

Read Gourmet of Another World

Chapter 1: The Small Restaurant in an Alleyway of the Imperial City

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Hidden Dragon Continent, imperial city of the Light Wind Empire

Within the bustling city, the streets were filled with people and the noise made by them could be heard everywhere. On both sides of the streets were towering buildings and there were plenty of restaurants and inns among them. The fragrant smell of the food cooked by the chefs was wafting through the air and lingered for a long period of time.

Among the restaurants, the number one restaurant in the imperial city, the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, was even more crowded, and its business was booming.

Within the imperial city, the buildings were built in a neat and orderly fashion and alleyways were everywhere. If you were to follow the main road and walk past the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, you would find a deep alley after walking for a few dozens of meters. Walking straight into the alleyway and turning left you would see a small and simple restaurant.

There was a big black dog lying in front of the restaurant with its tongue hanging out. Inside the restaurant, there was not even a single customer.

Suddenly, a young man walked out of the restaurant. He had a slim figure and fair skin. His long black hair, along with his fringe, was pulled back and tied into a ponytail with a thin and long wool rope. He gave off a feeling of neat and tidiness.

"Blacky, it's time to eat." The young man, Bu Fang, was holding a porcelain bowl as he walked out of the restaurant. He placed the bowl in front of the big black dog. The dog, who was formerly behaving lethargically, suddenly became energetic and started to devour the food in the bowl.

After rubbing the silky and clean fur of the dog, Bu Fang smiled and walked back into the restaurant.

Bu Fang, a twenty-year-old male, was an ordinary but ambitious chef from Earth. He suddenly woke up one day and found himself in another world, with the [Gourmet

System] mysteriously appearing in his brain. The small restaurant was created by Bu Fang on the second day he arrived, with the help of the system.

Even though a month had passed since he created the restaurant, not a single customer showed up, and Bu Fang had grown used to it. All he had to do everyday was follow the instructions of the [Gourmet System], which was to practice his cooking skills and to make sure to feed the big black dog.

He had no idea where the big black dog came from, he only remembered that it appeared after a week the restaurant was built. The system reminded Bu Fang to periodically feed the dog with his practice ingredients. And so, every time the store opened, the dog would be waiting outside for Bu Fang to feed it.

Strictly speaking, the big black dog was the first customer of Bu Fang, even though it was a freeloader.

Once Bu Fang was back in the restaurant, he took a look at the empty place and sighed. Even though the restaurant was simple, it was neat and tidy. With an area of ten square meters and a few sets of tables and chairs, it was indeed a small restaurant.

As he looked at the three dishes on the menu, Bu Fang could only helplessly give another long sigh.

The menu was a piece of wood hung on a wall in the restaurant with only three dishes on it.

It was hard to imagine what kind of a restaurant would only have three dishes on its menu, and the prices listed... could only be described as ridiculous.

A portion of Stir-Fried Vegetables and Dry-Mixed Noodles were each priced at a hundred gold coins, while a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice was even more outrageous... it was actually priced at one crystal.

Crystals were something that only cultivators had. A single crystal could be bought for around a thousand gold coins, but it was the kind of stuff where there was no availability.

For a small restaurant, it was an unexpectedly ridiculous price.

Bu Fang did not believe at all that anyone would be foolish enough to order a dish that expensive. Even though he would agree that the dishes were indeed delicacies when he tried them, when he looked at the prices... Bu Fang thought it was impossible.

"As the God of Cooking who desires to stand at the top of the fantasy world, how could you not have your first customer? If you get your first customer within a month, you shall obtain a system reward."

That was a mission that the system gave him a few days after he created the restaurant, and there were only three days left until the deadline. Bu Fang looked at the empty alleyway expressionlessly.

"It looks like my dream of becoming the God of Cooking will be destroyed before I can even take the first step." Bu Fang checked the time and sighed inwardly. He stood up, covered up the entrance with the door boards[1] and closed up the store.

The dishes could not be brought out without permission, and there was a strict regulation on the opening hours. Even though the restaurant was small, there were lots of rules and regulations. However, as the regulations were set by the system, Bu Fang had to obey them.

The restaurant was closed for the day. After locking up the restaurant, Bu Fang returned to the kitchen to practice his cooking. Actually, the so-called practice did not involve many technical aspects, it was just continuous cooking. Since the system would automatically refill the ingredients, Bu Fang only needed to cook.

In a corner of the kitchen, there was a humanoid robot. This robot was created by the system to reclaim any food that Bu Fang made during practice. Other than the food that Bu Fang and the big black dog ate, the rest of the practice food had to be placed into the robot's stomach area.

After Bu Fang started the fire, he began his daily cooking practice.

Even though Bu Fang was in a fantasy world, the kitchen created by the system was identical to modern kitchens from Earth.

All kinds of equipment were available: smokeless cooking pots, stainless steel knives, cutting boards, exhaust hood, microwave ovens, refrigerators... In fact, they were even more advanced than the ones on Earth. Bu Fang did not face any difficulties when using them, he even preferred cooking with them.

As the night descended, the two moons in the sky were in harmony and the moonlight was like a veil in the sky.

In front of the restaurant, the big black dog was lazing about in blissfulness after it finished its meal, accompanied by the chirping sound of insects as it guarded the store.

The next morning, Bu Fang drowsily woke up. After he washed up, the restaurant was opened for business.

The place was still deserted, and not a single soul could be seen. The big black dog was lying on the floor as usual.

Bu Fang was suddenly envious of the booming business of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant that was outside of the alleyway. Their business was simply too extraordinary, there were so many customers that it seemed that the entrance would be demolished.

Bu Fang began to daydream about the day when his business was as successful as the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant.

"My host, as the gourmet who desires to stand at the very top of the food chain in the fantasy world, you should not be envious of other restaurants. Work hard for the sake of your bright future!"

The mechanical and serious voice of the system resounded in Bu Fang's head as a reminder. He was already used to it. During the past month, whenever he was envious of the Immortal Phoenix Restaurant, the system would automatically start encouraging him.

Judging from its response, it seemed that the system was quite anthropomorphic.

