

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROJECT

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## *Narration of a Sporting Event*

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**Gautam Krishnan**

**Class 12**

The man in black began. With his conventional serving posture – bent back, feet wide apart, eyes on the ping pong and head as still as a swift, stealthy snake – he tossed the ball into the air, his eyes never leaving the orb, and sliced it with the disguised, classic pendulum serve.

While this complex, never changing action was carried out by the man in black, the man in red, his opponent and countryman, stood in his trademark deportment – bent back and knees, feet apart and focus like that of a leopard on an antelope.

The ball spun under the traction caused by the black rubbery face of the racket of the black attired sportsman, and just about brushed over the top of the nylon net, the height of which accounted for the bisection of a foot. It went straight to the forehand of the left handed, red clothed athlete. Any amateur would have been deceived by its celerity, but the receiver was too seasoned not to expect its pirouette.

As the rally developed to a brisk pace after a couple of shots, it also ended as quickly with the inceptive receiver's shot missing the edge of the table by barely a couple of inches.

As these kinds of energetic and exhilarating rallies continued, the man in black, referred to as the "Dictator of table tennis", proceeded to show his domination and true "dictatorship" in the first game of the match, boasting a score of eleven-seven in his favour.

In the next game, Xu Xin, also called the "Cloudwalker" for his jaw-dropping shots, raised the level of his game to defeat Ma Long, the Dictator.

In this game, Xu Xin started with his classic forehand chop serve. Over the course of the ensuing rallies, Xu Xin used the advantage of the "Pen Hold Grip" to overpower Ma Long's traditional "Shake Hand Grip". The Pen Hold Grip allowed him to swing the ball laterally, in addition to the topspin that made it bounce and loop more.

In the second game, at a score of three-four (in Xu Xin's favour, time – 3:22), Ma Long executed his world class action - the serve with its unchanging posture. The ball reached Xu Xin's forehand side, but he returned it with his backhand. It landed on the short side of Ma Long's forehand. Ma Long lunged

and converted the “push” to topspin. It went to the other side of the table. Xu Xin returned the ball with a forehand block, and therefore effectively controlled the heavy topspin. The ball went to an uneasy spot on Ma Long’s deep backhand corner. However, he skilfully curved the ball to the far side of Cloudwalker’s forehand. He was forced to make a big leap. He curved the ball to the Dictator’s backhand. Now, in this situation, Ma Long had the upper hand. He swiftly directed the ball to Xu Xin’s backhand. Due to the quick movement of the ball and the limitations of the Pen Hold Grip, Xu Xin was forced to lob the ball to the other side of the table. This gave Ma Long a huge advantage. He became aggressive and returned the ball to Xu Xin’s side with a combination of topspin and power.

The ball reached the Cloudwalker’s far forehand corner. He leaped and counter looped Ma Long’s spiny return from about three metres behind the table. Ma Long still returned aggressively and Xu Xin copied. However, the ball hit Xu Xin’s finger and he lost the point.

The duration of this spectacular rally was just fourteen seconds, yet the number of shots exchanged between the players was eighteen. Ma Long, the aggressor, maintained his position at just about a metre from the table, while Xu Xin, the defender in this rally, was constantly mobile at about three metres behind the table.

After that point, Xu Xin augmented the level of his game. Ma Long, unable to keep up with the Cloudwalker’s invigorated approach, lost the game at a score of eleven-six.

The third, fourth and fifth games proceeded in a similar fashion. Xu Xin vanquished any hopes of the Dictator’s win. He proved to be too formidable for the Dictator.

The third game ended at a score of eleven-nine (in Xu Xin’s favour), the fourth at eleven seven (in Xu Xin’s favour), and the final and fifth game ended at a score of eleven-eight (also in Xu Xin’s favour).

The match ended there, when Xu Xin, the Cloudwalker and Pen Hold legend, defeated Ma Long, the Dictator and arguably the greatest of all times, at the 2019 ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) Korea Open Final.

Xu Xin and Ma Long are professional Chinese table tennis players. They were ranked world number three and five respectively when this event took place in 2019 July.

They happen to be my two favourite players. Ma Long's characteristic play style and Xu Xin's unforgettable tricks make them stand out. Ma Long and Xu Xin will always be remembered for their extraordinary skills and sportsmanship.

Note: The link for the described match is given below. It is an edited version of the full match.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8L\\_T-yqbwdI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8L_T-yqbwdI)