Monday 17th February 2025

For a long time, I was always wondering why most roadside dinners and restaurants in cities of northern China couldn’t offer food as delicious as in its southern part. Over a decade ago, I finished my study in a college in a small city in the south of this country. The most unforgetable thing was the fragant perfume or distinct aroma come from even the dirtiest dinners. Dirty means that it was not so pristine as a smart restaurant but it just looked dirty because of old wooden desks and chairs with their painting decayed. After having my first meal in this city, I was absolutely astounded by not only the spicy dishes but also the natural taste of meat and vagetables.

Then I come back to the north and started work in a metropolitan near my hometown; the food was still aweful as it was. Why can’t cookers or chefs in the north of China make delicious as in its southern part? I had been confused for a long time before I found out the answer. The real reason beneath all the seemingly truth was that chefs didn’t love their job. It was at most a job, in their mind. On the contrary, those in the city where my college was located enjoyed making delicious food for customers and were so proud of their occupation. In other words, they love life and love cooking. The residents there didn’t have miserable expression as I saw in most cities of northern China. This is the life!

In addition, in a movie entitled “The Man Who Wasn’t There” a middle-aged man took his neighbour’s daughter to take a music exam in order to become a student of a prominent talented pianist. Unfortunately, she didn’t pass it. The pianist said that she played well and made few mistakes but said, sacartiscally or honestly, that she might be an excellent type writer instead of a pianist. Music didn’t come from your fingers or your head but from your heart, he added. Apparently, this girl was forced to play piano in a rich family. As a matter of fact, anyone can’t do a good job if they don’t love it. Perhaps, they will become competent workers but will never be exceptional.