Bu Fang was sitting on a chair placed outside of the restaurant while enjoying the warm sunlight. He could not help but to slide downwards, so that he was curled up and lying on the chair in an extremely comfortable position.

There was still not a single person appearing in the alleyway.

"Another day without a single customer," Bu Fang thought out loud as he tilted his head and yawned.

The big black dog was lying on the floor, it glanced at Bu Fang before it went back to whatever it was doing.

Just when Bu Fang was about to fall asleep, a series of footsteps woke him up. He lazily opened his eyes and saw a handsome young man passing by. He was dressed in a tight outfit used for martial arts practice.

"Huh? There's actually someone stupid enough to set up a restaurant in an alleyway where almost no one would pass through?"

The young man was actually good looking, he had an oval shaped face, expressive large eyes and red lips. If it was not for his flat chest and protruding adam's apple, Bu Fang would have mistaken him for a girl in disguise.

It seemed to be a trope for girls in fantasy worlds to disguise themselves as males.

The beautiful young man seemed to have taken an interest in the restaurant that was opened in an alleyway where no one passed by. He actually started to walk towards the restaurant.

However, Bu Fang did not get up, he still remained seated. Even though the other party had entered the restaurant, he was still not a customer as long as he had not made an order. Bu Fang knew that in order for someone to become a customer, they would first need to accept the ridiculous prices of the dishes.

As expected, when the beautiful young man saw the prices on the menu, his originally large eyes became even larger, a piercing scream echoed throughout the silent alleyway.

"Oh my god! A dish of Stir-Fried Vegetables costs a hundred gold coins? And a dish of Egg-Fried Rice actually costs one crystal? Have you gone insane from your greed?"

[1] door boards (门板) - In ancient China, stores had wide entrances and they used wooden boards as doors instead of having a door. Every morning, the boards would be removed and placed aside. At the end of the day, they would be placed back onto the frames.

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Chapter 2: The Egg-Fried Rice for the Big Black Dog

The scream resounded around his ears, but Bu Fang ignored it. He was still curled up on the chair with an empty gaze. He was actually looking at the system panel in his mind.

System Objective: Help my host become the God of Cooking that stands at the top of the food chain in the fantasy world

Host: Bu Fang

True Energy Cultivation Level: None (As the God of Cooking in the fantasy world, you will definitely need to make use of the true energy when cooking. Work hard, young man.)

Cooking Talents: Yet to be unlocked

Skills: Yet to be unlocked

Tools: Yet to be obtained

God of Cooking overall rating: Rookie (Your road to becoming the God of Cooking has only just started. Follow the instructions of the system and become the man at the very top of the food chain in the fantasy world.)

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"Hey! Have you been listening?! Are you the owner of this restaurant?" The handsome young man shouted angrily while he stared at Bu Fang.

Bu Fang calmly glanced at the handsome young man, lazily got up and yawned.

"The prices of the dishes in my restaurant are like that, you can leave if you can't accept it. My restaurant has always treated our customers fairly, we don't force anyone into buying anything."

The handsome young man was bewildered by Bu Fang's attitude. After a moment of confusion, his fair-looking face turned red and his eyes flashed with anger. He thought, "Is that the kind of attitude a business owner should have?"

"You... Look at the price of your dishes! How dare you even say that you treat your customers fairly, I bet you're just looking for a sucker to dupe! You scoundrel! Don't give me any excuses, I, Xiao Xiaolong, have already seen your true colors!"

"Do I look like an idiot to you?" Bu Fang replied, a little angry as well. As an ambitious chef with dreams, he hated it when others called him a scoundrel.

"I have my own reasons for setting it at that price. If you're not interested in ordering, you can always leave. I am not forcing you to stay."

Bu Fang felt unlucky. He had been waiting since morning and instead of a customer showing up, he had to deal with a troublesome sissy. He thought, "Why is it so difficult to run a business?"

The handsome young man became even more testy. He crossed his arms and coldly stared at Bu Fang, "Hmph! Are you trying to goad me? You probably thought that I would be provoked into ordering a dish, right? Then you would have successfully fleeced me, you think I am an idiot!"

Bu Fang was turned speechless by the handsome sissy in front of him. He headed towards his kitchen expressionlessly to begin his daily cooking practice.

"What's wrong!? Are you feeling guilty? You have nothing to say now that I have revealed your sinister intentions! Let me tell you this, I, Xiao Xiaolong, am a great prodigy who hates injustice. I hate scoundrels like you the most." The handsome young

man continued to stand there while hurling insults. However, even after waiting for a while, there was still no reply from Bu Fang.

"I will definitely make sure everyone in the imperial city knows about you! I will make sure your restaurant closes down! Oh... I don't even need to do that, anyone who sees your prices will think that you're an idiot!"

Xiao Xiaolong was annoyed that he was being ignored, so he continued to threaten Bu Fang.

Silence... The small restaurant became extremely quiet, but soon a smell wafted from the kitchen.

Xiao Xiaolong stood there for a while, stared at the prices on the menu, finally the corner of his mouth twitched, he shook his head and decided to leave.

For a plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables to be sold for a hundred gold coins, that was simply... insane!

In the Light Wind Empire, the smallest currency unit was the copper coin. A silver coin was worth more than a copper coin, while a gold coin was worth the most. A single gold coin was more than enough for an ordinary family in the empire to survive for an entire month. A hundred gold coins... That was simply impossible for an ordinary person to afford!

What was more, the Egg-Fried Rice actually needed a crystal! What was a crystal? It was a necessity to a cultivator, one crystal would be equivalent to a thousand gold coins!

Only a madman would set a price like that!

The furious Xiao Xiaolong turned around and walked towards the entrance of the restaurant. Suddenly, his nose twitched a little.

"It smells good!"

A burst of smell had drifted from the kitchen and lingered around Xiao Xiaolong's nose. It was as if the smell had solidified and slid across his face like a piece of silk. It felt like a lover's caress, causing his entire body to shiver in pleasure.

At last, Xiao Xiaolong found the source of the smell. He turned around and looked into the back of the kitchen. A slim figure holding a porcelain bowl in his fair hands emerged from the kitchen, as waves of rich fragrance continuously wafted from the bowl.

