

A Valiant Life

Chapter 6: The Power Of The encyclopedia

“Encyclopedia? Looks like it’s the fabled gift from heaven. Let me give it a read.”

“Encyclopedia, come out,” Lin Fan lifted his arms and shouted.

However, after waiting for a while, nothing happened. He let out a sigh and closed his eyes.

Suddenly, a heavy looking encyclopedia appeared in his mind.

“Looks like this is it. Doesn’t seem like anything special. I better go check it out.”

Lin Fan was feeling a bit worried. He knew that in this skeptical society, if people found out about the encyclopedia, they would want to examine it.

So, for his own safety, he vowed to not tell anyone about it even if it killed him.

“What kind of powers does this encyclopedia have?” Lin Fan flipped to the first page and realized that there was not even a contents page. He furrowed his brows and wondered if this was just some sort of joke.

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First page: Godly scallion pancake

The page was filled with pictures of scallion pancakes, all of which almost looked real. At the bottom of the page, there was also a row of words that had been recorded down. Lin Fan could understand the words as they were about the origin of the scallion pancake, the recipe and other facts about it.

He continued to flip the pages of the book.

The second page, blank.

Third page, blank.

...

Lin Fan immediately just flipped to the last page of the book, expecting it to be empty. It turned out that there were words inscribed.

“What the hell? Who created this joke of a book? The content page wasn’t on the first page. It’s on the last page. Whoever did this deserves an award,” Lin Fan complained. *Is this a joke?* If he hadn’t looked as thoroughly, he would have missed it.

Lin Fan carefully analyzed it and realized the categories on the contents page were a little complicated. He flipped to the page on food and realized it was divided into Chinese and Western food and in these categories, there were numerous sub-categories.

Thousands of dishes, dishes from all different corners of the world and the godly scallion pancake was one of them. Also, all these delicious dishes had many different variations which in turn had even more different variations. Lin Fan suddenly felt that his life had just become more interesting.

There were categories for martial arts, music, languages, sciences, arts, mathematics, medicine, crafts, appraisals, finances, drama, and singing...

Lin Fan could not believe his eyes after seeing so many categories. As he was preparing to rest for a moment, he saw a category which stunned him.

Isn't this defying nature?

Categories for martial arts, immortality, smelting tools, heroism...

Lin Fan suddenly felt like his stomach had a stone pressing down on it and he was unable to take a single breath.

If I unlock this category, would I still be human?

“Could this be the introduction of the Encyclopedia?” he said to himself.

Encyclopedia: Able to contain all the knowledge in the universe. As you unlock more pages, you will be able to learn more.

Encyclopedic points: If you complete certain tasks, you can obtain encyclopedic points. Another way of obtaining encyclopedic points would be to impart knowledge to others.

Usage of Encyclopedic Points: The usage of a fixed amount of Encyclopedic Points allows selective unlocking of pages. Without using Encyclopedic Points, pages will be randomly unlocked.

Encyclopedia tasks: Completing tasks and earning encyclopedic points would cause a new branch of knowledge in the encyclopedia to open.

Since the host is the first user, the knowledge on the first page is related to the occupation of the host.

Host: Lin Fan

Occupation: Scallion Pancake Hawker

Knowledge from the first page: Godly Scallion Pancakes

Mission: Gain a small amount of reputation (incomplete)

Reward: The second page of knowledge will be unlocked and +10 Encyclopedic Points.

At this moment, Lin Fan finally realized what this encyclopedia was and he felt a burst of anguish.

“F*ck the scallion pancakes. Why did I start with the scallion pancake business? If I was ambitious and trained day and night to become immortal, I would have unlocked the Encyclopedia page for immortality.”

“I just let this once in a lifetime opportunity slip away like this. Even if I was a just back-end office worker in a bank, I would have unlocked the banking category. Then, the money would be flowing in endlessly. What a pity!”

Lin Fan was lying in bed when he suddenly realized how many opportunities he had lost. Regretting it was useless now, and he could only go back to making an honest living by selling scallion pancakes, hoping that the second page’s knowledge would be more interesting. However, trying to complete this first mission was a pain in the ass.

Attain a small amount of reputation? How much is considered a small amount?

“Forget it, I’m just going to try having my own scallion pancakes and see how it goes. After seeing those people eat my pancakes, they looked like they tasted heaven. Could these scallion pancakes really be that good?”

Lin Fan felt heavy hearted as he accepted the reality that the encyclopedia was part of his life now.

It was really a gift from heaven. If he was to tell the world that his life was being taken over by the aliens and that he needed help, he would be a fool indeed.

Lin Fan felt a tinge of pride. The most awesome thing in the world was now his.

Hard work and more hard work, that’s what he needed to become the most powerful person in the world.

“Enough talk. It’s time to make some scallion pancakes.”

