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¹ This isn't really related to the main theme of this article, but note the correct move here, bar/22 10/5, where white says – "Of course this is far from enjoyable, but at least I'll do something constructive".

How to play the 5? 13/8 doesn't really improve anything and the blot is still there, while 10/5 aims at creating a very valuable point that would greatly improve white's cohesion.

Sometimes it's better to sit still, hold tight and hope for better days – which often do appear at the horizon, even though we still can't perceive them out of our gloomy state...

In backgammon as in life, when faced with tough conditions it's sometimes just about making it through another turn without getting cubed. When in doubt, ask yourself this question – after each of the plays I'm considering, how far is my opponent from cubing me?

This way of thinking would have led white to play 13/6, clasp her hands under the table and pray. It was the right decision.

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