"Are you trying to tempt me? Hmph! No matter how delicious your cooking is, I won't be tricked!"

When Xiao Xiaolong saw Bu Fang walking towards him, he proudly raised his head and snorted coldly. Of course, were it not for his twitching nostrils giving him away, Bu Fang might really have thought he could not be tempted by delicious food.

Finally, Xiao Xiaolong could not endure the temptation anymore and his stomach rumbled.

"Since you're sincerely offering me a taste of your food, then... I shall reluctantly have one bite."

Xiao Xiaolong turned his head towards Bu Fang and said. However, he was still speaking in a condescending tone, as if eating the food was a great honour for Bu Fang.

However, in the next moment Xiao Xiaolong was shocked. Bu Fang did not stop in front of him, but instead he ignored him and walked toward the entrance.

The confused Xiao Xiaolong was furious. He turned to stare at Bu Fang but the next scene enraged him even further.

Bu Fang squatted down next to the big black dog at the entrance and placed the bowl filled with the delicious smelling food in front of it.

"Blacky, it's time to eat."

Bu Fang rubbed the smooth and clean fur of the dog and smiled.

When Bu Fang saw that the lethargic dog suddenly became energetic and gobbled down the food he made, his smile grew even wider.

Xiao Xiaolong felt as he was struck by lightning, he felt that Bu Fang had just humiliated him in the most outrageous manner!

"You... You..."

Xiao Xiaolong's lips were trembling as he pointed towards Bu Fang with his long and feminine finger.

"Huh? You're still here?" Bu Fang exclaimed in surprise.

Bu Fang's exaggerated expression made Xiao Xiaolong feel as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest. He thought, "Ouch, it hurts!"

Xiao Xiaolong's lips trembled in anger, he snorted and stamped his feet angrily, as if... he was a spoiled child and rushed out of the restaurant.

"This sissy... has gone crazy."

Xiao Xiaolong had reached the entrance and was going to walk out, when his nose twitched once again. He unconsciously turned his head and looked inside of the porcelain bowl that the big black dog was eating from. The pearl-like rice grain wrapped in golden fried egg, it was so beautiful that it was like a work of art.

However, at that very moment, the artistic Egg-Fried Rice was being eaten by a big black dog... A black dog... A dog!

"Hmm?!" The big black dog was enjoying its meal when it suddenly paused, as if it felt something, it looked up only to find a sissy staring at its food bowl. Alertness immediately appeared in its eyes.

Then, Xiao Xiaolong watched as the big black dog reached out towards the bowl with its paws and pulled it closer to its body. The dog alertly bared its teeth towards Xiao Xiaolong. On its teeth, there were still some pearl-like rice grains.

"Am I being looked down upon by a dog..."

Xiao Xiaolong went into a daze for around two seconds, then flew into a rage.

Da da da!

Xiao Xiaolong's face turned bright red, and his eyes flashed with anger as he walked back into the shop.

Bu Fang glanced at Xiao Xiaolong expressionlessly.

"Give me a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice! Hmph! I shall taste it myself. If it doesn't taste good, I will get the authorities to shut down your restaurant!"

Xiao Xiaolong threatened with a grimace on his face.

Chapter 3: The Egg-Fried Rice That Shines

Xiao Xiaolong's face was blushing but he was still speaking in a belligerent tone, Bu Fang glanced at him meaningfully and smirked.

Xiao Xiaolong blinked and his fair skin was bright red, but he still belligerently said, "Let me say this first, I am ordering not because I have accepted the price. It's because I intend to prove that your Egg-Fried Rice is not worth the price!"

"I get it, a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice, right? Wait for it," Bu Fang expressionlessly replied. He waved his hand and was heading towards the kitchen, "Oh, right. Our Dry-Mixed Noodles and Stir-Fried Vegetables are pretty good as well. Do you want to give them a try?"

"It is said that Egg-Fried Rice tastes better with Stir-Fried Vegetables." Bu Fang stopped in front of the entrance to the kitchen, looked back, and coolly and shamelessly advertised his other two dishes.

Xiao Xiaolong's mind went into a daze for a moment, then glanced at the prices of the dishes and suddenly felt an inexplicable pain in his chest.

"No need! Just give me the Egg-Fried Rice."

"Oh, okay then. That's just too bad." Bu Fang nodded and entered the kitchen.

Seeing Bu Fang's calm expression, Xiao Xiaolong was tempted to punch him in the face. He thought, "A hundred gold coins for a plate of Stir-Fried Vegetables, do you really take me for a sucker? To actually charge a hundred gold coins for something that is only worth 10 copper at most, this is probably the only store in the entire continent that would dare to do this."

While Bu Fang was preparing the Egg-Fried Rice, Xiao Xiaolong was bored stiff and his gaze naturally shifted towards the big black dog sitting at the entrance, or to be exact, the bowl that it was eating from.

In his mind, Xiao Xiaolong recalled the smell of the Egg-Fried Rice. It was like supple silk and like the touch of a lover. All of a sudden, his appetite surged and his stomach rumbled like thunder. Fortunately, there were no other customers in the store, otherwise, young master Xiao who was known in the imperial city for his stylishness and mannerism would be in an embarrassing situation.

The big black dog was still eating from its bowl when it suddenly paused, as if it had felt something, and lifted its head. When its eyes landed on Xiao Xiaolong and realized that the foolish human was still staring at its food bowl, it became furious!

The dog pulled the bowl closer to itself, stood up and sat down once again with its behind facing Xiao Xiaolong. It only continued to eat after it blocked his line of vision.

Xiao Xiaolong felt that his chest was once again pierced by an invisible arrow... He was looked down upon by the dog a second time!

"Hmph! Do you think I would desire dog food?! How dare a mere dog look down on a human! Hmph!" Xiao Xiaolong thought angrily.

Five minutes had passed and a fragrant smell wafted out from the kitchen once more. The mellow smell of the egg mixed with the faint aroma of the rice was intoxicating Xiao Xiaolong. Just by inhaling the smell, he was uncontrollably salivating.

