

Read Gourmet of Another World

Chapter 61: If You Eat Too Many Oyster Pancakes... You Will Accumulate Internal Heat

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"Do you know who I am ordering takeout for?" Lian Fu did not expect Bu Fang would reject his request once more and was slightly furious.

"Do you know that His Majesty wishes to savor your dishes? This is your greatest honor!"

Bu Fang was frowning as he looked toward the haughty Lian Fu in displeasure. He had already clearly stated that the store did not provide takeout service. Why was the eunuch unable to understand?

"Tell me, how much money do I need to pay before I can order takeout? Just say the price," Lian Fu snorted and said, while pinching his thumb and middle finger together. He was exasperated by Bu Fang's unwavering attitude as well.

"Do you still not understand what I am saying?" Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at him. He did not feel like paying any further attention to the eunuch anymore. He returned to the kitchen and came back with the last dish.

The golden Oyster Pancakes were wrapped in large bamboo leaves that concealed its aroma.

"This is the last dish, the Oyster Pancake. This is permitted for takeout. You can bring this back and let the emperor eat this," Bu Fang passed the Oyster Pancake to Lian Fu and simply said.

Lian Fu went into a daze as he subconsciously received the Oyster Pancakes. He glanced at the Oyster Pancake wrapped in bamboo leaves. Even though the smell was fragrant... compared to the sumptuous Fish Head Tofu Soup, the Oyster Pancake seemed a little shabby.

He ate so many delicious dishes and only brought a serving of this shabby Oyster Pancake back... Would His Majesty scold him when he returned?

"Little cook... can't you make an exception for me? Not even if I fork out a hundred crystals?" Lian Fu bit his lips as he resentfully looked at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang's entire body shuddered. Lian Fu's gaze was causing goosebumps to appear all over his body. Bu Fang ducked his head and turned around. He immediately returned to the kitchen and completely ignored the Chief Eunuch Lian Fu.

Lian Fu watched as Bu Fang left. He sighed as he gloomily looked at the Oyster Pancake in his hands. Finally, he could only grudgingly leave.

After seeing off Lian Fu, Ouyang Xiaoyi excitedly ran toward Bu Fang.

"Smelly boss, give me a serving of Oyster Pancake!" Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly shouted.

"Hmm? Are you going to eat it now?" Bu Fang was startled as he puzzledly asked. Didn't Xiaoyi mention that she wanted to bring it back with her so that she could let her parents have a taste?

Ouyang Xiaoyi swallowed her saliva and said with a grin, "I can't bear it any longer. I'll have a taste for them first."

Even though Bu Fang knew that she was feeling gluttonous, he did not expose her and only told her to wait.

After a while, two servings of Oyster Pancakes were ready to be eaten.

He handed one serving to Xiaoyi and took the other serving for himself. The two of them comfortably pulled a chair to the entrance and ate the Oyster Pancakes.

Tearing off the bamboo leaves, Ouyang Xiaoyi impatiently took a bite of the Oyster Pancake. A crisp sound rang out. As she bit down on the crispy crust of the Oyster Pancake, the juice of the radishes flowed into her mouth.

A rich fragrance was exuding from the Oyster Pancakes and had enveloped her surroundings. She had an enraptured expression on her face as she continued to eat the Oyster Pancake with her head lowered.

The two of them were curled up on the chairs as they ate the Oyster Pancakes. The fragrance was slowly spreading and was lingering within the alleyway,

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"Your Majesty, this is the food your humble servant brought back from the black-hearted store, the Oyster Pancake." Lian Fu was carrying a silver plate with numerous exquisite patterns carved on its surface.

Two hemispherical golden Oyster Pancakes were placed on the silver plate and were still exuding a slight warmth as a faint aroma hovered above it.

The Emperor Ji Changfeng stroked his beard as he puzzledly looked at Lian Fu and asked, "Xiao Fu, didn't I tell you to bring back all of the dishes? Why did you only bring back such a tiny thing?"

The appearance of the Oyster Pancake was indeed terrible. It looked like a type of food that commoners would eat.

When Lian Fu heard the emperor's words, his heart trembled and he immediately complained with a long face, "Your Majesty, there's something you don't know. The owner of that black-hearted store said that all the other dishes are not permitted for takeouts. Only this Oyster Pancake is allowed for takeouts."

"Oh? Then you've tasted the other dishes?" Ji Changfeng indifferently asked as he gave Lian Fu a sidelong glance.

"Hmm, the taste was excellent, especially that Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs..." Lian Fu was about to describe Bu Fang's dishes when he felt the emperor's incomprehensible gaze. His heart suddenly trembled as he took a step back and bowed, "Uh, Your Majesty, it's my mistake!"

"Looks like the culinary skills of that store's owner should be pretty good. Otherwise, you wouldn't be praising him so highly. Then, I'll give this... Oyster Pancake a taste," Ji Changfeng said.

Lian Fu was immediately overjoyed that the emperor did not blame him and hurriedly straightened his back. He offered up the silver plate to Ji Changfeng and took out a small silver dagger which he used to slice one of the Oyster Pancakes in half after pulling back his baggy sleeves.

A rich fragrance was instantly released as the Oyster Pancake, that previously had a weaker aroma, was sliced open. It was like an aromatic bomb was stepped on.

A white juice seeped out from the opening and covered half of the plate.

Ji Changfeng's eyes immediately lit up as he smelled the Oyster Pancake's aroma. He exclaimed in surprise, "The smell is fragrant but not pungent, it's mellow but lingers in the air. Good!"

Lian Fu was extremely surprised as well. He did not think that the unassuming Oyster Pancake would be so fragrant. With such a rich fragrance, the taste should be quite good as well.

Ji Changfeng reached out his hand and picked up one of the Oyster Pancake that was sliced open. He looked at the plump Oyster Pancake and promptly took a bite. The flavor of the oyster was unreservedly released in his mouth. It instantly rushed into his nasal cavities and caused all of the pores on his body to widen.

The crispy crust that was perfectly deep fried combined with the tenderness of the shredded radish created an unprecedented texture. Ji Chengfeng could only give praise.

"Delicious! What an excellent Oyster Pancake!"

Lian Fu swallowed his saliva and was joyous as well. He thought, "Your Majesty, I am just glad that you're happy. I am only afraid that I would be in trouble if you weren't..."

After that half of the Oyster Pancake was eaten, Ji Changfeng could not help but lick his lips as he wiped off the oil stains on his beard. He picked up the other half of the Oyster Pancake and finished it within a short while.

After eating both Oyster Pancakes, Ji Changfeng happily breathed out with a satisfied expression.

"It's been a while since I've had such a comfortable meal. This black-hearted store has some ability after all. I am suddenly curious about the other dishes."

"Your Majesty, that store doesn't permit takeout... Your Majesty would need to personally visit the store in order to eat the other dishes." Lian Fu was feeling slightly indignant.

"So what if I have to personally visit? With such delicious dishes, it's worth it for me to personally go there. Besides, isn't there a wine better than the Bejewelled Nectar Wine in that store? I've always yearned for good wine. Xiao Fu, go and make preparations. I'll personally go there tomorrow."

"Oh my, Your Majesty?! There's no need for Your Majesty to personally visit such a store. Your humble servant will go back tomorrow and make sure to bring all the dishes back." Lian Fu was feeling slightly anxious. With the emperor's condition, how could he let him personally go there?

Ji Changfeng indifferently glanced at Lian Fu and said, "Xiao Fu, if I could visit Immortal Phoenix Restaurant for the sake of a Roasted Flower Duck, why can't I enter this store for delicious food? Remember, we're going incognito, tomorrow."

Lian Fu felt helpless. He made up his mind to secretly arrange for the imperial physicians to be at the ready, aside from other arrangements. He would still be able to react, in case something happened.

At the same moment, in Fang Fang's Little Store, Ouyang Xiaoyi was looking at Bu Fang in a pitiful manner after finishing the two Oyster Pancakes.

"Smelly boss, just give Xiaoyi another serving. Xiaoyi isn't satisfied yet."

Her large eyes were blinking in a lovely, touching manner that would give anyone a strong urge to protect her.

Bu Fang glanced at her and simply said, "No, if you eat too much Oyster Pancakes... you'll accumulate internal heat[1]."

[1] accumulate internal heat - In Traditional Chinese Medicine(TCM), food is categorized into heaty, neutral, and cooling and it is believed that illnesses are caused by consuming an imbalance diet. When someone is suffering from certain ailments(e.g. Having a sore throat.) defined as "heaty", they would consume "cooling" food to offset that imbalance.

Chapter 62: Ji Chengxue's Farewell

Host: Bu Fang

Gender: Male

Age: Twenty

True Energy Cultivation Level: Third Grade (Has already achieved the ability to manifest true energy outside of the body. As the God of Cooking in the fantasy world, you will definitely need to make use of true energy when cooking. Work hard, young man.)

Cooking Talents: Unknown

Skills: Level One Meteor Cutting Technique (52/100)

Tools: Fragments of the God of Cooking Set (3/4)

God of Cooking overall rating: Apprentice Chef (You can finally cook ingredients with your true energy. Practice your cutting technique and the road to becoming the God of Cooking will open for you. Work hard, young man.)

The current turnover is two thousand eight hundred and eighty crystals. True energy conversion degree: 720/1000

System Level: Three Stars (Conversion ratio is at twenty-five percent, customers are allowed to bring ingredients lower than fourth grade.)

The next morning, Bu Fang drowsily got up from bed. He was looking at the system panel while washing up.

After looking at the true energy conversion degree, he realized that he should be able to reach the next level soon. He was currently a third grade Battle-Maniac. Once he reached a thousand crystals, his true energy value would reach fourth grade Battle-Spirit. At that time, he would become much more proficient at controlling true energy

"What exactly is the set... I am really curious. However, I've already collected three fragments. Once I reach the next level, I should be able to complete the collection," Bu Fang muttered as he headed downstairs.

Then he arrived at the kitchen and began his daily radish slicing practice.

After finishing his practice, Bu Fang walked toward the store's entrance and removed the door boards. The air seemed to have gotten colder and even the cold wind blowing on his face was slightly bone-chilling.

Bu Fang glanced at Blacky, who was still soundly asleep, and returned to the kitchen to practice his cooking. After a while, an overwhelmingly fragrant Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was completed.

"It's time to eat, Blacky." As Bu Fang placed the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in front of Blacky, it immediately became energetic.