Lin Fan went to work and started preparing the scallion pancakes. He was getting excited from it.

“Hey, not bad. It looks good and the smell is pretty good, but is it really that delicious?”

Lin Fan opened his mouth and took a bite.

Lin Fan was stunned. His eyes softened and his saliva started to flow out.

“This is really too delicious, I can’t believe I made this!”

Lin Fan was shocked, he felt like he was going to collapse.

At this moment, he finally realized why everyone had reacted like that. The scallion pancake was really too delicious.

“Hmm, I never thought that I could make such a delicious pancake. Only heaven could reveal such knowledge to me.” Lin Fan sat on his bedside as he savored the taste of the scallion pancake. His heart was content.

“I, Lin Fan, promise to be the best scallion pancake maker in Shanghai. I will make everyone fall in love with my scallion pancakes.”

“No, this goal is too small. I, Lin Fan, will become the best at everything and earn a lot of money. I’ll start in Shanghai and I’ll make my ancestors proud when my business expands to my hometown.”

Lin Fan was bubbling with excitement. Lin Fan had finally found his purpose.

“Brat, what’s all that noise you’re making? Be a little more realistic with your dreams, will you?” Elder Wang, who was nearby, exclaimed.

The old Lin Fan would have listened but things had changed.

Lin Fan retorted, “This is my dream. Now shut your mouth before I take one of my scallion pancakes and shove it down your mouth, you old man.”

“You little...”

“Forget it, Elder Wang. Don’t say anything else. He must have been really affected by the stiff competition in Shanghai.”

“Fine, if not for you, I would have taught him a lesson!”

Lin Fan snorted in disdain. What a b*stard...

At that moment, his iPhone 4 rang.

Lin Fan knew no one would call him. It was a group message notification from WeChat.

“Attention: Students’ gathering will be held on October 1st. We will be celebrating Teacher Xia’s birthday as well. Be there or be square!” said ‘A rich man’, which was a WeChat username.

“Everyone must be present.”

“It’s Teacher Xia’s birthday. This is too important to be missed. You should reschedule your appointments that day if you have any.”

“What will you do, Lin Fan? It’s okay if you don’t sell your scallion pancakes for 2 days. I’ll just reimburse your two days worth of income..”

“Haha.”

“+1.”

“+2.”

As he saw the messages, Lin Fan’s fingers started typing.

“If you want to buy 2 days’ worth of scallion pancakes, you’d have to sell your house to be able to afford it.”

“Haha, Lin Fan you are so funny.”

“Shanghai isn’t a good place to do business. Come to where I am, I’ll hook you up with a job.”

“You guys should stop teasing him. Surviving in Shanghai isn’t easy. But honestly speaking, we’re all still young. Selling scallion pancakes at this age when you could be doing so much more is such a waste of your youth.”

“Wang Zhen, you’re one to talk. Although it isn’t a glorious business, it seems easy to get on the news...”

“Youngster in Shanghai only makes \$100 a day by selling scallion pancakes.”

“Haha, you would have to live on the streets in Shanghai if you’re making just \$100 a day.”

...

Lin Fan decided to not look at his phone anymore. He was just going to get teased further.

Is the meetup on the 1st of October? I can't wait to shove my scallion pancakes down their throats.

Hmmph!

I, Lin Fan, have been blessed by heaven, unlike these people. It's only July now, I still have plenty of time to make it big.

But onto more important things. I need to raise the price of my scallion pancakes tomorrow, or else I'll end up making a loss...

Chapter 7: You're too courteous

As the saying goes, the early bird gets the worm. As for Lin Fan's scallion pancakes, the peak in the number of customers usually occurred at 7-8 am in the morning and 4-5 pm in the afternoon.

For the whole night, Lin Fan couldn't sleep as he was too excited.

How could one expect Lin Fan to sleep properly when he had been given such a gift from Heaven? If he had a rocket, he would have flown to the moon and sung a song.

With the experience accumulated from yesterday afternoon, Lin Fan prepared quite a number of ingredients; sufficient to make two hundred scallion pancakes.

He hummed in joy as he took a shower and pushed his cart towards the usual location.

My life is finally taking a turn for the better! Lin Fan thought to himself ecstatically.

"Lin Fan, you must be in a good mood to be humming since you left your house," said Aunt Wang who greeted Lin Fan.

"Aunt Wang, you're getting prettier by the day," Lin Fan replied as he was still happily thinking of living a luxurious life in the future.

"Did you strike the lottery? Why are you so sweet today?" Aunt Wang said as she smiled at Lin Fan. She was already in her fifties. To receive such a compliment from a young chap made her day.

"Yeah, I guess you can say that," Lin Fan couldn't hide his excitement as he continued to push his cart.

Meanwhile, on the other side of Red Star Primary School...

When Lin Fan arrived at his location, he saw an unusually large crowd of people.