"It definitely smells good, but it's still insane to charge a crystal for it!" Xiao Xiaolong thought as he swallowed his saliva.

Finally, Bu Fang stepped out of the kitchen with a bowl in hand. The rich fragrance from the dish diffused into the air and enveloped the entire restaurant in it.

"Here's your Egg-Fried Rice, please enjoy your meal."

Bu Fang expressionlessly said as he placed the Egg-Fried Rice in front of Xiao Xiaolong.

White smoke drifted up from the bowl and rolled into the air in front of Xiao Xiaolong before dispersing. The resulting aroma explosion made Xiao Xiaolong unconsciously suck in a deep breath.

Without paying attention to Bu Fang, Xiao Xiaolong stared at the Egg-Fried Rice. He thought, "To dare to charge a crystal for a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice... This definitely isn't an ordinary Egg-Fried Rice!"

On top of the white porcelain bowl were pearl-like rice grains. Every single grain was wrapped in a golden egg liquid. That egg liquid was not completely cooked, and was still in a viscous state. It was as if the rice grains were sprinkled with a layer of egg sauce. However, the viscosity of the egg sauce was perfect and was about eighty percent well-done. When mixed together with the rice grains, it was like draping on a golden gauze dress as it glinted with golden radiance.

"It... It is shining!" Xiao Xiaolong stared blankly at the bowl of Egg-Fried Rice in front of him.

He had never thought that it would be possible for an Egg-Fried Rice to look like a piece of artwork.

Xiao Xiaolong was of noble birth. As the third son of a great general, he had access to all kinds of gourmet meals. He had tasted Egg-Fried Rice made by his family's chef, and even the Egg-Fried Rice made by the imperial chef from the palace... However, compared to the bowl of shining Egg-Fried Rice in front of him, they lost in both appearance and fragrance.

In actual fact, the bowl of Egg-Fried Rice in front of him only contained egg and rice. There were no other ingredients, not even green onions. However, Xiao Xiaolong had an inexplicable feeling that it was definitely much more delicious than the one made by the imperial chef!

Xiao Xiaolong picked up the blue-and-white porcelain spoon placed on the table, licked his lips and cut into the Egg-Fried Rice. The moment the spoon scooped into the Egg-Fried Rice, a burst of fragrance rushed out and assaulted his sense of smell. As he carefully scooped up a spoonful of egg and rice, it left behind a string of egg liquid.

Without a care in the world, Xiao Xiaolong placed the spoonful of Egg-Fried Rice into his mouth.

The moment the spoon entered his mouth, an exquisite taste shocked his taste buds. The viscous egg suddenly solidified and mixed with the soft and pearl-like rice grains to create an explosion in his mouth!

"Oh my god! How is it possible for such a delicious Egg-Fried Rice to exist in this world?! I actually feel an urge to cry!"

Xiao Xiaolong was completely engrossed with the taste, it was like his entire being was swimming in a sea made from the taste of the Egg-Fried Rice.

Xiao Xiaolong scooped up spoon after spoon of Egg-Fried Rice, even though the heat from the rice was making him sneeze, he was unable to stop.

"Nom nom!"

Xiao Xiaolong's face was almost buried into the bowl as he ate, it was somewhat similar to how the big black dog was when eating the Egg-Fried Rice.

"Delicious!" Xiao Xiaolong completed both scooping and eating in a single motion. As he shouted, a few grains of golden rice flew out of his mouth. His eyes widened as he picked up the rice grains from the tabletop and stuffed them into his mouth.

Bu Fang sat down opposite of Xiao Xiaolong and calmly watched the scene unfold. Xiao Xiaolong's way of eating was within his expectations. When he first tried out the Egg-Fried Rice, his appearance was not any better than Xiao Xiaolong's.

Xiao Xiaolong used his tongue to lick the entire bowl clean, going a circle around the bowl's surface. Only after he swallowed the last grain of rice, he finally breathed out with a satisfied expression on his face.

"Is this really Egg-Fried Rice?! It's incredible! Even my family's... No, even the imperial chef wouldn't be able to make this!" Xiao Xiaolong muttered to himself. Bu Fang remained silent while he coldly sat there.

"Now, do you think it's worth a crystal?" Bu Fang asked.

However, Xiao Xiaolong only frowned and smacked his lips. He replied, "Indeed this Egg-Fried Rice is truly a delicacy, but do you even understand the worth of a crystal?"

"A crystal can help a cultivator when cultivating, but can your Egg-Fried Rice do it? They have completely different values! However, I have to admit that your Egg-Fried Rice is absolutely delicious!"

Bu Fang raised his eyebrows in surprise. He did not think that Xiao Xiaolong would give a reason like that. Even though it sounded logical, he still thought, "Is this sissy trying to dine and dash?!"

Just when Bu Fang was about to reply, Xiao Xiaolong's fair-skinned face suddenly turned red. His entire body started to glow, it was like a powerful surge of energy was circulating in his body.

"Burp~~"

Xiao Xiaolong's face returned to normal after belching, but his expression when looking towards Bu Fang was both weird and passionate.

His voice was even trembling...

"Tell... Tell me, what ingredients... are inside of your Egg-Fried Rice?!"

Chapter 4: The Eggs Are Not Ordinary Eggs, the Rice Is Not Ordinary Rice

Xiao Xiaolong was really excited. His fair-skinned face had flushed red like a beautiful woman's face, it was tempting enough that others would want to take a bite of him.

At any rate, even Bu Fang was charmed. He thought, "Oh my god! Why do I have such thoughts?!"

Bu Fang shook his head furiously to rid himself of the scary thought. He thought to himself, "He's a sissy, he's not a woman!"

"I must hold on, I must definitely remain straight!"

Thus, Bu Fang remained expressionless on his chair, while he looked indifferently at the agitated but enchanting Xiao Xiaolong in front of him.

"Tell me! This definitely isn't a normal Egg-Fried Rice! I can feel that the true energy within my body is actually close to reaching a breakthrough!" Xiao Xiaolong's lips were trembling while his eyes shone.