Fatty Jin and his buddies arrived as usual and left after finishing breakfast. Eating at Bu Fang's place had already become a habit for them. Even though Bu Fang's dishes were expensive, Fatty Jin was a nouveau riche... He did not lack money.

Xiao Yue did not appear anymore after he was blown out of the store by Blacky's sneeze, as if he had completely disappeared from within the imperial city. However, Bu Fang did not mind at all. At the most, he felt regret over the loss of a customer.

Within the alleyway, a slightly bone-chilling autumn wind was blowing. Ji Chengxue, who was wearing a white robe, slowly approached the store. His fair and gentle face and his narrowed eyes made it seem as if he was constantly smiling.

"Owner Bu, good morning," Ji Chengxue gently greeted Bu Fang. Bu Fang indifferently nodded and acknowledged the greeting.

"Your Highness big brother, why are you so early today?" Ouyang Xiaoyi puzzledly asked Ji Chengxue, who had just stepped into the store and sat down.

Ji Chengxue patted Xiaoyi's head and said with a chuckle, "I am here to eat Owner Bu's dishes today."

"What are you eating today?" Bu Fang asked.

"I'll have a serving of each dish. After this time, I don't know whether I would have the chance to taste Owner Bu's dishes anymore," Ji Chengxue said with a sigh.

"Hmm? What's wrong?" Bu Fang puzzledly asked. Ouyang Xiaoyi was curiously looking at Ji Chengxue as well.

Ji Chengxue's gaze was slightly downcast as he simply said, "It's nothing. It's just family matters. I'll be leaving the imperial city tomorrow. As for when I am returning, I have no idea either."

"I understand, give me a moment." Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded and went back into the kitchen. Then he returned with a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine and directly tossed it toward Ji Chengxue.

Ji Chengxue was startled as he caught the jar of wine. Then with a gentle smile, he removed the cloth cover and poured the wine into a cup.

Bu Fang poured a cup for himself as well. He lifted up his wine cup and they lightly clinked their cups together as he said, "I wish you safe journey."

"Hahaha, thank you. How about treating me to a meal today? Or give me a discount?" Ji Chengxue finished the cup of wine in one gulp and started to chuckle.

Bu Fang indifferently glanced at him and expressionlessly replied, "No."

Then Bu Fang returned to the kitchen and began to cook the other dishes.

Footsteps could be heard from the alleyway once more and three figures slowly approached.

"Your Highness is refined. You came so early today," Xiao Meng slightly bowed toward Ji Chengxue with a straight face, while Xiao Xiaolong and Xiao Yanyu stood behind him.

Xiao Yanyu's complexion was much better. It seemed that the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup had taken effect.

"General Xiao, I've made a fool of myself. Since I am setting off tomorrow, I came here to eat Owner Bu's dishes for one last time so that I wouldn't be craving for his food during the campaign." Ji Chengxue chuckled as he filled his own cup and another one for Xiao Meng.

Xiao Meng was silent for a moment, before he sighed and received the cup of wine from Ji Chengxue.

The two of them sat down and began to drink.

Ouyang Xiaoyi informed Bu Fang about the dishes that the Xiao family had ordered and he indicated that he understood.

Dish after dish of overwhelmingly fragrant dishes were brought out by Ouyang Xiaoyi and placed onto the table. These were all ordered by Ji Chengxue. He was enjoying himself as he drank while eating the delicious food.

"General Xiao, how has my elder sister been doing recently?" Ji Chengxue took a sip of wine and said as he looked toward Xiao Meng with a complicated gaze.

Xiao Meng slightly frowned and finished the cup of wine in a single gulp. He lightly breathed out and gloomily said, "She's still in a comatose state as always. The imperial physicians don't understand the reason either. It's already been three years and I still don't know when Ru'Er will wake up."

"Sister has always been such a kind person, heaven will certainly help her. I am sure she'll wake up one day," Ji Chengxue consoled him.

Ji Ru'Er was the elder sister of Ji Chengxue, the wife of Xiao Meng, and the mother of Xiao Yue. Three years prior, Xiao Yue used the blood from his mother's heart as an offering to comprehend the true essence of the way of the sword and caused Ji Ru'Er to fall into a coma. Now that three years had passed, there was still no indication of Ji Ru'Er waking up.

Within the past three years, Xiao Meng had searched the entire Light Wind Empire for extraordinary individuals and doctors with exceptional skills in order to wake up Ji Ru'Er, but there had been no results.

Because of this matter, his hair had turned white from worry. For a seventh grade Battle-Saint, this was something unbelievable.

"Actually, I don't dare to hope for it anymore. Even though Ru'Er is still in a coma, I am already contented that she's still alive. I came here today to inquire Owner Bu whether there's a way to wake up Ru'Er. I am only grasping at straws here," Xiao Meng honestly told Ji Chengxue about his objective in visiting the store.

Ji Chengxue nodded in agreement. If Bu Fang's medicinal cuisine could help Xiao Yanyu to recover from a severe loss of life force when she was close to dying, there was a chance that it could wake up his elder sister.

He could not help but feel a sense of hope as well.

The both of them did not speak any further and continued to drink the wine. Within this period, Xiao Meng only exhorted Ji Chengxue about taking note of certain matters during the campaign.

Even though Ji Chengxue was a prince, he was the third son after all. His mother was only a concubine with a lowly status. He was neither comparable to the crown prince, Ji Chengan, nor to King Yu, Ji Chengyu, and he was also not favored by the emperor himself. If Xiao Meng was not his brother-in-law, the third prince could have already been erased by the crown prince or King Yu.

There was a reason behind the saying, "The royalty has no relatives".

"You must take care of your own safety during the campaign. Remember, even though His Majesty doesn't favor you, you're still a prince," Xiao Meng seriously said.

Ji Chengxue indifferently nodded and gulped down a cup of wine.

As the two of them chatted while drinking, the sound of coughing rang out from outside as an elderly figure slowly walked into the store.

The gaze of Ji Chengxue and Xiao Meng naturally shifted toward the person who just arrived. Their expressions immediately froze and their eyes were filled with incredulity.

Chapter 63: Hello, Emperor

Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue looked in surprise toward the person that just arrived. Their eyes were filled with incredulity.

"Your Majesty?! Why are you here?" Xiao Meng hurriedly stood up and went forward to meet the emperor. The stunned expression on his face had still not dissipated. The fact that the emperor himself would visit a store situated within an alleyway was out of anyone's expectations.

"Your son and subject greets father emperor[1]," Ji Chengxue stood up as well and saluted the elderly man.

Even though the elderly man's hair had turned white, his mental state was still pretty good. He wore a beautiful robe and his hair was fixed in place with a green jade hairpin. With his hands placed behind his back, he was exuding a grandeur and refined aura.

"General Xiao? Chengxue? Are you eating at this store as well? Looks like the food here should be pretty good." Ji Changfeng faintly smiled as he stepped into the store. He was coughing as he walked and his body swayed with every step. He gave off the feeling of someone who had one foot in his grave.

Xiao Meng hurriedly supported him, fearing that the emperor would suffer a mishap.

"Your Majesty, why are you out here alone? This is unsafe. Even though the experts from the clan hiding within the imperial city have mostly retreated, there's no guarantee that there's none of them hiding around," Xiao Meng anxiously said.

The emperor waved him off and simply said, "It doesn't matter. Back in the day, I was still considered someone who awed the world. Even though I've grown old, not just anyone would dare to approach me. I came here today to talk about food and not anything else."

The emperor sat down on a chair and surveyed the surroundings. The space within the store was not big. There were a few neatly placed tables and the decorations were quite cozy. There was a certain sense of charm.

The emperor sniffed the air and his gaze shifted toward the table that Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue were previously sitting at. His eyes slightly lit up as he said, "The aroma of this wine is truly rich. Could this be the fine wine that is better than the Bejewelled Nectar Wine?"

"Yes, Your Majesty. This is the wine exclusive to this store, the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine. A jar costs fifteen crystals," Xiao Meng said with a nod.

"Fifteen crystals... that's not cheap. However, I am even more anxious to taste it now. Where's the owner? I want to meet him and order the dishes at the same time," the emperor asked.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was shyly looking at the emperor with her eyes widened. When she heard his words, she turned to the kitchen window and shouted, "Smelly boss, the emperor grandpa wishes to meet you."

"Hmm? Who?" Bu Fang's indifferent voice rang out from the kitchen, accompanied by the sound of stir frying.

"The emperor grandpa," Ouyang Xiaoyi earnestly repeated herself.

"Oh, let him wait," Bu Fang's indifferent voice drifted out but Ouyang Xiaoyi was dumbfounded by his words.

The little loli was exasperated. Whenever she spoke with Bu Fang, she felt like vomiting blood from exasperation.

The person that wanted to meet him was the emperor, the number one person within the Light Wind Empire as well as the supreme ruler. What did he mean by letting him wait?

Ji Changfeng and the others had heard the complete dialogue between Bu Fang and Ouyang Xiaoyi and their expressions were inexplicably wonderful.

Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue did not know how to respond. They thought, "This Owner Bu... His character is still as eccentric as always. He doesn't even give face to the emperor."

On the other hand, Ji Changfeng was amused and thought it was interesting. If ordinary chefs heard his title, they would hurriedly come and fawn over him. There was not a single case like Bu Fang where he was completely ignored.

"This owner... has an interesting character." Ji Changfeng faintly smiled as he stroked his beard.

Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue awkwardly smiled along as well.

Finally, after a few minutes, Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen. He was holding a plate of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs in his hand. The rich aroma of the meat spread out and enveloped the entire store. The tangerine color of the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs was tantalizing.

"Here's your Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang simply said as he placed the plate on Ji Chengxue's table.

Then he turned around and looked toward the elderly man sitting on the chair. He thought, "This must be the emperor grandpa that Xiaoyi mentioned."

"Hello, emperor," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

Everyone was startled. The emperor was stunned for a moment and started laughing while stroking his beard.

"Hello, young man. Are you the owner of this store? What's the name of that dish just now? It's very fragrant." The emperor had a gentle smile on his face as he looked at Bu Fang. He thought that the owner was interesting.

"Oh, the name of the dish is Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. It's the most expensive dish in the store for now," Bu Fang simply said.

"Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs... With such an alluring smell, I am looking forward to it. Good." The emperor nodded with a chuckle.