"Damn, that's weird. In the past, there weren't so many parents sending their kids to school. Furthermore, these people look too young to be parents."

Lin Fan was confused at this sight but he continued to push his cart towards his location. It was then he realized that his position had been taken over by an old man.

*F*ck, the old hag really meant what she said yesterday. They really took my place.* Lin Fan was infuriated. *Isn't this bullying?!*

"He's here, he's here; the little boss is here."

"He sells the scallion pancakes that I dreamt about the whole night ever since I ate one yesterday."

"Me too, they tasted so good. After I ate those scallion pancakes, the other things that I ate tasted like trash."

"Little Boss, why are you so slow? If you had come any later, we would have starved to death!"

...

Lin Fan was stunned as a group of people surrounded him. Then, an old man flashed a \$100 bill in front of Lin Fan's face.

"Little Boss, just take my money and make as many scallion pancakes as hundred dollars can buy. If I don't eat them today, I won't be able to go to work."

"And me! I want ten pieces!"

"I want five."

"I want three."

It was the first time Lin Fan was surrounded by a large group of passionate customers. At this point, Lin Fan became a little emotional. He wanted to cry. *Who says you can't make it big in life from making scallion pancakes? Aren't these people waiting impatiently for me to set up my stall?* Lin Fan thought to himself.

“Everyone, don’t be impatient. Let me push my cart over to the other side!” Lin Fan exclaimed, trying to settle the crowd down.

“I need a scallion pancake! I’m rushing for time!”

People continued to pester him for pancakes.

Lin Fan was shocked at the sight of this. Could he be dreaming? Wasn’t it just a scallion pancake? Did they have to be so impatient?

“Guys, be careful. Don’t topple my ingredients,” Lin Fan anxiously said.

“Did you hear that? Be more cautious! If the ingredients are to be toppled over, none of us will get to taste any pancakes. I’m as anxious as you are! But please relax!” said a big-sized man.

“Slow and steady, don’t be impatient! Listen to me. One, two, three...relax, relax...”

With the enormous and chaotic crowd, it didn’t even look like Lin Fan was selling scallion pancakes.

“Little Boss, what are you waiting for? Can you hurry up? Everyone’s waiting for you!”

“I’m coming, I’m coming!” Lin Fan didn’t have time to react properly. If he hadn’t experienced this situation personally today, he would have never believed it if somebody told him about it.

The owners of the stalls in the vicinity were all dumbfounded by what they had witnessed. It was the first time they had seen a scallion pancake seller receive such an overwhelming response.

Those parents who were sending their kids to school were also stunned by this sight. They shook their heads and thought that these people were crazy. They wanted to report the situation to the principal.

“Wife, what’s going on?” asked the middle-aged man who was selling fermented beancurd; the one that had taken over Lin Fan’s position.

“It’s fake; it must be fake. Anyway, you’ve already taken over his place, work harder! These idiots trying to compete with me for business should take a look at themselves first!”

“Hey, no worries. This place is mine. I’ll return to my stall first. We should try to poach some of his customers,” the middle-aged man said as he laughed despicably.

Lin Fan took a glance at the stall beside him and the old hag.

The old hag stared fiercely at Lin Fan, with a clear intention to show him that she wasn't going to ask her husband to move.

"Little Boss, I came here first. Just use my \$100 bill and give me as many scallion pancakes I can buy!" the rugged looking man said.

"I'm second! Please queue up properly. Let's not fight over each other's places."

Although the people queuing behind them were getting impatient, they still formed an organized queue which stretched over ten meters long.

These people had bought the scallion pancakes from Lin Fan yesterday and couldn't forget the taste which had lingered in their mouths ever since they took their first bite.

Everything they had eaten afterward had no taste at all. They only wanted one thing: the scallion pancakes. Hence, they rushed over in the morning just to buy the scallion pancakes. However, Lin Fan hadn't set up his stall yet. The people decided to stay put and wait.

It was an addiction, it must have been an addiction. A day without the scallion pancakes caused them to feel uncomfortable.

This was the effect of making the Godly scallion pancakes, which clearly exhibited the immense power of the magical encyclopedia.

Lin Fan had just started to prepare the scallion pancakes when a voice suddenly boomed, "This is my place, what right do you have to take it away from me?!"

"Little Boss, I'm begging you, please just make a scallion pancake for me. I can't last any longer without it..." the rugged old man begged Lin Fan.

"I'm sorry, but I have to clarify things here." Lin Fan said as he waved the fermented beancurd seller aside.

The man selling the fermented beancurd furrowed his brows and asked, "Why? Is your name stated clearly here? Does this plot of land belong to you? If you can produce evidence to prove that this piece of land belongs to you, I will leave right away."