As a famous prodigy in the imperial city and the son of a great general, Xiao Xiaolong was capable with both literary and martial arts. With a cultivation level that reached the

peak of second grade Battle-Master, he was considerably strong even among the children of the officials in the imperial city.

However, after Xiao Xiaolong ate the Egg-Fried Rice, he felt a sudden jump in the true energy in his body. For over a month, it lay dormant but it suddenly increased just then. That was a sign that his cultivation level was about to advance to third grade Battle-Maniac!

To a cultivator, strength was the most important. If a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice could help you attain a breakthrough, then it would be comparable to elixirs...

No, it would be even more valuable, because elixirs had no taste. However, the Egg-Fried Rice that Bu Fang made... was an exquisite cuisine.

For it to be both delicious and beneficial to attaining breakthroughs, it was good news to cultivators!

A single crystal was too cheap!

"Excuse me, I was too agitated. However, I would still like to know the ingredients of your Egg-Fried Rice. If I am not mistaken, the eggs used are not ordinary eggs. Judging from the taste and texture, it should be the egg of a third grade spirit beast, the Thunderstorm Pigeon."

Xiao Xiaolong came from a prestigious background and possessed a high amount of self-discipline. He quickly calmed himself down and spoke to Bu Fang.

Bu Fang went into a daze. He had never tried to know more about the ingredients before and had always thought that they were ordinary chicken eggs.

"System, are the eggs really pigeon eggs like the sissy said?" Bu Fang asked the system.

The system remained silent for a while, then a solemn voice began to speak.

"The recipe of the ordinary Egg-Fried Rice: The egg chosen is the first egg laid by the third grade spirit beast, Thunderstorm Pigeon, after its gestation. It contains a huge amount of spirit energy. Consumption increases the cultivation level of cultivators and there is a high chance of helping the cultivator to advance past their bottlenecks. The rice chosen is the Pearl Rice from the Southern Wastelands of the Light Wind Empire. It is rich in spirit energy and can only be harvested per annum. It is rich in substances beneficial to cultivation and is currently the royal tribute of the Light Wind Empire. The oil chosen is made from the fats of the Cangshan Boar, it is neither greasy nor muddy. The salt chosen is the Fine Sea Salt from the Southern Wastelands."

Bu Fang was expressionless after listening to the system's explanations and introduction, but he felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest. He thought, "Ouch, it hurts!"

"System, can we revise the price for the Egg-Fried Rice? I personally feel that we're making a loss by selling it for only a single crystal. Why don't we raise the price to ten crystals?"

"The price set by the system is reasonable and fair, it is based on the price of the ingredients. The current rank of the host is too low, the pricing cannot be modified."

Bu Fang could only grit his teeth in frustration!

The eggs were from a third grade spirit beast. The rice was a royal tribute. The oil was actually made from the fats of a second grade spirit beast. Lastly, even the ordinary looking salt was exceptional as well.

"I am making a huge loss by selling this bowl of Egg-Fried Rice for only a crystal!

Luckily, all of the ingredients are provided by the system. Otherwise, I would be crying myself to sleep tonight."

"Shop owner, my conjecture must be correct! The eggs that you're using are definitely the eggs of Thunderstorm Pigeons. There was a tingling and numbing sensation as it entered my mouth, they're definitely pigeon eggs! There's no way I am wrong!" Xiao Xiaolong got excited once more.

Bu Fang was in a bad mood. Looking at the agitated Xiao Xiaolong, he said.

"Our store's Egg-Fried Rice: The egg chosen is the first egg laid by the third grade spirit beast, Thunderstorm Pigeon, after its gestation. It contains a huge amount of spirit energy essence..."

Bu Fang repeated the system's introduction—from the beginning to the end—to Xiao Xiaolong.

Xiao Xiaolong was completely stunned, his originally large eyes became even larger. He thought, "My good lord, to think that this bowl of Egg-Fried Rice still held so many secrets! The egg is not ordinary like I thought! The rice is unexpectedly extraordinary! Damn, even the oil is special!

And the salt..." Xiao Xiaolong felt that he had actually swallowed a bowl full of gold!

"So, do you still think that a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice isn't worth one crystal?" Bu Fang grumpily snorted and said.

"No, no, not at all! Shop owner, I would like to order another bowl of Egg-Fried Rice!" Xiao Xiaolong quickly shook his head with a face full of smiles. Eating the bowl of Egg-Fried Rice could increase cultivation level! Even if it were priced at five crystals, Xiao Xiaolong would still think it was worth it!

"I am sorry, but our store has a rule where customers can only order each dish once." Bu Fang arrogantly said while still sitting on the chair.

Xiao Xiaolong went into a daze, then he reached into his bosoms and took out a sachet with a peony sewn on it. The corner of Bu Fang's mouth twitched when he saw the peony sachet. If it was not for the fact that Xiao Xiaolong had an adam's apple and no breasts, Bu Fang would definitely think that he was a girl in disguise!

"Here! Shop owner, I have five pieces of crystals here. Give me another bowl!" Xiao Xiaolong excitedly placed the sparkling crystals on the table, and implored Bu Fang in a whiny tone.

Bu Fang completely ignored Xiao Xiaolong and kept the crystal with the best quality that he picked out. He expressionlessly said, "If a male customer continues to act in a feminine manner towards the shop owner, he shall be inexorably added to our store's blacklist and shall never be served again."

Xiao Xiaolong knew he would not be able to eat a second bowl of Egg-Fried Rice on that day, so he stood up and left.

As Xiao Xiaolong was walking past the entrance, he paused and glanced at the empty bowl in front of the big black dog. He felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest.

"Such a valuable bowl of Egg-Fried Rice was actually fed to a dog! What a waste! Hmph!"

The big black dog was a lot lazier after it finished its meal, it licked its own claws as it lay on the floor. As Xiao Xiaolong walked past the dog, it lazily glanced at him and then took no further notice.

Xiao Xiaolong decided to turn a blind eye and left the unique little restaurant in the isolated alleyway.

After Bu Fang stood up and collected the bowl in front of Blacky, he closed up the entrance and the business ended for that day.

