4 5.Qxg4+(**D**) Bxg4#
1...Re1(**c**)! 2.Qe6+ Kxd4 3.Rxd3+(**E**) Kxd3(**e**) 4.Qc4+ Kd2 5.Qc2+ Bxc2#
1...gxf2(**d**) 2.Rf4+ Ke3 3.Qe5+ Kd2 4.Rxd3+(**E**) Kxd3(**e**) 5.Qe2+ Bxe2#

Corrective Q/R battery tries:

- 1.Re5+ Kxd4 2.Re~5+??(Rd5+?/Rf5+?) Ke4 3.Qf5+ Kd4 4.Qxg4 Bxg4# (*rook has no empty square!*)
1.g6?? ~ 2.Re5+ Kxd4 3.Rg5+ Ke4 4.Rxg4 Bxg4#
1.cb6? ~ 2.Re5+ Kxd4 3.Ra/b5+!?(Re~5+??) Ke4 4.Qf5+ Kd4 5.Qxg4 Bxg4# but 1...c5!

Comment: An *Adabashev* with *two pairs* of variants.

A brief summary:

- **First Adabashev pair** – **battery creations to enable activation of logical tries:** after 1...d2(**a**) and 1...R~(**b**) White creates analogous diagonal/lateral batteries to clear the paths for activation of the play from logical tries
- **Second Adabashev pair** – **Rook sacrifices on d3 to enable the black king's arrival and ultimate checking from the second rank:** the plays after 1...Re1(**c**)! and 1...gxf2(**d**) rely on the sacrificial annihilation of Pd3 by Ra3 to enable the black king's arrival on d3 and ultimately queen maneuvering and checking from the second rank
- **Logical tries fail** as the passages for the white queen are not cleared (the variants from the first Adabashev pair clear them through creation and play of R/S and Q/R batteries)
- **Corrective dual-avoidances**, **3.Se4+!(Sc~?)** and **3.Rd5+!(Re~?)**, when opening by Sc3 and Re5 the white R/S and Q/R batteries in the first Adabashev pair
- **Corrective play** 1...Re1(**c**)! by Rg1
- Corrective Q/R battery play in by-play tries
- Short but quiet threat extended after 1...d2 by another quiet move 2.Ka1 (1...Sc7 even extends the threat to a full 5-move length with three quiet white moves but it also introduces a dual in one of the side variants and for that reason such an extension isn't emphasized).