

# TWO YEARS WITHOUT DAVID BRONSTEIN

By IM Nikolay Minev

Almost two years have now passed that the chess world is without grandmaster David Bronstein (1924-2006). I enjoyed the privilege of playing with him twice, and also spoke with him on three other occasions. He was the most fascinating chess personality that I ever met. I know many of his games and studied them profoundly in my earlier years. Most of them are stored forever in my memory.

Such as the following example, which includes a unique and surprising move with a pawn.

Caro-Kann B16

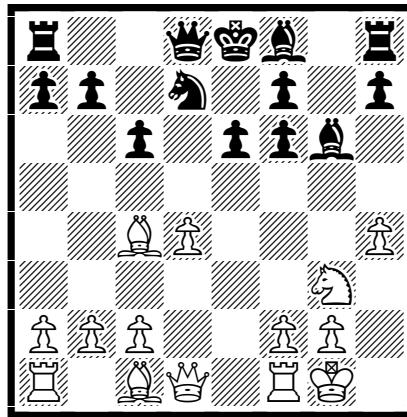
**K. Aseev**

**David Bronstein**

USSR 1982

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ gxf6 6.Bc4 Bf5 7.Ne2 Nd7 8.Ng3 Bg6 9.O-O e6 10.h4?**

This move is a bad idea after short castling!



**10...f5!!**

One of Bronstein's fantastic tactical ideas! This is not a surprise, this is a shock!

**11.h5 Qh4 12.Qf3**

After 12.hxg6 hxg6 13.Re1 f4 14.Bxf4 Qxf4. Black regains the sacrificed piece, still maintaining his strong attack.

**12...Bd6 13.hxg6 hxg6 14.Re1 Bxg3 0-1**

For if 15.fxg3 Qxd4+ and 16.,,Qxc4.

(Note: this game and notes are excerpted from my recent book, David Bronstein: Fifty Great Short Games. The book is available on the internet – search for ISBN 978-0-9661889-2-9 or visit [thechesslibrary.com](http://thechesslibrary.com) or [lulu.com](http://lulu.com)).

Bronstein's priceless heritage is not only in his performances over the board, but also in his annotations. Believe me, you will learn and understand many important things about our beloved game after reading the following quotations from his works.

### **Bronstein teaches YOU!**

**“No one has ever been able to study chess in its entirety, not even the World Champions, but everybody can play and receive a lot of enjoyment from it.”**

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**“From my own experience, I have learned that in a complicated middlegame position, when pawns and pieces are engaged in battle, it is often wise to sacrifice a Rook for an enemy Bishop.”**

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**“The dimensions of a chessboard are not large. Space is a very relative notion. You can play on a pocket chess or on a demonstration board, but in either case you will have no more than 64 squares at your disposal. It goes without saying, that if you want to win the battle, you will need to control as much space as possible. To achieve this it is logical to use far-reaching pieces such as Bishops.”**

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**“A big advantage in space can often change into a decisive attack, if the sacrifice of a piece succeeds in creating mobile pawns.”**

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**“If a chess player plays his Rook's pawn up one square too early after having castled, there is always the danger that this pawn will be attacked.”**

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**“When evaluating a chess position, the first thing we should look at is the position of the Kings. In closed positions they can wait to castle, but if the positions appear to be open, then it is better for them to go into their hide-out as quickly as possible.”**

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**“What is a combination in the game of chess? There are many opinions and nobody has a uniform answer. Sometimes I think that a combination consists of a - not too long - series of moves with material sacrifices which contend a high element of risk. But if there is a risk, why a string of moves considered to be forced? Because it only appears to be forced, but in reality a combination contains many possibilities which are almost impossible to see while playing a tense game and which are, during subsequent analysis in a more relaxed atmosphere, still difficult to find.”**

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**“Without mistakes, chess is not interesting. Routine games can be played by computers, but human mistakes create very unusual situations and it is always a challenge to find a way out of trouble.”**

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**“As far as I have observed from thousands of games, if both white and black Rooks are still in quiet positions on a1 and a8, the Rook that centralizes first usually helps to decide the battle.”**

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**“Avoid minor mistakes! Most often he loses who makes the first minor mistake, because it signifies the beginning of an incorrect strategically plan.”**

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**“For the chess player the most difficult moment in his work is playing in time trouble. And so for the chess player it is vitally necessary to practice almost every day at playing fast.”**

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**“It is a well known fact that during a practical game, players often do not check variations entirely but just trust each other.”**

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**“Independence of thought is a most valuable quality in a chess player, both at the board and when preparing for a game.”**

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**“Not every sacrifice wins immediately. But the fact remains that the person sacrificing feels spiritually uplifted, his emotions are clearly positive ones, whilst the person forced to accept a sacrifice is invariably upset, if even only slightly.”**

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**“The most powerful weapon in chess is to have the next move!”**

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**“The Queen and Knight, in the opinion of many specialists, work together considerably more effectively than do a Queen and Bishop. What is the reason for this fact? The Queen and Knight supplement each other’s actions, whereas the Queen and Bishop often duplicate each other’s work by creating excessive strength down a diagonal, whilst lacking striking power in other directions.”**

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**“It is my style to take my opponent and myself onto unknown grounds. A game of chess is not an examination of knowledge, it is a battle of nerves.”**

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**“Generally, it makes sense to sacrifice a pawn, sometimes even a piece, in order to keep the enemy King in the center and assail it with Rooks and Queen.”**

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**“The prime consideration in one’s choice of an opening plan should be the harmonious development of the pieces, but sometimes we forget about the development of the Queen. Since the Queen is, after all, the most important and the most valuable of the pieces, the success of the whole piece configuration may depend on how well the Queen plays its part.”**

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**“ A chessmaster’s skill lies not only so much in perceiving the correct plan as in carrying it out with exact and sometimes “only” moves.”**

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**“One general rule of chess strategy holds that a target point should be surrounded or isolated before it is attacked.”**

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**“The most precise knowledge of opening theory can not guarantee one against over the board surprises. Therefore, a grandmaster will frequently avoid the “best” continuation in favor of his own, whether accepted by theory or not.”**

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**“The King’s Indian is a greater risk for Black, than the King’s Gambit for White.”**

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**“Open files are important when they contain targets, or when they serve as avenues of communications for the transfer of pieces, usually Rooks, to the main theater of action.”**

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