"F*ck, isn't he wasting our time?! Brothers, let's move this fermented beancurd stall away. It's preventing us from getting our scallion pancakes. If we don't get it, we're going to die!"

Under the lead of the rugged looking man, a group of men shifted the fermented beancurd stall far away.

"What are you doing?!" the middle-aged man shouted.

“What do you mean what are we doing?” the men stared and shouted in anger. They were getting impatient while waiting to have their scallion pancakes and did not want anything to prevent them from buying the coveted scallion pancakes.

Their intense and fearsome looks frightened the middle-aged man.

Then, Lin Fan joyously returned to his stall and exclaimed, “Sorry for the wait, the scallion pancakes are coming soon, just wait for a little while longer.”

As the saying goes, “The only way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.” It was a saying that Lin Fan firmly believed in.

It seemed that Lin Fan was able to capture the stomachs of these old men.

Chapter 8: It’s A Sin

People started to crave for the scallion pancakes as the aroma filled the air.

The aroma of scallion oil and dough filled the air and every breath each person took was a pleasure.

This indescribable taste... The long wait was worth it!

gulp

The old man was so excited for the pancakes and just as he took his first bite, he started to praise Lin Fan repeatedly.

“With such skills, Little Boss shouldn’t have to be afraid of being unemployed! No matter how many I eat, I will never get sick of them.”

“It’s just like a work of art!”

Lin Fan heard that and smiled to himself. Then, he thought of the Encyclopedia which mentioned about gaining Encyclopedic Points when he explained the Encyclopedic knowledge.

“These scallion pancakes originated from Taiwan and I have improved the recipe on my own...” Lin Fan tried to explain as clearly as he could. After he was done explaining, Lin Fan spotted the old men in front staring at the scallion pancakes intently. They were not interested in anything Lin Fan had said which made him feel a little disappointed.

“Hey, hey! Little Boss, I didn’t understand a single thing you were saying but as long as you’re here, it’s all good,” the old men laughed and said.

“Alright,” Lin Fan was a little disappointed. It was exactly what he had thought. If the other party did not understand what Lin Fan was explaining, he wouldn’t be able to obtain Encyclopedic Points. *Looks like it’s not that easy after all.*

“Oh right, the price for each scallion pancake is now \$20.” Lin Fan said. He almost forgot to mention the increase in price.

“No problem, it’s just \$20. Even if they were \$100 each, I would still buy them. It just tastes like heaven on earth! Besides your stall, I wouldn’t want to buy scallion pancakes from any other stall.”

“Look at this scallion pancake! It has such defined layers, just like a work of art. Now I can’t even bear to eat it.”

crunch

The old man took a huge bite, his face instantly lit up in ecstasy.

Lin Fan did not say much. He continued to hustle and make more scallion pancakes. Although it was rather tough, it was good money.

As for the mission that required Lin Fan to gain a little reputation, the current situation made it seem like Lin Fan would be able to complete it without a problem.

Back at the Youth Arts Magazine Publishing Company.

“Ah, the handsome chap has finally set up his stall!” exclaimed the ladies in the office. Their eyes gleamed at the sight of the scallion pancakes and Lin Fan’s stall at the school opposite their office.

“Why are there so many people? How long do we have to queue?!”

“Baby, I’m about to starve to death! Qing Yi, please save me. Put your beauty to good use. Capture the handsome chap and force him to make scallion pancakes for us.” Huo Han laid there motionlessly as if she did not have any energy left in her.

“Go, go... If someone is to use her beauty for something like this, it would have to be you. Since you like the scallion pancakes so much and have so much admiration for his scallion pancake making skills, you are a perfect match for him!” Zhong Qing Yi said as she smiled. Then, she licked her lips as she thought of the heavenly taste of the scallion pancakes.

“So who’s going later? The boss is here, if all of us go, it would definitely attract his attention,” one of the ladies said.

“It’s so crowded now, we wouldn’t be able to make it if we were to go now. We have to observe the situation first. Once the crowd dies down, we will charge towards the stall immediately.”

Thereafter, everyone was too focused on observing and analyzing the situation at Lin Fan’s stall. Nobody could focus on their work anymore.

“Ah, it tastes so delicious. It is indeed a pleasure!” said an old man as he ate three pancakes in one go. He couldn’t fit any more scallion pancakes in his stomach.

The people in the queue behind were drooling at the sight of these men enjoying their delicious scallion pancakes. Along with the aroma, it was just too difficult to handle.

Lin Fan’s speed was improving tremendously as he took out the piping hot scallion pancakes out from the pot one by one.

People who walked past the stall witnessed how good the business was and it piqued their interest.

The other vendors in the vicinity were both in admiration and jealousy. If only their businesses were as good as Lin Fan’s. It wouldn’t have been a problem for them to earn a few thousand dollars a day if they had such great business.

“This is heaven on earth! I feel so energized after finishing all of my scallion pancakes.”

