

I Have No Time

By Harry
Wong



- **Singaporeans outraged by S\$1,200 RWS fish dish**

- A 35-year-old diner, Mr Liu, and four friends who feasted on a steamed fish dish called the white sultan fish at the high-end **Feng Shui Inn** restaurant on June 12 at **Resorts World Sentosa** (RWS). Upon receiving the bill, his jaw hit the ground.

- A waiter then recommended the **White Sultan Fish** without mentioning the price of the fish. The group agreed, without enquiring about the cost of the dish. But when the bill arrived, the five diners were shocked to find that the single sultan fish, weighing 1.8kg, set them back by a staggering **S\$1,224**.

FLAP OVER A FISH

...that costs \$1,224

Shock for guest at RWS restaurant who goes with waiter's recommendation

By NG KAI LIM
and JIM WEI CHEAN

WHEN it comes to fish, it pays to know your soon hock from your sultan.

Wild-caught species of the latter are exceedingly rare, and can cost more than \$300 per kg at restaurants here.

Now, a debate is brewing about whether customers should be told upfront if an item they order comes with a price tag that is off the charts.

It was sparked by the case of a customer who wanted to be known only as Mr Liu, who went to the Feng Shui Inn restaurant at Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) with four friends from Hong Kong on June 12.

Mr Liu originally wanted to order a soon hock or Marble Goby fish, but when told that the restaurant had run out of it, he went with a waiter's recommendation and ordered sultan fish instead.

He told the Chinese evening newspaper *Wanbao* that the waiter did not tell him the price of the fish, but he assumed it would be about the same price as soon hock, which costs about \$90 per kg.

But Mr Liu said he and his friends got a shock when they received a bill for \$1,224

for the 1.8kg fish.

He complained and received a 15 per cent discount. But his main grouse was that the waiter did not let him know the price of the sultan when he recommended it.

When contacted, RWS spokesman Robin Koh explained that Feng Shui Inn serves a very premium clientele. He said: "It is not always appropriate to state menu prices to high-end customers who have come to expect certain discretion, especially when they entertain high-level guests. This is a practice shared by most high-end restaurants."

For customers who are not familiar with the restaurant's menu, the staff are trained to check prices with them and to offer the information to those who ask, he said.

He added it is not uncommon for their customers to order items costing more than \$1,000, but he conceded there may have been a "lapse of judgment" concerning Mr Liu's group.

Consumers Association of Singapore president Yeo Guat Kwang said the onus is on the restaurant to let the customer know the price so that he can make an informed choice.

"Cases like this highlight the need for some businesses to enhance their standard operating procedures. They need to highlight the price to their customers, especially when the difference is so great."

Other high-end restaurants like Pan Pacific Singapore's Liat Meri and Beach Garden said it is "standard procedure" to inform customers of the price

when it comes to premium items.

Mr Edwin Chua, managing director of Paradise Group Holdings, said: "We don't dare offer guests premium fish or dishes without letting them know the price."

The sultan fish, also known as mad baro or ikan jelawat, is a freshwater fish found in rivers in Malaysia, Thailand and Laos. It commands a high price tag because they are rarely caught in the wild, said suppliers and chefs here.

Mr Andy Cham, who runs fish trading company Sai Kim Enterprise in Malaysia, said that because of overfishing, there is very little stock left in the wild. Most sultan fish in the market are reared in fish farms.

Such farm-reared fish, which can grow up to 60cm long, cost as little as RM10 (\$4.50) per kg, but wild-caught fish can sell for at least RM60, added Mr Cham. Add export and other associated costs, and the price balloons.

Mr Eric Teo, executive chef at Mandarin Oriental Singapore, said that suppliers sell the fish at about \$300 per kg if they are caught alive.

A Straits Times visit to Feng Shui Inn found that sultan fish is not listed on the menu, but staff said customers can check their tanks for special fish, which are available depending on supply.

Mr Liu told *Wanbao* the taste of the fish was "OK" but did not leave a lasting impression.

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MOST-READ ONLINE

Sumiko is getting married

MOST COMMENTED ON

Don't assume children are there for you. Says the ultimate: "As parents, we give selflessly to our children but we must also save up for rainy days and not assume that they will take care of us when we get old."

YOUR SAY

The Singapore Armed Forces' ongoing modernisation drive will take another five to seven years. Boots on the ground are starting to get gadgets and machines to call on the firepower of the SAF, and the first fully digital combined arms division will be ready by next year, said Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean.

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WHY SO PRICEY



Empurau \$70 - \$2,000/kg

This freshwater fish is highly prized because of its tenderness in the wild and is reputed to have a tender and delicate texture. Hence, it is a sought-after fish by its Chinese name wang jiu li (which means unforgettable). The farmed fish cost a significantly less than those caught in the wild.



Sultan fish \$60 - \$680/kg

This freshwater fish was apparently a favourite of the Malay aristocracy for its supremely sweet and juicy flesh. Like the Empurau, it has escalated in price because of its rarity in the wild.