"The menu is behind you, tell me what you want to eat. The Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine is limited to three jars per day and there's only one jar left today," Bu Fang said as he pointed to the menu behind the emperor.

The emperor was surprised for a moment. He turned his head and saw the menu on the wall filled with dishes with astronomical prices.

The emperor frowned and lightly coughed a few times. Then he asked, "Interesting, a bowl of improved Egg-Fried Rice actually costs ten crystals. Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs... fifty crystals per serving. Why are they being sold at such an expensive price?"

"There's naturally a reason why the price is so expensive. Our store has a strict standard when it comes to the ingredients, handling process, and cooking process. Not only are our dishes delicious, but they can also promote the circulation and growth of true energy within a cultivator's body. These prices are... fair," Bu Fang expressionlessly said.

"Your dishes can promote cultivation? Even the meat of spirit beasts would lose most of its spirit energy after cooking. How do you manage to cook dishes that can promote cultivation?" the emperor curiously asked.

Bu Fang indifferently glanced at the emperor and said with a frown, "This is a secret."

Cough cough cough... Xiao Meng and the rest immediately coughed a few times. The mood became slightly awkward because of Bu Fang's reply.

On the contrary, the emperor nodded. "You probably have a special handling method and cooking method. This is indeed a secret and should not be casually revealed."

"Young man, then give me a serving of each of the dishes here. Let me taste this so-called dishes that can promote the circulation of true energy," the emperor said while stroking his beard as he calmly looked at Bu Fang.

"Alright, wait a moment. I'll cook your order once I've finished cooking their dishes," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied with a nod before he turned around and headed toward the kitchen.

This time, the emperor was frowning and slight unhappy as he asked, "Why aren't you cooking mine first?"

"First-come, first-served is the rule of the store," Bu Fang turned around at the entrance to the kitchen and replied.

"Cough cough... Owner Bu, it's fine if our dishes are served later. Please serve His Majesty's order before ours," Xiao Meng awkwardly coughed and hurriedly said.

Bu Fang expressionlessly glanced at Xiao Meng and simply said, "I already said that this is the rule of the store. First-come, first-served... Since you ordered first, I'll cook your dish first."

After Bu Fang finished speaking, he entered the kitchen and continued cooking the dishes.

Xiao Meng was dumbfounded by Bu Fang's words. He did not know how to respond as he helplessly looked at Bu Fang.

The smile on the emperor's face had already disappeared and his unfathomable gaze was directed toward the kitchen as his fingers tapped on the table. He simply said, "He has an interesting character, but this character must be built on the basis of strength. I'll give him a chance. If his dishes are unable to impress me, then there's no need for this store to continue operating."

The emperor was still the emperor after all. As the supreme ruler, when was he ever ignored by anyone like this? Bu Fang's indifference incited the emperor's displeasure as well.

Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue suddenly felt their hearts skipped a beat. They were aware that the emperor was annoyed.

[1] Your son and subject greets father and emperor. (儿臣见过父皇) - Whenever a prince meets the emperor, he would refer to himself as "son and subject"(儿臣) while referring to the emperor as "father emperor"(父皇). The term, 父皇, has actually been used quite a few times in a few other chapters but I've simplified them into "father".

Chapter 64: Egg-Fried Rice Matched with Fish Head Tofu Soup

The atmosphere within the store suddenly quieted down. The oppression coming from the emperor as he contemplated was causing Xiao Meng and Ji Chengxue to hold their breath.

Emperor Changfeng was still Emperor Changfeng after all. He spent a few dozen years battling the sects outside of the borders and destroyed numerous sects that used to be incomparably glorious. The intimidating aura and killing intent exuded from his body was extremely concentrated.

However, Xiao Meng was slightly frowning as he leaned over to the emperor's ear and softly whispered, "Your Majesty... don't forget about the background of this store. The big black dog lying at the entrance is a supreme beast. There's going to be some difficulty if you wish to destroy this store."

The corner of the emperor's mouth slightly widened as he glanced at Xiao Meng and simply said, "Great General Xiao, I remembered that you said in your report that as long as someone doesn't cause trouble within the store, that supreme spirit beast would not intervene, am I correct?"

Xiao Meng was slightly surprised for a moment. He did not understand why the emperor would ask such a question but he still solemnly nodded. "Yes, Your Majesty."

"Then, it's simple. The rules of this store is that as long as someone doesn't cause trouble within the store, the supreme spirit beast would be unable to intervene. There are many methods to ruin this store, but there aren't many methods that would allow us to both ruin the store and prevent the supreme spirit beast from intervening. However, it doesn't mean that there isn't any." The emperor's index finger lightly tapped the surface of the table and created a dull thud.

Xiao Meng's pupils slightly constricted as he thought, "There are other methods? Could His Majesty find someone who could suppress a supreme spirit beast within the imperial city?"

"General Xiao, you're naturally unaware of various business tactics since you're constantly out in the field. Even though this store has a supreme spirit beast, it's still a store and there are certain rules that it follows. If I forbid anyone from patronising this store, do you still think it'll be able to continue operating?" The emperor chuckled as he reminded Xiao Meng.

A sudden realization dawned on Xiao Meng as a wondrous expression appeared on his face. He thought, "That's right. With the pride of the supreme spirit beast, as long as no one caused any trouble within the store, it would definitely not intervene. Targeting the business was the most simple and effective method."

"Haha, there's no need for General Xiao to worry. I am only speaking without thinking. As long as Owner Bu's dishes are able to satisfy me, why would I interfere with his business?" The emperor started to chuckle while stroking his beard.

"Xiaoyi, serve the dish," Bu Fang called out. While the others had been chatting outside, he had completed another dish.

"Smelly boss... If your dishes don't satisfy the emperor grandpa, he's going to forbid others from entering your store," Ouyang Xiaoyi leaned into the kitchen and softly whispered to Bu Fang while she was picking up the dish.

Bu Fang expressionlessly nodded and did not seem to care in slightest as he replied, "Oh."

"Eh? Smelly boss, are you not worried?" Xiaoyi was pouting as she asked. She was reminding the smelly boss out of the kindness of her heart and he actually responded with an indifferent attitude. How exasperating!

Bu Fang patted Xiaoyi's head and said with a smirk, "There's no need to worry. There's no one who wouldn't be satisfied by the food made by this God of Cooking."

Ouyang Xiaoyi went into a daze as she stared at Bu Fang, who was filled with confidence. Her eyes were almost shooting out stars as she thought, "The confident smelly boss is really handsome!"

"Go, don't let the customers wait," Bu Fang said.

Ouyang Xiaoyi nodded and eagerly carried the dish toward Ji Chengxue's table.

"Your Highness big brother, here's your Lees Fish. Please enjoy your meal," Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly said as she placed the Lees Fish in front of Ji Chengxue.

Ji Chengxue nodded. He subconsciously glanced toward the emperor and discovered that the latter was attracted by the mixed aroma between wine and fish of the Lees Fish.

The emperor's gaze had drifted toward the Lees Fish. His face filled with wrinkles was slightly trembling and he seemed to be swallowing his saliva.

"Father... Would you like to give this a try?" Ji Chengxue respectfully asked.

When the emperor heard Ji Chengxue's words, he shifted his gaze away and simply said, "There's no need, eat it yourself. I've already ordered mine... By the way, what's the name of this dish?"

"Lees Fish," Ji Chengxue respectfully replied.

The emperor nonchalantly nodded. He slightly closed his eyes and stopped paying any attention to his surroundings.

Ji Chengxue sighed. His gaze while looking at the emperor was slightly gloomy as he thought, "Why does father dislike me so much... I am your son as well and I've also been fighting at the frontlines. Why can't you give me the slightest concern at all?"

Xiao Meng felt helpless as well. He walked toward Ji Chengxue's table and poured a cup of wine. The both of them clinked their cups together and started drinking together.

As the rich fragrance of the dishes continuously drifted out from the kitchen, the emperor's eyelids that were tightly shut slightly twitched and his eyes finally opened.

Having finished his food, Ji Chengxue stood up and respectfully saluted the emperor. He said in a calm tone, "Father, I still need to attend the campaign ceremony, so I'll be leaving early."

The emperor nodded and waved his hand to indicate that he could leave.

Ji Chengxue meaningfully glanced at the emperor's figure and his eyes focused for a moment. Then he turned around and left as the sleeves of his robe fluttered like rolling waves.

"Xiaoyi, serve the dish," Bu Fang's voice rang out from the kitchen once more.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's eyes lit up. She knew that the next dish was for the emperor. She was waiting for this moment just to watch the scene when the emperor was subdued by Bu Fang's dish.

The improved Egg-Fried Rice was overwhelmingly fragrant. The light golden and viscous egg fluid wrapped around the pearl-like rice grains seemed to be emitting a faint radiance that was captivating to the eyes.

"Emperor grandpa, here's your improved Egg-Fried Rice." Ouyang Xiaoyi placed the plate of Egg-Fried Rice in front of the emperor and her large eyes were filled with expectation as she looked at him.

"Good, good. Xiaoyi, why are you working here as a waitress? Did your grandfather agree to this?" The emperor gently said as he patted Ouyang Xiaoyi's head with a kind smile.

"Hmph, if grandpa dares to prevent me from coming here, I'll pull his beard!" Ouyang Xiaoyi gleefully said while her eyes narrowed into a slit.

The emperor was laughing as his gaze shifted toward the Egg-Fried Rice. With this look, his gaze changed.

As the emperor, his requirement toward food was very strict. Inside of the imperial palace, the chefs within the imperial kitchen were all carefully selected among tens of thousands of chefs within the Light Wind Empire. They were all elites within the culinary world.

The dishes that he had tasted were innumerable and his evaluation ability toward food was incomparable to ordinary people.

Regarding the plate of Egg-Fried Rice, putting aside the fragrance, the appearance itself had already completely attracted his attention. It was cooked not like those traditional Egg-Fried Rice. The eggs of Bu Fang's Egg-Fried Rice were eighty percent well-done and were poured onto the rice grains like a sauce.

The emperor used a porcelain spoon to lightly scoop up a spoonful of rice, and the egg fluid left a string-like trail as he lifted it up. Hot air was rising up from the gaping hole created and was accompanied by a fragrance as it assaulted his nostrils. He was completely enveloped by the smell and it seemed as if he had fallen into a sea of fragrance.