“I used to go to work exhausted. After I eat these scallion pancakes, I feel as strong as a bull. If I have one every day, going to work would be a joy!”

“Little Boss, you can’t just disappear. If you change your location, you have to inform us at the very least!”

“I have to bring some for my boss to try! Maybe I could use them as a reason to go to work late in future.”

...

These people made exaggerated expressions as they were eating the scallion pancakes, which caused others to feel envious of them.

“Do these scallion pancakes really taste that good?”

“Is there a problem with these guys? It’s just a simple scallion pancake. How can one be so happy by eating it?”

“I don’t believe it, I have to buy one to try.”

These people did not believe that the scallion pancakes really tasted that good. They wanted to try it for themselves. In the end, they joined the rest in praising Lin Fan as they ate the pancakes.

They hadn't expected that such a delicious scallion pancake existed. It cheered them up and made them feel as if their problems vanished into thin air.

On the other hand, Lin Fan was becoming more confident in himself. He felt that his life had really changed for the better.

He had become famous just by making scallion pancakes and it was at that moment that Lin Fan entered his world of fantasy.

In a grand marketplace, there was a middle-aged man wearing a tuxedo who was holding a bidding hammer, auctioning things.

"The starting bid for Lin Fan's scallion pancakes is \$1000."

The people in the crowd were going crazy.

"\$10,000."

"\$100,000."

\$1,000,000"

"The city enforcement officers are here! Quick, run!"

Suddenly, a loud roar could be heard, causing Lin Fan to tremble.

City enforcement officers?

*D*mn, it's time to go!*

Undoubtedly, 'city enforcement officers' had the ability to affect Lin Fan the most.

Those in the same line of work as his were all afraid of this phrase the most.

This was the strongest team. Lin Fan had been caught by them before. Xiao Feng had also been forced to leave for Dongguan because of them. Now, nobody knew how Xiao Feng was doing.

Then, Lin Fan turned around.

There were a few trucks which had "City Enforcement" written on them. They stopped and a group of uniformed personnel rushed out of the vehicles.

The other vendors in the vicinity fled quickly as they did not have much business anyway.

Lin Fan packed up his stuff immediately and prepared to run away. If he got caught, his money-making business would be gone just like that.

“Little Boss, what’s wrong with you?”

“Yeah, our scallion pancakes aren’t ready yet!”

“Little Boss, don’t be anxious. Please at least complete my scallion pancakes first.”

Lin Fan broke out in cold sweat. The city enforcement officers were already here and all they cared about were the scallion pancakes.

“Guys, the city enforcement officers are here. There’s always a next time! Let me escape first.”

“No, Little Boss, you can’t run away today. If we don’t taste the scallion pancakes today, we can’t survive until tomorrow.”

“That’s right. I would be lethargic everyday if I don’t have your scallion pancakes.”

The crowd held on firmly to Lin Fan’s stall, preventing him from escaping.

“I... I...”

Lin Fan had previously felt that it was awesome that he had so many customers. However, he realized that it was actually a burden.

“Guys, please just let me escape. I promise to be punctual tomorrow noon.” Lin Fan begged the crowd.

But what happened next left Lin Fan speechless.

“Little Boss, please... Just make the scallion pancakes for us, we will definitely let you go off in the future.”

The crowd kept begging and pestering Lin Fan. All of them couldn’t handle the pain of not being able to taste the scallion pancakes.

“I... I...” Suddenly, Lin Fan let go of his stall and threw it aside before running away. If he really got caught at that point, he would have to receive formal punishment.

“Little Boss, you can’t run.”

The large group of people soon caught up with Lin Fan and hugged him to prevent him from leaving.

“You can’t go...”

“That’s right, you can’t leave us!”

The city enforcement officers saw this and all they did was look at each other before bursting out in laughter.

“Not bad. Not bad at all. The citizens of today are becoming more morally upright. Now, they even help to restrain these illegal hawkers.” The team leader of the city enforcement team was Chief Liu Xiao Tian. Then, he gave a thumbs up to the citizens and complimented some of them for their good work.

As for Lin Fan, it was the complete opposite. He looked towards the sky and cried.

Chapter 9: Never seen something like this

“It’s too late.”

Lin Fan sighed in helplessness as the city enforcement platoon came to his shop. They say that a single slip can cause you an eternity of sorrow, but Lin Fan had never thought that things would turn out this way.

The scallion pancakes were so delicious that the customers would not let Lin Fan leave. In the end, he was caught red-handed by the enforcement officers.

“You sure are a stubborn brat. Even after getting caught by us time after time, you still have the guts to open your stall here. Do you know that you’re ruining our city’s image?”

“Standing in front of Lin Fan was a thirty-something-year-old man. He was the city enforcement platoon’s leader, Liu Xiao Tian.