Once Bu Fang placed the dishes into the dishwasher provided by the system, he had completed everything. He returned to his room expectantly.

"My host, congratulations for completing your first system mission and receiving the system reward. My host, congratulations for obtaining your first customer and taking the first step onto the road to become the God of Cooking."

Bu Fang excitedly sat on the chair in his room, the solemn voice of the system sounded out in his mind.

"Hehe! It's finally here! What kind of a reward will it be, I am so excited!"

Bu Fang's eyes shone faintly as he rubbed his hands in excitement. The calm exterior that he displayed earlier on had completely disappeared.

Chapter 5: Xiao Yanyu

"System reward: Improved version of Egg-Fried Rice and one fragment of the God of Cooking set."

The solemn voice of the system sounded out, announcing the rewards that Bu Fang had obtained.

After hearing the system's announcement, the expression on Bu Fang's face slowly turned from excited to expressionless.

"Why is it Egg-Fried Rice again? What's so different about the improved Egg-Fried Rice?" Bu Fang was disappointed. He thought that he would unlock newer dishes, but it was still Egg-Fried Rice. Even if it was the improved version... it was still just Egg-Fried Rice!

"The improved version of Egg-Fried Rice has a higher grade than ordinary Egg-Fried Rice and uses different ingredients. Cultivators below the level of third grade Battle-Maniac are not allowed to order this dish."

The system solemnly explained the difference between the improved version and the ordinary version. Bu Fang was slightly surprised but did not think much of it. After all, since it was the improved version, it must be somehow better.

"Then, what is the fragment of the God of Cooking set?"

"Fragments of the God of Cooking set: By collecting all the fragments, the host can exchange them for the God of Cooking set. The kitchen tools that the host is currently using are only ordinary tools."

"This God of Cooking set sounds like something amazing!" Bu Fang blinked in surprise, then a smile appeared on his previously expressionless face.

A new dish mysteriously appeared on the menu of the little restaurant, and there was a price next to it as well.

Improved version of Egg-Fried Rice, ten crystals.

"As a young man aiming to become the God of Cooking, how could you not have any short-term goals? System mission: please make a profit of at least a hundred crystals and a thousand gold coins within a week."

The system solemnly assigned a mission to Bu Fang.

In order to make a profit of a hundred crystals within a week, he would need to sell a hundred bowls of ordinary Egg-Fried Rice or ten bowls of the improved version. And in order to make a profit of a thousand gold coins, he would need to sell ten portions of Stir-Fried Vegetables or Dry-Mixed Noodles...

"System, this is too difficult! I only managed to sell a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice today, and you actually want me to sell a hundred bowls of ordinary Egg-Fried Rice within seven days... Why don't you just kill me instead!?" Bu Fang sorrowfully complained to the system.

However, the system solemnly encouraged Bu Fang instead. "In order to become the God of Cooking, you must not be afraid of any difficult. All of the difficulties that you will encounter are just stepping stones for you to become the greatest!"

However, Bu Fang remained expressionless. He was indifferent to the system's encouragement. Maybe if the system was not using such a solemn tone, Bu Fang might have been duped.

With a sigh, Bu Fang lay down on his bed and closed his eyes.

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Xiao Xiaolong was back home at the general's manor, but he seemed a little distracted. The fact that the true energy in his body was still in a stimulated state made everything feel unreal.

"To be able to advance past a bottleneck just by eating a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice, this... This is unbelievable." As Xiao Xiaolong recalled the taste of the Egg-Fried Rice, he became enraptured as he imagined himself floating in a sea of fragrance.

The general's manor was huge, Xiao Xiaolong walked past a lot of servants along the way. When the maidservants saw his appearance, they covered their mouth in surprise.

"What's wrong with young master Xiao?"

"What's with the creepy expression on his face!"

"Bleh! That's too scary! My perfect image of young master Xiao has been completely destroyed, he was my first love!"

.....

The conversation between the servants woke Xiao Xiaolong up. When he noticed the servants were gawking at him, he quickened his pace and disappeared from their field of vision.

Xiao Xiaolong was sitting cross-legged in a simple room with his eyes closed. The true energy was circulating in his body and his skin was shimmering, causing him to appear holy.

A burst of energy rushed out of Xiao Xiaolong's energy core into his limbs and acupuncture points. The true energy was gentle like a flowing river that nourishes everything it touches, it was like a gentle kneading by a woman's hands.

After approximately fifteen minutes, Xiao Xiaolong's face reddened and his eyes suddenly opened. As the energy emanating from his body steadily increased, his eyes shone and he opened his mouth to expel a lump of turbid energy.

When it reached an extreme point, it suddenly completely retreated into his body like it never existed in the first place.

As Xiao Xiaolong stood up, the sound of colliding bones resounded all over his body. He lifted up his hand and a dense sphere of true energy appeared in the middle of his palm.

"Haha! Manifestation of true energy! I've truly become a third grade Battle-Maniac!"

Xiao Xiaolong laughed out loud in delight.

"Zhao Ruge! Now, I am a third grade Battle-Maniac as well! I am no longer afraid of you!" Xiao Xiaolong's mouth widened and he started giggling.

However, before he finished laughing, the door to his room was pushed open. The true energy that he used to lock his door was dispersed by an even stronger burst of true energy.

"Xiao Xiaolong! You must be quite capable now, how dare you use your elder sister as a wager in your gamble with Zhao Ruge!"

As the door burst open, a beautiful voice sounded out and a graceful figure stepped into the room.

"Eh? Ah... Elder sister!"

When Xiao Xiaolong saw the intruder, his entire body shivered and he called out in surprise.

The intruder was a beautiful female with fair skin and bright eyes. She was dressed in snow-white robes with an aqua-green transparent vest. Her silk-like hair was let down and allowed to hang free behind her.

Xiao Yanyu knitted her eyebrows and she sullenly looked at Xiao Xiaolong. She was angry that her self-styled casanova younger brother actually dared to use her as a wager.

"Elder sister, hear me out first. It's because I fell for the trap set by that damn brat, Zhao Ruge! Don't worry, I will definitely win the gamble! Look, I am already a third grade Battle-Maniac!"