As he shoved the spoonful of Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth, the egg fluid, that was eighty percent well-done, instantly solidified. It was filled with springiness and produced a peculiar feeling as it ricocheted off his tongue and mouth walls.

Gulp!

After finishing a mouthful of Egg-Fried Rice, the emperor could not help but scoop another spoonful... It was completely a subconscious movement.

"It's so fragrant! It's so delicious!" The emperor's eyes completely lit up. He had not eaten such a delicious food for a long time, food that was able to widen all the pores on his entire body.

While the emperor was enjoying the Egg-Fried Rice, Ouyang Xiaoyi was once again carrying another dish over. It was the overwhelmingly fragrant Fish Head Tofu Soup that was contained within a large blue and white porcelain bowl.

The milky-white soup was rocking within the bowl. The barely noticeable jade-like tofu was brilliantly glowing while the tender fish was exuding a meaty aroma.

"Emperor grandpa, eating Egg-Fried Rice while drinking Fish Head Tofu Soup is the most comfortable thing to do. Here, try Xiaoyi's most favorite Fish Head Tofu Soup."

When Ouyang Xiaoyi saw the emperor's intoxicated expression, she was extremely happy like a flower had bloomed within her heart. She placed the bowl of Fish Head Tofu Soup in front of the emperor and even personally filled a small bowl for him.

When the milky-white fish soup that exuded a rich fragrance was matched with the rice fragrance from the Egg-Fried Rich, the emperor's appetite was immediately triggered as he felt hunger pangs coming from his stomach.

After tasting a mouthful of fish soup, the flavor of the fish and the aroma of the tofu blossomed at the tip of his tongue and enveloped his taste buds. He could not help but exclaim, "This fish soup... Excellent!"

From a distance, Xiao Meng breathed out a sigh of relief as he thought, "Your Majesty, it's great that you're happy. As long as you're happy, you won't think of interfering with Owner Bu's store and I won't need to face the supreme spirit beast. Everybody is happy."

Chapter 65: Young Man, Work Under Me!

At the entrance of the alleyway, teams of armor-wearing imperial guards were solemnly standing there and had completely blockaded the entrance. In front of them, Lian Fu,

who was wearing a brocade robe, was anxiously pacing around while waving a horsetail whisk. Once in a while, he would pause for a moment and look toward the store with concern in his eyes.

"His Majesty is too much. It's not like I would snatch his food, why doesn't he let me accompany him?" Lian Fu dissatisfiedly sighed. He spread his senses and alertly scanned the surroundings. It was not a small matter that the emperor left the imperial palace. If the experts from the sects found out, they would flock toward their location to assassinate him.

Suddenly, a disturbance occurred among the guards. As they created a path, a refined figure slowly walked through.

"Your Highness is here as well. What a coincidence," Lian Fu said with a chuckle as he pinched his thumb and middle finger together.

Ji Chengxue's mood was slightly indifferent. He only nodded before he walked away. His robes were fluttering as he left a breeze in his wake.

Lian Fu was feeling helpless as he watched Ji Chengxue's back figure. He thought, "It looks like His Highness met His Majesty within the store and they didn't get along.

"The royalty has no relatives. As someone from the imperial household, you'll need to face imperial matters. Since His Majesty doesn't like the third prince, it doesn't matter how diligent or outstanding he is."

"Pay attention! His Majesty is currently inside the alleyway. If something happens to His Majesty, you all know the consequences!" Lian Fu whispered a warning to the guards.

"Oh my, isn't this Chief Eunuch Lian? It's been a while!" A fawning voice rang out and interrupted Lian Fu who was about to give a long lecture to the guards.

Lian Fu puzzledly glanced at the man who just approached. The figure in front of him was thin and had an ugly and vulgar appearance. He was wearing a luxurious brocade robe with a belt inlaid with green jade at his waist and his fingers were adorned with glittering rings. He had the appearance of a nouveau riche.

"You are?" Lian Fu puzzled asked. He thought, "I don't seem to recall being acquainted with such a vulgar-looking old man."

"Chief Eunuch Lian, did you forget about me? I am the owner of Phoenix Immortal Restaurant. Didn't His Majesty come over to eat the Roasted Flower Duck previously? At that time, I was the one who personally served the dish!" the man who approached said with a smile while his eyes narrowed into a slit. He did not seem to mind that Lian Fu had forgotten about him.

"Oh oh oh! You're called... Qian... Qian whatever something?" Lian Fu said as he narrowed his eyes and pointed toward the man with his thumb and middle finger pinched together.

"Gong gong, this lowly person's name is Qian Bao," the man reminded him.

Lian Fu suddenly remembered as he nodded and said, "That's right, you're Qian Bao... Oh my, what's the owner of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant doing here?"

"This lowly person passed by and came to greet after seeing gong gong. It's been a while since gong gong has come to Immortal Phoenix Restaurant for a meal, when would you have the time to patronise our restaurant? Your presence would certainly bring great honor to our humble restaurant." Qian Bao was smiling brightly.

The dishes of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant were indeed pretty good. It was considered a first class restaurant within the Light Wind Empire. However, after Lian Fu had eaten the dishes made by Bu Fang, even the food from the imperial kitchen tasted bland to him. There was no way he would visit the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

Other than Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's signature dish, the Roasted Flower Duck, the standard of its other dishes were out of the question.

"Oh, I'll go when I have the time," Lian Fu absent-mindedly nodded and replied in a nonchalant manner.

"Alright, then this lowly person shall respectfully wait for gong gong's arrival." The smile on Qian Bao's face remained throughout the conversation. Regardless of Lian Fu's attitude, he was always smiling brightly.

After a while, Qian Bao carefully asked, "That... Gong gong, is His Majesty currently inside the alleyway?"

Lian Fu's eyes widened as he alertly looked at Qian Bao. He was frowning as he said in a high pitched voice, "What sort of intentions are you harboring by asking this question?"

"This lowly person only wishes His Majesty to honor our humble restaurant with his presence once more. Didn't His Majesty praise our Roasted Flower Duck as the number one duck within the Light Wind Empire? This lowly person was only wondering when His Majesty would taste Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's dishes once more," Qian Bao hurriedly said as he waved his hand.

"If His Majesty wishes to eat, he would naturally send someone to retrieve the food. What are you so anxious about? You're dismissed," Lian Fu indifferently snorted and said after glancing at Qian Bao.

Qian Bao was still smiling as he nodded and asked to be excused. Then he turned around and left. After taking a few steps, the smile on his face gradually disappeared and was quickly replaced by a gloomy expression.

"The black-hearted store in the alleyway... Even His Majesty came in person? I was wondering why all the precious customers had disappeared recently. So they were all attracted by this little store," Qian Bao lowered his head as he muttered to himself with a gloomy expression.

"How dare you steal my business... I will definitely make you suffer. You're just a little store situated within an alleyway that relies on a signature dish. Hmph... Once this signature dish of yours is defeated, we'll see how you manage to steal my business!"

.....

"Emperor grandpa, this is the Lees Fish. Please enjoy your meal," Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly said as she placed the plate of Lees Fish in front of the emperor. As the wine aroma spread into the air, the emperor could not help but take a deep breath.

"The intensely aromatic Lees Fish, it's very fragrant!" The emperor praised as he impatiently picked up a pink piece of fish with his chopsticks. As the fish entered his mouth, the taste of the lees and flavor of the fish mixed together and enveloped his taste buds. He was captivated by the flavor.

"Emperor grandpa, this is the Golden Shumai. Please enjoy your meal."

As another dish was served, the interior of the store was completely enveloped by the fragrance of the dishes.

The emperor was grinning from ear to ear as he ate the dish. His mouth was constantly chewing and he was unable to stop at all. It had been a long time since he had tasted food that was able to captivate him.

Wiping off the oil stains on his beard, an overjoyed expression appeared on the emperor's face as he stared at the first-rate dishes in front of him. For a glutton like him, tasting delicious food was the happiest experience.

"Xiaoyi, isn't there a wine that's better than the imperial palace's Bejewelled Nectar Wine? Why haven't I seen it yet?" the emperor puzzled asked after contentedly swallowing a piece of Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs.

"There is. Emperor grandpa, wait a moment." Ouyang Xiaoyi grinned and cheerfully ran toward the kitchen window.

"Smelly boss, hurry up and bring out the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine. The emperor grandpa wants a taste," Ouyang Xiaoyi said to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang had finished cooking the last dish and was wiping away the water droplets on his hands. He nodded and let Ouyang Xiaoyi serve the final dish first, while he took out the last jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine from the cabinet.

Bu Fang walked out of the kitchen while carrying the jar of wine.

He placed the jar in front of the emperor and sat down at a seat. He looked at the emperor and simply asked, "How is it? Do you still want to shut down my store?"

The emperor was curiously picking up verdant and glistening vegetables that seemed to be completely uncooked. When he heard Bu Fang's question, a trace of embarrassment flashed across his face. However, the embarrassment soon vanished.

When he bit down on the vegetables, a warm vegetable juice immediately gushed into his mouth. The light flavor of the vegetables lingered in his mouth.

"This is Stir-Fried Vegetables?!" The emperor was extremely surprised after taking a bite.

"As you've seen, this is indeed a plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables. It's just that the stir-fry process used a special cooking technique," Bu Fang simply said.

As Bu Fang was speaking, he removed the cloth cover of the wine jar and poured a cup of wine for the emperor. He pointed toward the cup and beckoned the emperor to have a taste.

The emperor's eyes immediately lit up. The fragrance of the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine had already lured out the wine bug within his body and his craving for it was almost unbearable.

He picked up the blue and white porcelain cup and sipped the wine. The spiciness flowed through his lips to his tongue and suddenly blossomed. The emperor's entire body shuddered and even the wrinkles on his face seemed to be pulsing.

After finishing the cup of wine, the emperor smacked his lips as he lightly breathed out. He had a captivated expression on his face.

"The rumors were really true. The Ice Heart Jade Urn wine is indeed better than my Bejewelled Nectar Wine... I've lived for so many years and only tasted such a wine when I have one foot in the grave. Is this a punishment from the heavens or a reward?" the emperor did not know whether to laugh or cry as he exclaimed with his narrowed eyes.

"With such a fine wine and this sort of delicious food, if I still decide to seal Owner Bu's store, then I would be truly foolish." The emperor lightly stroked his beard as he beckoned Bu Fang to fill his cup. He drank another cup of wine and started laughing.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at the laughing emperor, as if everything was within his expectations.