Ever since he had started hawking, Lin Fan had had his cart confiscated thrice, and every one of the three times, it was this Liu Xiao Tian who caught him

“Chief Liu, I’m just a first time offender, please have mercy on me.”

Lin Fan was fearful of Chief Liu. His nickname was “Hawker Killer”. If you were caught by him, it didn’t matter what kind of tragic story you had, or whatever excuses you gave. He would dish out the appropriate punishment regardless, without a shred of sympathy.

“First-time offender? Hmph! Brat, if I include today, you would already have had four offenses. You even ran away from us a few times. Who knows how many times it would be if you hadn’t run. Fortunately, these dear citizens were around today to stop you, otherwise, you probably would have run away again, wouldn’t you?” Liu Xiao Tian smiled slyly as he reprimanded Lin Fan. Then, he waved his hand.

“Officers, take this cart away.”

Liu Xiao Tian then turned to the surrounding crowd and said with a wide smile on his face, “Thank you for your help, citizens. These hawkers open their stalls illegally, ruining the image of Shanghai. It’s thanks to you, the outstanding citizens, that we can have such a beautiful and vibrant city to live in.”

Liu Xiao Tian had worked as an enforcement officer for almost 6 years. Due to the stellar results that he produced, he rose to the appointment of platoon leader in just a short period of time.

City enforcement officials across the country had a bad reputation and many citizens were prejudiced against them.

There were occasional cases of violence by city enforcement officers across the country, but they were few. Even so, one bad apple can spoil the barrel and these cases caused their reputation to be ruined.

Liu Xiao Tian’s subordinates always carried out their duties with a peaceful and friendly attitude, never resorting to violence. Even if they were attacked, they would not retaliate physically.

Just as the city enforcement officers were about to take away the hawking cart, those citizens who were in the queue for the scallion pancakes decided that they had had enough.

“What are you people doing?”

“This stall cannot be taken away.”

“Yeah! You absolutely cannot take it away, my scallion pancake isn’t even ready yet!”

“Hands off! Get your hands off! You city enforcement officers are never around when you’re needed, but just have to come at a time like this. You must be doing this on purpose so we can’t enjoy our scallion pancakes!”

At this moment, the citizens erupted.

They had waited so long just for these scallion pancakes and it had almost been their turn too, but these city enforcement officials just had to show up now and decide to take away the cart immediately. Did they have any conscience?

Liu Xiao Tian was in shock. A moment ago, he was had just been complimenting the citizens, but right now, these so-called “outstanding citizens” were directing all of their anger towards him and his men.

“My dear citizens, this hawker is ruining our city’s image. We are all residents of this beautiful city. We wouldn’t want that to happen, right...?” Liu Xiao Tian tried earnestly to persuade them. He couldn’t let the relationship between the city enforcement officers and the citizens sour even further.

We are a big city, an international hub. This is why we must serve our citizens! He thought to himself.

“Don’t give me that rubbish. Whether the city is beautiful or not, that’s the city planners’ business. Let me ask you this: What could go wrong if we eat the scallion pancakes?”

“My fellow man, we are well aware of your duties, but sometimes you have to listen to what the people want, right?”

“That’s right! I’ve been queuing here for 40 minutes. If you just take this stall away, wouldn’t that be unfair to us?”

“I’m a doctor. If I don’t have these scallion pancakes, I’ll be lethargic the whole day. Do you know what kind of impact that will bring? I have an operation to perform this afternoon. If I can’t focus, I might commit a mistake. That may lead to major problems, even death. When that happens, I’ll be sure to drag you down with me.”

...

Liu Xiao Tian was stupefied. What the heck was going on?

They were just taking away a hawking cart, why was there so much dispute?

More and more people surrounded them to spectate the scene. Most of them had no idea what was going on and thought that some big incident had just happened.

Seeing the words “city enforcement officer” triggered them and made them recall the cases of violence by enforcement officers. One by one, the spectators whipped out their cell phones and gathered closer.

However, they were confused upon taking a closer look. What kind of situation was this? It didn’t seem like anything had happened.

Lin Fan was dumbfounded as well. He had never seen something like this. Customers were disputing against the city enforcement officers for the sake of wanting to have some of his scallion pancakes.

In fact, looking at the current situation, it seemed like even he wouldn't be able to leave until he served every one of his customers.

"Chief, what are we going to do? These people won't let us have the cart," one of Liu Xiao Tian's subordinates asked.

This kind of situation had never happened before. They were at a loss on what to do.

At this point, even Liu Xiao Tian himself was out of ideas.

If he just left the hawker alone, that would be against the regulations and it would make him uneasy. However, seeing how the citizens were, it seemed like he wouldn't be able to confiscate the cart even if he wanted to, at least not until they had their scallion pancakes.

Liu Xiao Tian was in a predicament.