Xiao Xiaolong quickly said as he held out his hand and a sphere of true energy appeared.

Even though Xiao Yanyu was angry, she was still surprised. She was well aware of her younger brother's abilities, he had been stuck at the peak of second grade Battle-Master for quite a while. There was not even a slightest sign of a breakthrough on the previous day, so how did he suddenly succeed?

"Elder sister! Zhao Ruge may be a third grade Battle-Maniac as well, but you should believe in your younger brother! I will definitely beat the daylights out of him!" Xiao Xiaolong said with a laugh.

Xiao Yanyu was a well-known beauty within the imperial city. Zhao Ruge has coveted her beauty for quite some time. However, since she was the daughter of the Great General Xiao Meng, Zhao Ruge did not dare to do anything, even though he was the son of the Minister of the Left.

If Xiao Yanyu was the daughter of a commoner, she would most likely be Zhao Ruge's concubine by now.

"Elder sister, aren't you curious about how I managed to advance?" Xiao Xiaolong said temptingly.

Xiao Yanyu slightly lifted up her skirt and sat down on a stool. Her bright eyes glanced at Xiao Xiaolong and she said, "Say it, I am listening."

Xiao Xiaolong grinned, he knew that his elder sister would notice the abnormality of his breakthrough.

Xiao Yanyu was extremely intelligent and was known as the number one female prodigy in the Light Wind Empire. He was almost certain that she would notice it.

And so, Xiao Xiaolong secretively leaned over to Xiao Yanyu's ear in an extremely serious manner.

Xiao Yanyu trembled in surprise. She thought, "It looks like this secret might really be something. For my usually frivolous younger brother to be this serious about it, it seems that I should really pay close attention to this."

"Elder sister! The secret to my breakthrough... is actually because of... a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice!"

"So it's because of Egg-Fried Rice! Eh?! Huh? Egg-Fried Rice?!"

Xiao Yanyu's beautiful face froze, then turned bright red. This brat, how dare he make fun of his elder sister!

Immediately, Xiao Yanyu's white and long fingers were twisting Xiao Xiaolong's ear. She coldly laughed and said, "I see, so you've grown enough to make fun of your elder sister! So Egg-Fried Rice is an elixir? So it even helps you to advance? What a load of nonsense!"

Xiao Xiaolong felt as if an invisible arrow had pierced into his chest. "I am telling the truth! Where has the trust between siblings gone to?"

Xiao Xiaolong could only recount his encounter with a grimace on his face, in his description the little restaurant in the alley was an enigmatic place.

"So, you're telling me that you spent a crystal just to eat a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice?!"

Xiao Yanyu glared at her younger brother who had a triumphant expression on his face, she suddenly had a desire to tear off the ear of this wastrel.

"Elder sister! If you don't believe me, I will bring you to the little restaurant tomorrow. You will definitely be pleased. That taste of the Egg-Fried Rice, that smell... Ohh, it's as if my childhood memories were evoked."

Xiao Xiaolong's eyes were filled with fascination.

However, Xiao Yanyu was in disbelief. She thought, "This brat is definitely under some weird spell. It's just a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice, how delicious could it be.

Hmph! We shall see tomorrow, the true face of this mysterious Egg-Fried Rice!"

Chapter 6: Shop Owner, Give Me Ten Bowls of Egg-Fried Rice First

The next morning.

After washing up, a veil-wearing Xiao Yanyu and an excited Xiao Xiaolong left the general's manor. The manor was situated in an urban area, it was noisy the moment they stepped out.

Even though it was noisy outside, it was peaceful and quiet inside the general's manor. It's all because of the noise-prevention magic formation that was drawn by the architects when the manor was being built.

Xiao Yanyu rarely left the manor as she knew how attractive her appearance was to men. There was one time when she did not wear a veil when she went out, that one incident caused a traffic jam in the imperial city and there were even fighting incidents between playboys. Ever since that incident, Xiao Yanyu rarely left her house. Even if she did, she would wear a veil.

As the Xiao siblings left the manor and turned a corner, they entered a busy street. There were hawkers and their stalls on both sides of the streets, and the smell of deep fried food was drifting in the air.

Cultivators like Xiao Xiaolong and Xian Yanyu would never eat fried food from stalls like this as the oil they used were often of poor quality, and thus contained toxins. The main goal of cultivators was to cleanse their bodies and to get rid of the impurities in them. Eating these types of food would only increase the impurities in their bodies.

That was why cultivators were fussy about their diets, and were especially concerned with the quality of the food.

Strictly speaking, Egg-Fried Rice would be considered junk food as well. However, if Xiao Xiaolong's breakthrough was because of a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice, and if it was not a coincidence, then there must be something wrong with the Egg-Fried Rice.

And it was unlikely to be a coincidence, since Xiao Xiaolong had been stuck as a second grade Battle-Master for a long time. To the point where it was impossible to be a coincidence. It was far more probable that the Egg-Fried Rice had something to do with his breakthrough.

That was what Xiao Yanyu was curious about, could a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice really be that miraculous?

"Oh my! If that isn't our young master Xiao? Where are you planning to recite poetry today?"

Just when the Xiao siblings were deep in their thoughts, a jarring voice interrupted them.

Xiao Xiaolong's beautiful face darkened and he turned towards the frivolous man at a distance. It was an ugly-looking man in colorful long robes, carrying a paper fan.

That person was the only son of the empire's Finance Minister... Sun Qixiang!

He was infamously known as a playboy within the imperial city.

"Sun Qixiang! I have no time for you today, get out of my way!" Even though Xiao Xiaolong looked like a sissy, he was quite capable of giving off a powerful aura when angry.

However, Sun Qixiang was not afraid of him. He shrugged his shoulders while he impudently stared at the veil-wearing women next to Xiao Xiaolong. Suddenly, his eyes widened in surprise!

"Oh my! I can't believe it! It's actually Miss Yanyu! It's a pleasure to meet you."

Sun Qixiang had realized the identity of Xiao Yanyu and immediately lost his composure. As a playboy, he would not miss the chance to harass his dream goddess.