Just like he believed, there was no stomach that could not be subdued by his dishes!

The emperor consecutively drank three cups of wine and the wine was starting to take effect, but his eyes were even brighter.

The emperor stared at Bu Fang and slammed his cup down with a thud. His eyes were shining as he said, "Owner Bu, work under me. Come to my imperial kitchen. Your monthly salary will be... ten thousand crystals!"

Chapter 66: Do You Mind If I Name the Store?

"Work under me, your monthly salary will be... ten thousand crystals!"

The emperor said with a smile as he looked at Bu Fang with gleaming eyes and held out a shaking finger.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at the emperor and did seem to notice the emperor's shaking finger. His eyes were slightly unfocused as he thought, "Hmm? How much did the emperor say my monthly salary would be just now? Ten thousand crystals?"

"My host, as someone aiming to become the God of Cooking, your pure goal should not be corrupted by materialism. You must strengthen your resolve and not be affected by riches! You must use your own hands to create a beautiful future."

The system's solemn encouragement shattered Bu Fang's delusions, whose resolve was slightly shaken. The corner of Bu Fang's mouth widened into a smile.

Bu Fang indifferently looked at the emperor with steady eyes and simply asked, "Why should I work under you?"

The confident smile on the emperor's face suddenly froze and he said with a frown, "Because I am the emperor, the supreme ruler. Don't I have the qualifications to hire you as the imperial chef?"

"There are countless chefs in the world who desire to enter the imperial kitchen, just to have a chance to cook a dish for me..."

"Is the emperor that incredible? If they wish to go, then let them go." Bu Fang simply said. His gaze was calm. He was neither arrogant nor overbearing. It was as if he was declaring an ordinary matter.

The emperor suddenly froze. Even Xiao Meng who was observing the both of them in a distance was startled as well.

When the emperor recovered from his stupor, the corner of his mouth was twitching. Bu Fang was probably the only person in the world who would dare to speak to him in such a manner... However, there was nothing he could do to Bu Fang within the store.

"Don't waste your energy. I won't be swayed by anyone. If you want to eat my dishes, just come to my store. As for going to that so-called imperial kitchen, I have no interest at all," Bu Fang simply said as he stood up. His tone was calm, as if he was simply drinking water.

The emperor meaningfully glanced at Bu Fang and nodded. He did not persist. There were some things where you only need to ask in order to know the result.

"What an idealistic and ambitious chef," the emperor thought. He no longer said anything as he narrowed his eyes and enjoyed the comfortable feeling brought by the Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine.

After eating for a while, the emperor finally finished his meal. As he cleaned his beard, the wrinkles on his face seemed to have come alive.

"Excellent! Delicious! It's been a long time since I've tasted such delicious dishes! You deserve to be rewarded!" The emperor said while stroking his beard, "As for the reward... it's hard to decide."

Bu Fang went into a daze. He did not expect the emperor to offer such a proposal.

The emperor held his hands behind his back as he glanced around the store. Suddenly, an unfathomable smile appeared on his face.

"Owner Bu, I've already thought of a reward for you. Ordinary crystals would be far too vulgar and you wouldn't be able to use expensive elixirs. I saw that your store still doesn't have a signboard, so how about I personally name your store?" The emperor benevolently looked at Bu Fang.

From his point of view, Bu Fang would definitely not reject this reward. With a signboard personally written by the emperor, the fame of the store would definitely rise up and become completely well-known within the Light Wind Empire. It was a reward far more practical for a store than crystals.

"Notice to the host, the store's interior furnishing are to be completed by the system. The store's signboard system has already been prepared. The host must not accept any signboard given by others."

Bu Fang already knew that, with the system's proudful nature, it would definitely not allow him to accept such a bountiful reward.

"I am grateful for your kind intentions. If you like my dishes, you can patronize the store often. As for the matter regarding the signboard, there's no need for that. The store's furnishing are well enough, so there's no need for any changes," Bu Fang expressionlessly said as he ignored his conscience and rejected the emperor's kind intentions once more.

The emperor was feeling really embarrassed. He was mercilessly rejected by Bu Fang when he tried to entice Bu Fang into working under him. Now, he was even rejected when he wanted to name the store...

The black-hearted store was indeed first class at being arrogant, but it had the qualifications to do so.

"Good, very good! Then, I thank Owner Bu for your hospitality." The emperor indifferently nodded with an expressionless face. He placed down some crystals and left under Xiao Meng's escort.

Due to the emperor's visit, many of the store's regular customers were unable to enter.

Xushi was originally planning to eat Boiled Fish that day. However, when he arrived at the entrance of the alleyway, he discovered a large crowd blocking his way. He was shocked by the imposing spectacle and only understood the whole story after asking around.

"My heavens, even His Majesty personally visited Owner Bu's store! I must immediately inform His Highness about this!" Xushi was startled. He could not care about eating anymore as he turned around and left.

At the same moment, the fact that the emperor personally visited a restaurant located within an alleyway was quickly spread among the entire imperial city.

The emperor was famous and the so-called celebrity effect was just like that. Fang Fang's Little Store had truly become renowned this time. Due to the emperor's fame, it was completely well-known within the imperial city. Almost every rich and influential person knew about this information.

"What did you say? Did father really visited the store personally?"

On the left side of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery and within the majestic palace of the crown prince, Xushi truthfully reported the information to the crown prince. The crown prince's pupils immediately constricted and he suddenly stood up.

"Yes, Your Highness. The entrance to the alleyway was completely sealed off by Chief Eunuch Lian and his men..." Xushi said.

The crown prince held his hands behind his back as he paced a few steps. Then he raised his head and asked, "Xushi, Is there any news about the Blood Phoenix Chicken that I told you to search for?"

"Your Highness... there is news. It will arrive at the imperial city after a few more days," Xushi said as he bowed.

Ji Chengan nodded with a grave expression. "I don't know whether father found out about the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup during his visit. Once father finds about this information, I'll have to immediately present the Blood Phoenix Chicken. If father does not know... I will personally bring the ingredients and let Owner Bu cook the Sage Herb Phoenix Chicken Soup."

The crown prince massaged his fingers as the corners of his mouth curled up.

...

King Yu's manor, center of the garden.

King Yu, Ji Chengyu, was wearing casual clothes with his hair down. He was holding crystal dust in his hand as he slowly walked around the pond located at the center of the garden. From time to time, he would pinch a little bit of crystal dust and toss it into the pond.

Once the crystal dust entered the pond, fishes with various colors swimming in the water vied over the sparse amount of crystal dust.

A red fish, that was unable to snatch any of the crystal dust, immediately wriggled its body angrily within the pond. Its mouth opened widely and revealed a set of sharp teeth as it swallowed a fish that managed to snatch away the crystal dust.

A faint smell of blood spread into the air from the middle of the pond...

King Yu had a joyful expression on his face, but his gaze was slightly cold as he looked at the fish that devoured the other fish.

"If even a fish knows to compete, how could someone from the royal family be compassionate? Every single contention is accompanied by a bloody battle..."

King Yu softly muttered. Suddenly, a series of footsteps rang out from behind him.

Several figures appeared behind him. They were all wearing black robes and a faint amount of true energy hovered around them.

"You're finally here." The corner of King Yu's mouth curled up as he tossed the remaining crystal dust into the pond and slowly turned around.

One of the figures raised his hands and took off his hood, revealing a gaunt looking face. He had deep sunken eyes and there seemed to be a spirit fire pulsing within his pupils.

"Head elder of Soul Sect, Hun Qianyun, greets King Yu."

Chapter 67: Young Man, Use Your Tongue to Find Fault

The weather was becoming colder and colder, as if it had turned from late autumn into winter in a flash. The pedestrians on the streets of the imperial city were starting to cover themselves in thick cotton-padded clothes. As they walked down the streets early in the morning, water vapour could be clearly seen coming from their mouth when they exhaled.

Bang bang bang!

A series of banging sounds came from the entrance. Bu Fang, who had just gotten up and was practicing the Meteor Cutting Technique in the kitchen, was slightly startled. He thought, "Who would be knocking on the door at such an early hour?"

Bu Fang lay down the kitchen knife in his hand and unhurriedly opened the entrance to the store. Reflected in his eyes was Ouyang Xiaoyi who was wearing a pink jacket. Her vivid, large eyes were blinking as she looked at Bu Fang.

"Xiaoyi? Why are you here so early today?" Bu Fang puzzledly asked. He thought, "Doesn't she normally arrive after Fatty Jin and the rest have finished eating?"

Xiaoyi was slightly out of breath, as if she had jogged all the way there. Her delicate face was faintly rosy and the tip of her nose had turned slightly red from the cold weather, increasing her adorableness.

"Smelly boss, His Highness big brother is leaving the imperial city and setting off today. Let's go and send him off," Ouyang Xiaoyi expectantly said.

Bu Fang went into a daze. He seemed to remember that Ji Chengxue mentioned something about leaving the imperial city and going on a campaign against the sects outside the border.

When Bu Fang recalled Ji Chengxue had been patronizing his business all this time, he thought that he should at least send him off. So, he did not reject Ouyang Xiaoyi but nodded instead.

"Wait for me," Bu Fang simply said as he turned around and went into the store. After a while, he took out a piece of wooden board.

On the wooden board was written: Business is suspended today.

After hanging the wooden board at the entrance, Bu Fang squatted down and stroked Blacky's supple and immaculate fur. He closed up the entrance of the store and left with Ouyang Xiaoyi.

Bu Fang was wearing a cashmere overcoat that was tightly wrapped around his body and a dark gray scarf that was coiled around his neck to prevent the cold wind from slipping down his back.

Ouyang Xiaoyi did not expect Bu Fang would readily agree to her invitation. She was originally just giving it a try when she came to inquire Bu Fang and was prepared to be rejected... However, results were often outside of people's expectations.

The two of them walked toward the entrance of the alleyway. Xiao Xiaolong and Xiao Yanyu, the two good-looking siblings were standing nearby. Xiao Xanyu's face was covered with a veil and her impeccable appearance could not be seen. Her aura was refined and outstanding, as if a goddess had descended.

Her injuries had already mostly recovered and basically did not hinder her movements. When Xiao Xiaolong noticed Bu Fang and Ouyang Xiaoyi, he began waving his arms from a distance.