Other highly prized fish include

High-finned garoupa
(lan shu ban)

\$150 - \$350/kg



Humphead wrasse (su mei)

\$150 - \$430/kg

Viewed as a status symbol because of its hunching head and size, the fish is extremely firm and several cuisines have taken measures to protect it, such as allowing limited access. It is extremely difficult to catch because it refuses to take bait on hooks.



Leopard coral trout
(dong xit ban)

\$100 - \$150/kg

Soon hock

\$60 - \$90/kg

Time is Elusive

- With a Blink of an eye, how we aged
- Walking up stairs and down again is it a problem for you?
- **Ecclesiastes 12**
 - ³ ...when the **grinders cease because they are few,**
and those **looking through the windows grow dim;**
 - ⁴ when the doors to the street are closed
and the **sound of grinding fades;**
when men rise up at the sound of birds,
but all their **songs grow faint;**
 - ⁵ ... Then man goes to his eternal home
and mourners go about the streets.
 - ⁷ and the **dust returns to the ground it came from,**
and **the spirit returns to God who gave it.**

I Remember

Once I Had Time

- When I was Baptized into Christ Jesus
- We evangelized the Western part of Singapore
- More fervent for the Lord & **Willing to Listen**

But now, much of our Time is consumed by the world:

- **Doing a good job at work, watching Korean serials & Taiwan Dramas, Playstations, Xboxes, iPads, Facebook, computer games, ...**
- **..the list goes on**
- **Nothing wrong basically till it becomes an **ADDICTION** and your **IDOL** & we become less Willing to Listen**

- **Matthew 13:15**
- ¹⁵ *For the **hearts of this people have grown dull.**
Their **ears are hard of hearing,**
And their **eyes they have closed,....***
- **(New King James Version)**

Some May Say

I Have Time

- I am still young and strong.....
 - I can eat whatever I want
 - I can drink whatever I want
 - I want to enjoy life first
 - I can be spiritual later

Proverbs 3:5-8 (New King James Version)

- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct^[a] your paths.
- ⁷ **Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.**
- ⁸ It will be health to your flesh,^[b]
And strength^[c] to your bones.

We Had A little Time for God

- At Bangi Equatorial, Malaysia
- Character Building by bro Nat, (shed some tears)
- Build stronger relationship with more Brethrens
- Brethrens helping each other and giving way to each other, love flourished
- Had a wonderful prayer walk
- Power of your kind deeds
- Power of your good influence
- **Our God has no hands but our hands...**

Philippians 2:1-4 (New International Version)

Imitating Christ's Humility

¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. **⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

TREASURES

We Have NO TIME for:

- **Anger and Quarrels**
- **James 1:19-20** (New International Version)
- ¹⁹My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and
- **slow to become angry,**
- ²⁰**for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.**

No Time to plan against enemies

- Romans 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.
- ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, **live at peace with everyone.**
- ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "**It is mine to avenge; I will repay,**" says the Lord.

²⁰On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to
drink. In doing this, you will heap
burning coals on his head."²¹ **Do not be
overcome by evil, but overcome evil
with good.**

Philippians 2:12-16

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;** ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. GOALS

Find Time For Solutions

- ² **My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,** ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ **If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,** who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Proverbs 15:22 (New King James Version)

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- **²² Without counsel, plans go awry,
But in the multitude of
counselors they are
established.**
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SMRT Vandals Caught



- **SINGAPORE NEWS**

- **Swiss national Fricker pleads guilty to SMRT vandalism charges**

SINGAPORE: Swiss national Oliver Fricker pleaded guilty to trespassing into the SMRT Changi Depot and spray painting two train carriages.

A third charge which accused him of committing vandalism by cutting the depot's fence was stood down.

Fricker committed the offences between May 16 and 17 with an alleged accomplice, identified as **Dane Alexander Lloyd**, a Briton **who has since left Singapore.**

He will be sentenced later.

For each vandalism charge, **Fricker could be sentenced to three years' jail, fined a maximum of S\$2,000 and receive at least three strokes of the cane.**

And for entering a protected place, he could be sentenced to a maximum of two years' jail and fined up to S\$1,000. - CNA/jy

Really

I have No Time

- **2 Peter 3:10** ¹⁰**But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.**^[a]

(New International Version)

Theme: 991

- Is there someone whom you love dearly?
- Those whom you love, are they in Christ?
- If in Christ, are they faithful to the Lord?
- Would they be shut out from the kingdom of God?
- Time is running short before our Lord Jesus comes again

James 5:19-20 ¹⁹My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,

²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from **the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.** (New International Version)

Our Lord Jesus Had Time For Us

Philippians 2:5-11 (New International Version)

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

**⁶Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,**

- **⁷but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.**

⁸And being found in appearance as
a man, he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every
name,

**¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee
should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the
earth,**

¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is
Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Do I Have Time For The Lord?

- I Had Time, but not now
- **I Have Time but it is for things of this world**
- I am too blinded by the world to have Time for God
- **Our Lord Jesus Had Time For Us**
- We Have Little Time left
 - To introduce our God to friends
 - To strengthen our Family & loved ones to God
 - To help strengthen our Brethrens
 - To strengthen our personal relationship with God