More importantly, the crowd was getting bigger and bigger. If this dragged on any longer, news of this incident would start reaching the internet. Then, it wouldn't matter who was right or wrong, all the blame would be on the city enforcement officers.

"Godd*mmmit! What's the matter with these people? All this because of some scallion pancake!"

"Chief..." Lin Fan said weakly, "Why don't you just let me make these scallion pancakes for them?"

"No. Rules are rules. You've already broken a law, I have to confiscate your cart." Liu Xiao Tian said strictly.

Lin Fan sighed in frustration. *If you're going to be so stubborn, then let's see how you handle this.*

"Everybody, listen to me. We have to carry out our duties according to the rules and regulations. This hawker has broken the law, if we don't put a stop to it, our city will fall into disarray," Liu Xiao Tian reasoned with all his might, hoping the citizens would understand.

However, to this bunch of impatient citizens, whoever stood in between them and their scallion pancakes was an enemy.

"Don't give us that bullshit! If you dare to take away the stall, I will report you!"

“Yeah! If you don’t let us have those scallion pancakes, you’re basically killing us!”

Liu Xiao Tian stared at these citizens who didn’t show any sign of backing down. He was at a loss for words.

The world has changed.

Since when did situations like this start occurring?

In the past, hawkers would scurry away in fear of their stalls being confiscated.

And now, this scallion pancake hawker is just standing there impatiently, indifferent to what is happening as if he has done nothing wrong.

“Chief, why don’t we just let it go. These citizens look like they’ve been possessed or something. If we try to take the cart by force and something happens, we would be blamed even if we are right.”

“He’s right. These days, the internet is filled with criticism of us city enforcement officers. Let’s just look the other way for today. Otherwise, there may be some serious consequences.”

Liu Xiao Tian blinked a few times, then finally and reluctantly gave in with a nod of his head.

Since it’s come to this, let’s just forget about it.

“Go ahead, but after this group of customers, no more,” Liu Xiao Tian said firmly.

Lin Fan was astonished. He never thought this Chief Liu would give in.

With this, the surrounding citizens started rejoicing.

“Hey officers, you guys aren’t too bad after all!”

“Next time someone dares to talk bad about city enforcement officers online, I’ll be the first to object!”

“See? That’s how city enforcement officers should be, listening to the people’s wishes.”

Seeing how the citizens, who had just been protesting against them a moment ago, suddenly praise them like that, Liu Xiao Tian and his men were extremely gratified.

Alright, alright, let’s make an exception just this once.

Chapter 10: Is it really that demonic?

Lin Fan was now convinced that there was power in masses of people. Even the renowned city enforcement platoon had given in to them.

“Boss, hurry up and make us some scallion pancakes! I can’t wait any longer!”

“Ah, what a harmonious society we have.”

“Indeed, our country is becoming better and better. These officers are so empathetic towards us people, how could those netizens slander such fair and reasonable people.”

“This is the graciousness of our dear Shanghai enforcement officers, they deserve to be praised!”

...

Liu Xiao Tian smiled awkwardly. A moment ago, some of these people had seemed as if they were ready to kill if he didn’t give in to them.

Those who were spectating the scene had seen how the city enforcement officers were overwhelmed.

This scene was way too shocking. Fortunately, the situation had been recorded. It would soon be uploaded online for everyone to view.

This stall was great, and so was the crowd. They had managed to drive the city enforcement officers back just for the sake of eating Lin Fan’s scallion pancakes.

Lin Fan didn’t know what to do. This encyclopedia was awesome! A simple scallion pancake had people so many people going crazy over it. If he used the encyclopedia to cook all the dishes of Chinese cuisine, he would be famous!

Lin Fan thought that this encyclopedia seemed really powerful, but it would be a waste to only use it to get recipes. If it really was so great, it should be able to tell him how to become an immortal being. Even if that was not possible, it’d at least be able to teach him martial arts and he’d become a great noble warrior, unmatched across the world. Lin Fan shuddered with excitement at that thought.

“Hey Boss, how do you make your scallion pancakes so delicious?” a youngster, who was in the queue, asked curiously.

Lin Fan was elated upon hearing that.

“So firstly...”

“Encyclopedic points +1”

A metallic sound rang as Lin Fan finished his explanation. On the Encyclopedia's character column, the encyclopedic points increased to 2.

This was an improvement!

Lin Fan enjoyed sharing his knowledge, and would never tire of it.

An amazing fragrance spread across the place.

“This smells magnificent! I could smell this all day and not get tired of it!”

The queuing citizens breathed in deeply. This smell was too amazing. Just smelling it was a pleasure in itself.

At this moment, even the city enforcement officers who were still standing next to the stall were entranced by the smell. They stared at the freshly made scallion pancakes, with amazement in their eyes.

Those scallion pancakes were beautiful.