The two siblings were wearing white fur overcoats that fully revealed their dignified aura. When matched with their immaculate appearances, they provided a beautiful scenery on the street.

"Owner Bu, you actually agreed to come with us to send off His Highness?!" Xiao Xiaolong stared at Bu Fang in amazement with an incredulous expression.

Previously, when Ouyang Xiaoyi said that she wanted to invite Bu Fang, he thought that Bu Fang would definitely not agree, due to his cold personality. However, reality viciously slapped his face.

"Why? Is it strange?" Bu Fang simply said as he expressionlessly looked at Xiao Xiaolong.

Xiao Xiaolong immediately laughed in an awkward manner and no longer said anything. Xiao Yanyu, who was standing next to him, looked toward Bu Fang. After a long while, she slightly bowed and gently said, "Thank you for saving me..."

Bu Fang nodded and it suddenly became quiet between the four of them. Then, they left the alleyway and headed toward the main streets of the imperial city.

The early morning wind was slightly bone-chilling. Bu Fang tightened the scarf coiled around his neck as he curiously looked around. He rarely left the store and his impression of the imperial city was quite vague. Even though he had stayed within the imperial city for almost two months, he was still unfamiliar with the streets.

On the sides of the street, as the sky gradually became brighter, the stall hawkers began to show up. They were curled up in the cold wind as they yelled to attract customers while water vapor came out from their mouths.

On both sides of the street, there were also drowsy shop assistants that were yawning as they opened up for business. After resting for a night, the imperial city was gradually waking up in the morning light.

Bu Fang did not conceal his curiosity, while Ouyang Xiaoyi cheerfully introduced the surrounding things and buildings to Bu Fang.

"Is that the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant? The so-called number one restaurant in the imperial city?" Bu Fang suddenly said as he pointed toward a beautifully renovated three-floor building.

Ouyang Xiaoyi and the others went into a daze for a moment and then nodded.

Ouyang Xiaoyi pointed toward the flamboyant "Immortal Phoenix Restaurant" above the entrance and charmingly said, "Smelly boss, those three characters were written by the emperor grandpa!"

As Bu Fang looked, he discovered that the three characters were indeed filled with connotation. The emperor's calligraphy was still very good, unfortunately... If the system had not rejected, he might have agreed to the emperor's request at that moment.

Because he wanted to quickly get a signboard for the store as well.

"Abrupt mission: my host, please taste the thirteen dishes of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, assess their merits and drawbacks, and find out three inadequate points of each dish by today."

(People who succeed need to cover their weaknesses with their strengths. Young man, use your fussy tongue to find fault at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.)

Mission reward: Ten percent of true energy cultivation progression, advanced cooking method of a dish from Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

Just as Bu Fang was sizing up the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, a solemn voice rang out in his mind, causing him to space out on the spot.

He thought, "Another abrupt mission? This time, I'll have to find fault using my tongue?"

"Fine... This mission definitely seems like something the system would give. However, covering weaknesses with strengths is not wrong."

Even though Bu Fang had the help of the system, isolation was not helpful to his growth as someone aimed to become the God of Cooking.

Furthermore, the rewards of the abrupt mission this time, ten percent of true energy cultivation progression and the cooking method of a new dish, were quite alluring to Bu Fang...

If he increased another ten percent of true energy cultivation progression, he would soon be able to become a fourth grade Battle-Spirit. When that time came, the system would level up and unlock more functions.

"Smelly boss, what are you spacing out for? We need to hurry up, otherwise we won't make it for His Highness big brother's sending off," Ouyang Xiaoyi said as she tugged on Bu Fang's cashmere overcoat.

Bu Fang turned his attention back to them and nodded. He meaningfully glanced at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant once more, then followed their pace as they went down the wide main roads of the imperial city.

Soon, the four of them reached the city gate. On both sides of the gate, a row of soldiers wearing metal armor were standing there. Their expressions were solemn and they were giving off a somber aura.

Outside of the city walls, an army was orderly lined up in a formation. These troops were all soldiers of the third prince and his protection during the campaign against the sects.

Ji Chengxue was not wearing a refined white robe that day, but a military uniform with a metal armor and helmet. His handsome face was not gentle as usual, but filled with a cold sternness.

"Thank you for sending me off, Owner Bu. I feel honored." When Ji Chengxue noticed that Bu Fang actually appeared to send him off as well, he was feeling slightly surprised and warmth.

"Your Highness, you must take care of your body during the campaign. Your body is more important than anything else. Remember, you're still a prince!" Xiao Meng solemnly exhorted.

A campaign against the sects from outside of the border was not a joke and was extremely dangerous. A single mistake could cause the entire army to be annihilated. After all, the members of the sects from outside of the border were all experts. Even though the soldiers of the empire were strong, a powerful dragon could not suppress a

snake in its lair. Even Emperor Changfeng was unable to completely annihilate these sects despite spending so many years battling them.

Ji Chengxue nodded as he mounted a dark brown unicorn and grabbed its reins. He looked toward the direction of the majestic imperial palace. In his eyes, neither happiness nor sadness could be seen.

The orderly army slowly moved and gradually left the imperial city. They slowly disappeared in the horizon...

Once Ji Chengxue's figure had disappeared, Ouyang Xiaoyi turned around and said to Bu Fang, "Smelly boss, now that we've sent off His Highness, are we going back to the store to open for business?"

Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong looked toward their direction at the same time. If Bu Fang was going back to open the store, they would follow along as well. To be able to eat Bu Fang's dishes everyday was also a kind happiness.

However, Bu Fang expressionlessly shook his head and looked toward the direction of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. The corner of his mouth rigidly curled up.

"Let's eat at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant today and find out how the food from the number one restaurant in the imperial city tastes like..."

Chapter 68: I Want My Capacity... to Be Larger

"Eh? Ah! Owner Bu... You want to eat at Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?" When Xiao Xiaolong heard Bu Fang's words, his eyes immediately widened and his expression became a little strange.

Xiao Yanyu and Ouyang Xiaoyi could not understand either. From their point of view, Bu Fang's culinary skills completely trounced the chefs of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. What was he planning by going there?

"There's naturally a reason that Immortal Phoenix Restaurant was able to become the number one restaurant within the imperial city. Furthermore, this great chef needs to learn as well. The sea can hold waters from a hundred rivers, it's only great... because of its capacity." Bu Fang simply said. He turned around and headed in the direction of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

"The sea can hold waters from a hundred rivers, it's only great... because of its capacity." The corner of Xiao Xiaolong's mouth was twitching. He suddenly felt that there's something wrong with Bu Fang on that day.

"Xiaoyi, don't you think there's something strange with Owner Bu today? I feel that he has an impure objective for going to Immortal Phoenix Restaurant!" Xiao Xiaolong moved closer to Ouyang Xiaoyi and whispered in her ear.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was slightly confused as she puzzledly asked, "Strange? Not at all, what's so strange? You can only improve by learning more. This makes a lot of sense. Grandpa often says this to Xiaoyi as well."

Xiao Xiaolong twitched his mouth as he thought, "Fine, there's no point in talking to you."

The three of them hurriedly followed after Bu Fang and headed toward the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

With regards to the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, Xiao Xiaolong and the others were naturally familiar with it. Before Bu Fang's store appeared, the place they went the most was the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. It was the number one restaurant within the imperial city after all and the taste of its dishes were definitely worthy to be recognized.

Of course, that was only true when not being compared with Bu Fang's dishes.

"Owner Bu, since you're going to the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, then do you know its rules?" Xiao Xiaolong took a few more steps and was walking alongside of Bu Fang.

"Rules? What sort of rules?" Bu Fang was slightly puzzled as he turned his head and looked at Xiao Xiaolong.

The corner of Xiao Xiaolong's mouth was twitching. He knew it. He was sure that Bu Fang's decision to go to Immortal Phoenix was made on the spur of the moment. However, even though he was dumbfounded, he still educated Bu Fang about certain things.

"As the number one restaurant within the imperial city, the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant has three floors. The quality of the furnishing and attendants are different for each floor. The first floor is the general area for ordinary customers and the price of the dishes are not high. People from families that are slightly well-off can dine there a few times per month.

"The second floor is the distinguished guests area. The Immortal Phoenix Restaurant put in a little effort on the furnishing. The attendant is also changed from a male waiter to a pretty waitress in a brocade dress. Just based on the service quality, it's already one of the best among the imperial city and even the entire empire. Furthermore, the dishes on the second floor are far more expensive than the first floor and the taste is much better as well.

"The third floor is the supreme area. All of the services are top-notch. Be it the furnishing or the attendants, it's undoubtedly number one within the imperial city. Only those with a distinguished status can step onto this floor."

Xiao Xiaolong explained to Bu Fang. He introduced the different operating styles of the three floors.

After hearing his explanation, Bu Fang narrowed his eyes and nodded. The owner of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant had some brains after all. By having different operating styles based on floors, it would cause the customers to feel a difference in status and encourage expenditure. Customers from the general area would choose to go to the distinguished guest area due to the issue with face. On the other hand, customers that had been to the distinguished guest area would be unable to return to the general area due to the fear of losing face. This would increase the profits of the distinguished guest area and their earnings would definitely be bountiful.

"The dishes from the supreme area on the third floor should be the best, right? Are you qualified to enter?" Bu Fang suddenly asked after thinking for a while.

"Since it's the supreme area, only the most respectable people in the Light Wind Empire can enter. The children of court officials like us are not qualified. Some time ago, Sun Qixiang wanted to forcibly enter and was thrown out by a sixth grade Battle-Emperor that was keeping watch," Xiao Xiaolong said.

After hearing his words, Bu Fang began to frown. "Even you're not qualified to enter that supreme area?"

"Only His Majesty, the Minister of the Right, my father, General Ouyang and others with similar statuses can enter," Xiao Xiaolong said while ambiguously mentioning the background of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

While the two of them were chatting, they already reached the beautifully furnished entrance of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

"Oh my, isn't this young master Xiao? It's been a while since I've seen you. Are you here to eat today? Hurry, hurry and come in."

When the four of them reached the entrance, a voluptuous, attractive middle-aged woman approached while swaying her hips as her enchanting voice filled with happiness rang out.

Xiao Xiaolong elegantly smiled and nodded. "It's been a while, elder sister Chun. Your figure has become even more sensual."

