Chinese food in India; caste creed no bar

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Although, what has been said here is absolutely true, there is no one kind of Chinese food even in mainland China, for the simple reason that China is a very large country spanning over 5000 kms. across and 5000 kms. lengthwise. Naturally due to the geographic disparity, agricultural differences are prevalent and so are food habits. With scores of languages and hundreds of dialects, how can there be uniformity in culinary tastes?

Chinese food in India is also diverse as our land where there is completely different Mumbai Chinese food and Delhi Chinese food! And when Chinese food restaurants claim to offer authentic Chinese cuisine, there is a catch there! Authentic from which part of China? Yet, one must give credit where it is due, Chinese food is one of the most popular street foods that is found all over India, even in the small towns and larger villages! Along with the dhaba that sells the local cuisine for the migrant worker or the lorry driver, the Chow-mien cart is ubiquitous everywhere.

Chinese food restaurants flood the culinary scene of the country with flavors that complement Indian tastes. The variety of Chinese food in India is also substantial and the dishes seem exotic enough to garner interest but not so alien in their presentation and taste. And although it is true that there is no such a thing as Manchurian Chilly Chicken in the whole of China, it is the most favorite Chinese food in India. Another case to point is the fried rice; the vegetable or chicken fried rice is almost like a pulao or pilaf in Chinese food restaurants here while rice is not eaten that way at all across the length and breadth of China.

While some Chinese food restaurants in five-star hotels or top class stand-alone Chinese food restaurants may show some inclination towards the authenticity of Chinese food by bringing in real Chinese chefs from China, yet they seem to be compromising a wee bit to cater to the public tastes and also keep to their international image. With some experimenting and keeping their hand firmly on the pulse of public preference they are able to balance this almost impossible task somehow.

The funniest thing about street Chinese food in India is that, usually a Nepali or our own brethren from Eastern India with seemingly Chinese features would be manning the cart which has a huge wok and a fierce fire going under it. If you order Hakka noodles, a dollop of oil and a couple of spoons of pre-boiled noodles will go in the wok with some precut veggies, and while he asks you how much â€•masalaâ€• you want, he adds vinegar, soya sauce and chili sauce and saltâ€¦. Your authenti Chinese food is ready, cooked by your authentic chef for a very affordable price! Who wants to go to Chinese food restaurants? We can vouch that it will be tasty; no wonder it is so popular.

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