If they had civilian clothing to change into, they would definitely join the queue, but right now, they were in their uniforms and could not join the queue no matter how good those scallion pancakes smelled.

Even Liu Xiao Tian was drawn in by the smell. He swallowed his saliva uncontrollably, gazing at the scallion pancakes, but then he thought of his reputation and resisted the temptation.

His heart was thrown into a state of disarray.

This smell was too entrancing and the urge to eat was too great.

But he was the city enforcement platoon leader. He had to resist the temptation...

“Wa, delicious, delicious! These are the scallion pancakes I've been dreaming of my whole life. For the rest of today, I'm not going to eat anything else. I need to savor this taste!”

The youngster at the front of the queue let out an expression of gratitude as if this was the best day of his life.

I feel so blessed!

gulp

The city enforcement officers looked at the youngster ecstatically devouring that golden brown, crispy scallion pancake and couldn't help swallowing back their saliva.

They were seduced by the scallion pancakes and their appetites had all been stimulated, but every one of them still resisted the temptation with all their might.

Then came the next customer.

"Little Boss, sorry for the trouble, but could you please hurry up and make those pancakes?" It was the doctor from before.

"Would you like to know more about these scallion pancakes?"

Lin Fan wanted to earn some more encyclopedic points.

"No thanks, Little Boss. Getting those scallion pancakes is more important. I still have an important operation to perform this afternoon and I'm counting on the scallion pancakes to carry me through it," replied the doctor as he stared yearningly at the scallion pancakes. Since having those scallion pancakes the previous day, he couldn't stop thinking about them. He had even told his wife about them, but she didn't believe that they were that amazing.

For people who hadn't tried the scallion pancakes themselves, it was impossible to believe that a scallion pancake could be so incredibly delicious.

However, to those who had tried them, the scallion pancakes really were out of this world. Eating the scallion pancakes made them feel like they were on cloud nine.

Lin Fan realized that those encyclopedic points might be harder to earn than he had thought.

Even if he wanted to share the information, it wouldn't matter if no one was interested.

"That's great, I never thought my scallion pancakes would be so useful. Hope your operation will be a success!" Lin Fan said, cheerily.

"Of course. After having your scallion pancakes, I'll be able to focus for sure!" the doctor grinned as he replied.

...

As time passed, scallion pancakes were served, one by one. Each of the customers left with expressions of awe on their faces.

It was as if the scallion pancakes that they held in their hands were bars of gold.

The surrounding spectators were in disbelief. This situation didn't make any sense.

How good could a scallion pancake taste?

"Alright, the public's needs have been met and your stall wasn't confiscated, but you still have to come with us," said Liu Xiao Tian

"What?!"

When Lin Fan heard this, he got mad.

"Chief Liu, that can't be right! All I did was illegal hawking, not some kind of major crime, why must I go with you?"

Every time Lin Fan had been caught, his cart had been confiscated and he had been issued a fine, but never before had he been taken away by the officers.

This was completely nonsensical!

Had he been too cocky? Perhaps they wanted to give him a beating?

"What the issue? We have listened to the public's wishes, can't you abide by our wishes now? All we want is to bring you back for some questioning. After that, you may leave," Liu Xiao Tian said with a peculiar gleam in his eyes, then glanced over at the scallion pancakes in the citizens' hands.

He thought to himself. *Are they really so delicious? D*mmmit, I have to get myself one no matter what.*

"What about us? Don't close the stall yet!"

At this moment, crisp and clear voices filled the place.

Everyone turned their heads and saw a bunch of young, beautiful ladies running towards them with anxious looks on their faces.

Because they were running so quickly, their boobs bounced vigorously.

gulp

Every male person in the crowd couldn't help but start to drool. What a beautiful sight!

Liu Xiao Tian's head was a mess. One problem emerged after another. Just what kind of demonic powers did these scallion pancakes possess?

“This hawker is selling illegally. We’ve already temporarily excused him, but please understand that we do have duties to carry out,” said Liu Xiao Tian.

“Officer, I’m begging you, please just give us a little more time,” Huo Han pleaded, as she grabbed Liu Xiao Tian’s arm, her doe eyes fluttering.

They had just been in their office a moment ago when they realized that the city enforcement officers had come to take away the hawking cart and all of them turned pale.

Earlier, due to the huge crowd, they had planned to wait and come down when the crowd had dispersed, but who would have thought that the city enforcement officers would come?

“Sorry ladies, we have to abide by the regulations. We can’t let this hawker continue any longer.” Before the ladies even had a chance to argue, he snatched his arm back forcefully and got into his car.

whimpering sounds “I don’t want to live anymore. I told you that we should have come earlier! But no one listened to me, and now the stall is gone! I’m going to starve to death!”

“Those sh*tty city enforcement officers!”

...

Lin Fan was dragged into the car.