The attractive middle-aged woman called elder sister Chun immediately covered her smile and as she laughed, her chest began to lively bounce. Despite the freezing

temperature, she was still exposing a snow white area at her chest and did not seem to be bothered by the weather in the slightest.

The attractive middle-aged woman was smiling as she guided them into the interior of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

Bu Fang did not say anything. He only glanced at elder sister Chun's body once and indifferently looked away. His expression was solemn as he stepped into the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. Once he entered, he could feel the popularity of the restaurant.

The first floor was a vast hall with tables neatly set up. People were heartily having their meals at each table. From the expressions on their face, it was evident that they were very satisfied with the food.

"Young master Xiao, is there only four of you? Are we going to the distinguished guest area?" Elder sister Chun's hips were swaying as she guided them. As they walked, she turned around to chat with their group.

"Yes, there's four of us. Elder sister Chun, arrange a table for us." Xiao Xiaolong nodded and was about to reply, when Bu Fang suddenly spoke up and interrupted him.

"Wait, let's eat at the general area first. Arrange a table for us."

"Eh? We're going to eat at the general area?" This time, it was not only Xiao Xiaolong, even Xiao Yanyu and Ouyang Xiaoyi were surprised.

"Yes, of course. You can go ahead to the distinguished guest area if you want. In any case, I'll head there after I've finished eating at the general area," Bu Fang added.

With this, the gaze of Xiao Xiaolong and the others became contemplative. Xiao Yanyu's lips, that were hidden under her veil, were even slightly curled up as she thought, "This Bu Fang... is trying to cause trouble."

"Alright. Elder sister Chun, prepare a table for us at the general area first," Xiao Xiaolong said to elder sister Chun with a smile.

Elder sister Chun's pretty face was filled with suspicions. Her red phoenix eyes shifted toward Bu Fang and quickly moved away after a single glance. She charmingly said, "Very well, come with me."

Under elder sister Chun's arrangement, they were able to quickly sit down at a vacant table.

Bu Fang was sitting upright as he removed the scarf coiled around his neck and his cashmere overcoat. His expression was solemn as he reached out his finger and

brushed it against the surface of the table. An oily sense of feeling instantly emerged and his finger was stained by a jet-black grease.

"The hygiene is terrible and poorly affects my appetite," Bu Fang coldly evaluated.

Xiao Xiaolong, who had just sat down and was prepared to make an order, suddenly froze and bewilderedly looked at Bu Fang.

Ouyang Xiaoyi and Xiao Yanyu were blinking as they looked strangely at Bu Fang.

That voluptuous elder sister Chun was extremely embarrassed as she resentfully cursed in her mind, "This is the general area, the hygiene is naturally bad! Why are you so picky when you chose to come to the general area!"

"Bring me all of the dishes in the general area that you think are first-rate," Bu Fang expressionlessly said to elder sister Chun while seated down.

"All of the first-rate dishes? There's ten first-rate dishes in the general area. Each dish costs five hundred silver coins. Are you sure you want all of them?" Elder sister Chun suspiciously looked at Bu Fang.

It was not that she did not trust Bu Fang, as he had arrived with Xiao Xiaolong after all. Xiao Xiaolong was the son of Great General Xiao Meng and would naturally have a lot of money. If the young man in front of her was Xiao Xiaolong's friend, he would naturally be well-off as well. However, if he did not lack money... what was he doing in the general area?

"Elder sister Chun, just serve the dishes. He lacks everything but money," Xiao Xiaolong said to her with a chuckle.

Since Xiao Xiaolong had already spoken, elder sister Chun went to arrange for the dishes to be prepared.

Once elder sister Chun was gone, Xiao Xiaolong made eyes at Bu Fang and said, "Owner Bu, are you planning to try all of the dishes in Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?"

The corner of Bu Fang's mouth widened into a smile as he indifferently glanced at Xiao Xiaolong and said, "That's right, I am here to find fault and cause trouble today."

[1] Red phoenix eye(丹凤眼) - This is used to describe an eye type where the outer corner inclines upwards. An example of an actress with the red phoenix eye is Liu Yifei (刘亦菲).

Chapter 69: I Give a Poor Rating to... Everything!

"Eh... How could he declare it in such a righteous manner even though he's here to cause trouble? It truly fits Owner Bu's personality."

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were all dumbfounded. They clearly did not understand the reason for Bu Fang to find fault at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

"Owner Bu... do you have a grudge against the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?" Xiao Yanyu's pleasant voice rang out as she softly asked. Evidently, it was not just Xiao Xiaolong, even someone as intelligent as her could not understand it.

Bu Fang looked toward Xiao Yanyu and his eyes met her bright eyes. "Do I need a reason to find fault with others? I came because I feel like doing it."

"Fine... This reply is impeccable. It was a reply fitting for Owner Bu." Xiao Yanyu thought.

Everyone stopped talking and quietly waited for the dishes to arrive. The general area was very noisy and various odors were drifting in the air. The aroma of poor quality wine and the strange smell of food mixed together and created an unbearable stench.

Even Xiao Xiaolong's eyes were noticeably showing disdain. The Immortal Phoenix Restaurant might be well-known through the imperial city, but the hygiene within the general area was indeed terrible. The main reason was the high volume of customers, which made it difficult to upkeep the hygiene.

"Your dish is being served!" A voice rang out as a waiter with a white towel hanging on his shoulder carried a dish while slowly approaching.

"Guests, here is your dish, the Red Braised Lion's Head!" The waiter was smiling as he placed a steaming Red Braised Lion's Head on Bu Fang's table.

The color of the Red Braised Lion's Head dipped in red sauce was gorgeous. It exuded fragrance as steam rose from the dish and dispersed in front of their eyes.

"This Red Braised Lion's Head looks pretty good!" Xiao Xiaolong nodded and said after glancing at the dish.

He picked up his chopsticks and aligned them by lightly tapping them against the table before picking up one of the Lion's Head soaked in red sauce.

Bu Fang expressionlessly picked up his chopsticks as well. He picked up one of the Lion's Head and moved it into his bowl. He first used his chopsticks to poke the Lion's Head to feel its hardness, then moved it closer to his nose and sniffed.

One after another, Ouyang Xiaoyi and Xiao Yanyu took a bite of this Red Braised Lion's Head as well. The taste was pretty good, since it was one of the top ten signature dishes of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's general area. Even though it could not be compared to Bu Fang's dishes, it was still pretty good when compared to ordinary dishes.

Ouyang Xiaoyi's pretty face became rosy as she satisfiedly finished her Lion's Head within a few bites.

Xiao Xiaolong smacked his lips and drank a mouthful of water. He picked up another Lion's Head and ate it. A plate of Red Braised Lion's Head only had five meatballs and he ate two of them by himself.

"Owner Bu, you should try this as well. The taste of this Lion's Head is quite good. The chef of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant still has some skills," Xiao Xiaolong said to Bu Fang as he chewed the Lion's Head.

Bu Fang did not reply as he took a small bite. As the sauce entered his mouth, there was a slight astringent taste. After chewing a few times, Bu Fang swallowed and expressionlessly placed his chopsticks down. He did not continue eating.

Bu Fang's actions caused Xiao Yanyu and the others to give him strange looks.

"The sauce of this Red Braised Lion's Head is too salty. Clearly, too much salt was added. Furthermore, the sugar within the sauce did not completely dissolve, so it was slightly astringent when I tasted it. Moreover, Lion's Head, also known as Four Happiness Meatballs, is made by precisely kneading seventy percent of the lean meat and thirty percent of fatty meat into a meatball. In addition, the lean meat must be manually minced into fine bits and the fatty meat must not be too greasy. From the fact that the shredded meat are still sticking together, you can tell that the lean meat used in this dish was clearly not minced into fine bits. The fatty meat used is also too greasy, which affects the taste. I give a poor rating."

Bu Fang lightly exhaled and simply said. As Xiao Xiaolong and the others speechlessly stared at him, he spoke a lot of words and criticized the dish of Red Braised Lion's Head to the point where it sounded completely worthless.

Xiao Xiaolong was flabbergasted as his chopsticks fell from his hands and onto the table. After hearing Bu Fang's assessment, the Lion's Head did not seem as delicious when he took another look at it. He had no idea that the meatballs had that many flaws.

He originally still had some appetite, but now, his desire to continue eating disappeared. He spat out the half-eaten Lion's Head back into his bowl.

"Owner Bu... He really is here to cause trouble. The general area's signature dish was actually criticized to such a miserable state. However, with his culinary skills, the rating should be quite accurate," Xiao Xiaolong thought.

The second dish, a plate of Steamed Fish, was served. A fresh aroma was continuously exuding from the fish, along with a warm steam.

The appearance of the Steamed Fish was extremely well preserved. There were a few cuts made on the body of the fish. As the flesh of the fish became cooked after steaming, these cuts would be forced open and reveal the tender flesh inside. A light colored fish soup was resting within the plate and surrounding the Steamed Fish.

This time, none of the others touched their chopsticks. They were staring at Bu Fang as they waited for him to give a rating first.

Bu Fang nodded and picked up his chopsticks. He first used his chopsticks to lightly press down on the gills of the fish. A slight rebound force came from his chopsticks, causing Bu Fang to nod. He thought, "It looks like the control over the heat when cooking this Steamed Fish was done pretty well."

He dipped the tip of his chopsticks into the fish soup and placed it into his mouth. There was a faint trace of salty fishiness, but just this little bit of fishiness caused Bu Fang's expression to instantly become unpleasant.

"Ptui!" Bu Fang lightly spat while facing away from the table, then drank a mouthful of water to wash away the fishiness in his mouth.

"Even the basic fishiness of the fish was not removed. There's no point in trying, the flesh of the fish definitely contains fishiness." Bu Fang's expression was extremely unpleasant and his tone was even slightly cold as he gave his assessment.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were surprised once more. Bu Fang had already judged the dish as a failure before he even tasted the fish... Xiao Xiaolong did not blindly believe him and used his chopsticks to put a piece of fish into his mouth.

The taste was actually still pretty good. The fishiness that Bu Fang mentioned was present but not that strong. Even though it was still there, it was still tolerable.

"Culinary is particular about rigorousness. Any oversight or mistake will affect the taste of the food! Fishiness should not be present in the first place. Since it's present, then it's a failure," Bu Fang mercilessly criticized.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others nodded without fully understanding his words. A few moments later, the waiter was serving a few other dishes. However, when he saw the mostly intact dishes on the table, he was slightly startled.