"Get out of the way," Xiao Yanyu said faintly, she did not want to waste any words with him.

Sun Qixiang shrugged his shoulders. He wanted to strike up a conversation but his blood quickly turned cold when he met Xiao Yanyu's eyes. He was quickly reminded of Xiao Yanyu's terrifying strength.

After tens of thousands of years of development, the cultivation system on Qianlong Continent had a strict grading system.

On Qianlong Continent, every person was a cultivator. From an elderly person to a five-year-old child, cultivation was present in every household. However, with the differences in talents, the level of results were different as well.

There were nine different grades: first grade Warrior, second grade Battle-Master, third grade Battle-Maniac, fourth grade Battle-Spirit, fifth grade Battle-King, sixth grade Battle-Emperor, seventh grade Battle-Saint, eighth grade War-God, ninth grade Supreme-Being.

There was also a tenth grade as well, but that was not something an ordinary person would know.

Known as a female prodigy in the imperial city, Xiao Yanyu was a cultivation genius. Even though she was not even eighteen years old, she was already a fourth grade Battle-Spirit. Compared to her younger brother, Xiao Xiaolong, she was far more powerful.

Even the Great General Xiao Meng, had often exclaimed that it would have been great if Xiao Yanyu were a male.

Sun Qixiang was only a playboy. Even though he was in his twenties, he was only a third grade Battle-Maniac. But since he was a third grade Battle-Maniac after all, he was not afraid of Xiao Xiaolong. However, when faced with the fourth grade Battle-Spirit Xiao Yanyu, it was a whole different matter.

Xiao Xiaolong coldly snorted and followed after Xiao Yanyu, who had already left. The two of them quickly disappeared within the crowd.

Sun Qixiang scratched his cheeks and his eyes narrowed. He turned to one of his underling and whispered something to him. The underling quickly ran off while Sun Qixiang followed after the Xiao siblings with a sinister smile.

...

After sleeping until he woke up naturally, the depressed Bu Fang took his time with opening up the restaurant.

The big black dog was still lying at the entrance. It glanced up at Bu Fang when he opened up the entrance, then it went back to sleep.

"Within the next seven days, I need to sell a hundred portions of Egg-Fried Rice and ten portions of Stir-Fried Vegetables or Dry-Mixed Noodles... System, do you really think that it's possible for a small restaurant in such a deserted place to achieve such miraculous results?" Bu Fang placed a chair by the entrance and curled himself up on it. In his mind, he was arguing with the system.

"Young man! You are someone aiming to become the God of Cooking, you must have faith in your cooking! You must believe you can conquer the world!" The system solemnly encouraged Bu Fang once more.

Bu Fang rolled his eyes. He thought, "I rather comfortably get a sunbath than conquer the world."

Bu Fang was feeling sleepy again as he lay in the sun, even though he had just woken up.

"Shop owner! I am here again! I am already in love with your Egg-Fried Rice!"

Bu Fang's eyes were only closed for a moment when a shout woke him up. He expressionlessly looked up and saw the sissy who ate Egg-Fried Rice the day before.

"Huh?" There was someone next to him, even though she was wearing a veil, Bu Fang immediately knew she was a woman! "What a nice chest and ass... She has a great figure!"

Xiao Yanyu knitted her eyebrows as she appraised the little restaurant that Xiao Xiaolong brought her to. She thought, "Can such a remote restaurant really make that miraculous Egg-Fried Rice?"

"Are you the owner of this restaurant?" Xiao Yanyu asked.

Her voice was beautiful, it was pleasing to the ear.

"That's right." Bu Fang calmly nodded.

Xiao Yanyu entered the store without saying anything further. The interior was very clean. When she ran her finger over a table, there was not even a speck of dust. She was also quite pleased with the store's ambience.

Even though the store was small and in a remote location, the decorations were well done, the ambience was good and the place was clean.

After Xiao Yanyu finished her appraisal of her surroundings, her eyes landed on the menu in the middle of the store. Immediately, she raised her eyebrows and her eyes flashed with incredulity.

"So what Xiaolong said was true about a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice... costing a crystal, eh? The improved version of Egg-Fried Rice actually costs ten crystals?! Is this guy an idiot?"

"Shop owner, I don't think I saw this improved Egg-Fried Rice yesterday? Why is it suddenly here today?" Xiao Xiaolong was also surprised with the appearance of the new Egg-Fried Rice that was being sold for ten crystals.

"Oh, I forgot to write it yesterday. However, keep in mind that you need to be a third grade Battle-Maniac to order this dish. Otherwise, you are not qualified," Bu Fang yawned and expressionlessly replied.

"There's even a requirement in order to eat it?" Xiao Yanyu immediately became interested, she was suddenly very curious about this improved Egg-Fried Rice.

"Xiaolong, how many crystals did you bring?" Xiao Yanyu turned towards Xiao Xiaolong and asked.

Xiao Xiaolong dazedly replied, "Ten crystals."

"Hmm, very good." Xiao Yanyu nodded contentedly. She waved her hand and a sachet with a peony sewn on it appeared in her hand.

"Shop owner, give me a bowl of improved Egg-Fried Rice," Xiao Yanyu calmly said.

"Alright, please wait." When Xiao Yanyu actually ordered the improved Egg-Fried Rice, Bu Fang was delighted but did not let it show on his face. He wanted to maintain a cool attitude of a chef in front of a beautiful woman.

Xiao Xiaolong's face had already turned pale from anguish and was grudgingly looking at Xiao Yanyu.

Bu Fang turned around and was about to enter the kitchen when suddenly, a tsk-tsk sound coming from the entrance made him stop.

"Tsk, tsk, tsk! For the number one female prodigy in the Light Wind Empire to actually come to such a pathetic little restaurant to eat a bowl of Egg-Fried Rice? Oh my, how funny is that!"

Sun Qixiang shrugged his shoulders and shook his head as he entered the little store.

"Miss Yanyu, do you like eating Egg-Fried Rice? Okay! I will treat you! Shop owner, give me ten bowls of Egg-Fried Rice first! I will order more if that's not enough!"