Some of the dishes were almost untouched while some were only slightly disturbed. However, as a whole, the dishes on the customer's table were only tasted once and left unfinished.

This was something completely unbelievable at the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. The food cooked by the chefs of the restaurant had subdued the stomachs on innumerable people!

As the waiter was bringing out the last dish for Bu Fang's table, he informed elder sister Chun about the weird situation at the table and she was startled as well. She had a doubtful expression as she carried the final dish to Bu Fang's table.

When Elder sister Chun arrived at the table and saw the table filled with practically untouched dishes, her pupils slightly constricted as she asked, "Oh my, young master Xiao, why aren't you eating? Are the dishes not to your liking?"

Bu Fang's mood was currently not good. The fact that he was unable to taste a good dish was naturally affecting his mood as well.

Xiao Xiaolong helplessly pointed at Bu Fang and said, "This young master Bu said that your dishes were cooked... too poorly, that they're completely inedible."

"What? Young master Xiao must be joking. Everyone in the imperial city knows how well the dishes from Immortal Phoenix Restaurant tastes like. Even though this is the general area, even the dishes here are comparable to the signature dishes of other big restaurants!" Elder sister Chun chuckled and waved her hand.

Her gaze landed on Bu Fang and her expression became unpleasant.

Bu Fang ignored her and used his chopsticks to eat the final dish.

After having a single bite, Bu Fang put down his chopsticks. He shook his head and simply said, "For this Stir-Fried Shrimps with Bamboo Shoot, the bamboo shoots chosen are overripe, and some of them are too bitter and difficult to chew. There's a difference in quality in the shrimps used as well. Some of them are live prawns while the others are dead prawns. The difference between the taste is too strong. I give a poor rating."

After hearing Bu Fang's assessment, elder sister Chun went into a daze. Then, she was so exasperated that her chest began to heave. She thought, "This zombie face is really here to cause trouble! He actually dares to criticize the signature dish of the general area as worthless! Who is he to evaluate us like this?!"

Elder sister Chun massaged her bulging chest and coldly glanced at Bu Fang, saying, "Looks like you're a chef as well? Since you're a chef, you should understand... Who are you to evaluate the dishes of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant!"

Chapter 70: Pan-Fried Flower Crab, I Give a Poor Rating!

Elder sister Chun was furious. Xiao Xiaolong's friend was clearly there to find fault. The general area's dishes might not be cooked by their top chef, but it was not possible for them to be as dreadful as he described.

Meanwhile, Xiao Xiaolong and the others were looking at elder sister Chun with weird expressions on their faces. They thought, "Bu Fang does not have the qualifications to criticize Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's dishes? That's the biggest joke in the world. Even the emperor was subdued by Bu Fang's dishes, what right does the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant have to be so arrogant?"

Elder sister Chun's words were very arrogant, but she had the qualification to be arrogant. She was very confident in the chefs of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant. There was basically no other restaurant in the Light Wind Empire that was better than them. The chefs they hired were the best in the entire empire.

The mocking gaze from Xiao Xiaolong and the others was making elder sister Chun feel slightly uncomfortable. Her pretty face slightly frowned as she asked, "Are my words incorrect?"

Xiao Xiaolong and the others chuckled and lightly shook their heads without speaking, while Bu Fang was expressionless as he glanced at her.

His glance was as if he was looking at a clown.

Bu Fang stood up and glanced at elder sister Chun. He placed some gold coins on the table and simply said, "Bring me to the second floor. All of the dishes on the first floor... I give a poor rating."

"You..." Elder sister Chun was exasperated. She thought, "Why is this person so arrogant! Who does he think he is? Who is he to criticize the dishes made by the chefs of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?!"

When Xiao Xiaolong and the others saw that Bu Fang was going to the second floor, their eyes immediately lit up and they stood up as well.

Xiao Xiaolong smiled as he moved next to elder sister Chun and said, "Elder sister Chun, don't be angry. This friend of mine has a personality just like that. Bring us to the second floor. The second floor's dishes are incomparable to the first floor's. When that time comes, my friend might not give such an assessment."

"Fine! I want to see whether this arrogant brat would still be this conceited upstairs!" Elder sister Chun tenderly snorted as she turned around and led the way while swaying her hips.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others carefreely smiled as they followed after her.

The space on the second floor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant was much narrower than the first floor. When Bu Fang and the others made their way onto the second floor, they could feel a different atmosphere with their bodies.

Unlike the clamorous first floor, the second floor was extremely quiet and harmonious. The furnishing was very gorgeous and exquisite, and there were many spirit herbs placed in the surroundings that constantly released fresh air. There were some customers seated at their tables, eating their food in a refined manner.

Elder sister Chun led them toward an empty table while swaying her body. Her expression was unpleasant as she coldly said to Bu Fang, "Look at the menu, what do you want to eat!"

Bu Fang received the menu. There were around twenty dishes written on it and every single dish was very expensive. Even though it was nothing compared to Fang Fang's Little Store, the price was already unattainable for the ordinary populace.

Bu Fang only took a single glance before he placed the menu on the table and simply said, "Give me all of the dishes that you think are the best on the second floor."

"Hmm?" Elder sister Chun's pupils constricted as she coldly looked at Bu Fang. She thought, "From his tone, this brat is still trying to find fault with our dishes? He's on the second floor of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant and he still dares to find fault?"

"Very well! I'll let you experience the dishes of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant!" Elder sister Chun angrily snorted as she turned around and left to make arrangements for the preparation of the dishes.

Only after elder sister Chun left, Xiao Xiaolong softly asked Bu Fang, "Owner Bu... Are you really preparing to criticize all of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's dishes today?"

"Is this really a wise thing to do? After all, harmony breeds prosperity."

Bu Fang slightly frowned and glanced at Xiao Xiaolong. He simply said, "They should be grateful that I am pointing out their inadequacies."

Ouyang Xiaoyi could not help but burst out laughing. Owner Bu's earnest appearance while speaking nonsense was simply too funny for her.

Xiao Yanyu was covering her mouth as she chuckled as well. A trace of captivating redness appeared on her beautiful face.

On the other hand, Bu Fang was extremely puzzled. He was speaking the truth. The assessment he gave pointed out the fatal flaws of the dishes. If they made revisions based on these flaws, the taste of these dishes would at least improve by a single grade.

After a while, the fragrance of a dish drifted toward them.

Elder sister Chun's hips were swaying as she leisurely approached while bringing the dish. She was carrying a large plate with flower crabs that exuded a rich fragrance. These flower crabs were split into halves and erected on the plate. From a distance, it looked dazzling and glorious.

"This is a very well-known dish of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant's distinguished area, the Pan-Fried Flower Crab." Elder sister Chun provocatively looked at Bu Fang after placing the dish onto the table.

Xiao Xiaolong was feeling slightly unable to restrain himself as he breathed in the aroma of the flower crab. Previously, when he came to the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, he would definitely order this dish.

He moved one of the flower crabs into his bowl and eagerly removed the shell before he heartily started eating.

Bu Fang also helped himself to one half of a flower crab. The color of the flower crab was well-controlled. The red-colored shell and also the fragrance that exuded after it was pan-fried were quite tantalizing.

Grabbing a single chopstick, Bu Fang pried open the shell of the flower crab and the fragrant crab meat was exposed in front of him. That white and tender crab meat was giving off a faint heat, and when supplemented by the red shell, made it even more inviting.

Bu Fang did not immediately touch the crab meat. He used his chopstick to scoop off some of the crab butter from the shell. The crab butter was amber in color and very enticing. Even though the fragrance was not that strong, it was still the essence of a crab.

"Hmm?" After Bu Fang tasted the crab butter that remained on the shell, he began to frown and did not say anything. Then, he took a bite of the tender and fragrant crab meat and his expression was still solemn.

After tasting both the crab butter and crab meat, Bu Fang put the flower crab down and did not say anything.

"What's wrong? Can't point out any flaws? The dishes on the first floor are prepared for ordinary commoners and you would definitely be able to point out the flaws. However, now that you're on the second floor, the dishes here are prepared for the distinguished guests, the prestigious people within the imperial city. Can you still point out the flaws?"

When elder sister Chun saw that Bu Fang was not speaking, she immediately began to mock and ridicule him.

Xiao Xiaolong and the others were also startled as they puzzledly looked at Bu Fang. However, according to their understanding of Bu Fang, he would definitely not give up such a chance to put down others.

Bu Fang glanced at the jubilant elder sister Chun, then pursed his lips and simply said, "It's not that I can't say anything, it's that I am speechless. Is this really a signature dish from the second floor of Immortal Phoenix Restaurant?"

"Leaving aside how the flower crab was cooked, the choice of the flower crab itself was a stain on this dish. The most important aspect of Pan-Fried Flower Crab is the selection of the flower crab. This flower crab's meat is not tender enough and it's as tasteless as water. Just from looking, I can tell that this crab was artificially bred. The texture of the meat feels empty and the taste is much worse than wild flower crabs. Furthermore, there's also the problem with the pan-frying process. The control over the heat was not done properly and as a result, the crab butter lost its fragrance and taste due to overcooking. Overall, I give a poor rating."

It was not that Bu Fang could not say it, but he was lazy to say it. When he first smelled this dish of Pan-Fried Flower Crab, he was feeling slightly expectant. However, once he tasted it, that expectation sharply fell. Saying that it fell from the sky into an abyss would not be an exaggeration.

Elder sister Chun went into a daze. Xiao Xiaolong and the others went into a daze as well. So... this dish had so many flaws! They could not tell at all!

"Hmph! Who doesn't know how to talk nonsense! Who knows whether your comments are correct!" Elder sister Chun started to sneer.

Bu Fang indifferent glanced at her and looked away. "It's up to you whether you believe it or not. Hurry up and serve the other dishes. I've already lost my patience with your dishes."

That was right, whether she believed or not did not matter to Bu Fang. He was only there to complete the system mission and not to educate elder sister Chun.

"Elder sister Chun, what happened? What's the reason for the dispute?"

Just when elder sister Chun's chest was heaving from exasperation, a slim figure slowly approached and started to speak.

When elder sister Chun saw the person who approached, her eyes lit up as she said, "Owner Qian, hurry up and come over. This fellow is saying that our restaurant's dishes are not cooked properly!"