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Bangkok street-food chef says no to international cooking honour – 12th January, 2018

Level 0

A street-food seller does not want a top chef's award. Jai Fai, 72, is the "crab omelet queen". Her stall is in Bangkok. Her omelets are very tasty, so the world food guide, Michelin, gave her an award. Usually, only chefs in top restaurants get this award. Many people are surprised that a street-food seller got the award.

Jai Fai is not happy with the award. She doesn't want it. Her life has changed. She doesn't like being famous and wants her old life back. She is getting stressed because tourists are taking photos of her. Fai said many people take pictures and do not eat. She said happy customers are more important than "a million stars".

Level 1

A street-food seller wants to give back a top chef's award. The seller, Jai Fai, 72, is known as the "crab omelet queen". Her street stall is in the middle of Bangkok. Her omelets are so tasty that the international food guide Michelin gave her a Michelin Star - one of the highest chef's awards. It is usually for chefs in top restaurants. Michelin is adding Bangkok to its food guide. Many people were surprised that a street-food seller got the Michelin Star.

Chefs are usually happy with a Michelin Star, but Jai Fai is not. She wants to return the star. Her life has changed too much. She said she does not like being famous and wants her old life back. She is getting stressed. Tourists take photos, people stop to watch her, and tax officers visited her. Fai said: "Many people come just to look and take pictures and not...to eat." She said happy customers are more important than "a million stars".

Level 2

A street-food seller wants to give back a top international chef's award. The seller is known as the "crab omelet queen". Jai Fai, 72, has a street stall in the middle of Bangkok. Her crab omelets are so tasty that the international dining guide Michelin awarded her a Michelin Star. This is one of the highest awards a chef can get anywhere in the world. It usually only goes to chefs in top restaurants. Michelin said it would add Bangkok to its fine dining lists. Many people were surprised that a street-food seller in Bangkok got the Michelin Star.

Chefs are usually happy to get the Michelin Star, but Jai Fai said she is not so pleased. She wants to give the star back. Ms Fai said her life has changed too much and she wants her old life back. She said she does not like being famous because of the star. One reason is that many people are now around her stall. She is getting stressed. Tourists take photos, passers-by stop to watch her, and some tax officers visited her. Fai said: "Many people come just to look and take pictures and not necessarily to eat." She said happy customers are more important than "a million stars".

Level 3

A street-food seller in Bangkok wants to give back a top international chef's award. The street-food seller is known as the "crab omelet queen". Her name is Supinya Junsuta but she calls herself Jai Fai. Her street stall is in the middle of Bangkok and it is called Raan Jai Fai. Her crab omelets are of such good quality that the international dining guide Michelin awarded her a Michelin Star. A Michelin Star is one of the highest awards any chef in the world can receive. It is usually only given to chefs in top hotels and restaurants. Michelin announced it would be adding Bangkok to its fine dining lists. Many people were surprised that a street-food seller in Bangkok received the Michelin Star.

Chefs are usually happy to get the Michelin Star, but Jai Fai, 72, has told reporters she is not so pleased that she got the award. She wants to return the star to Michelin. Ms Fai said the star has changed her life too much. She wants to go back to how her life was before. She said she does not like the fame that has come with the star. One reason is that too many people are surrounding her stall and she is getting stressed. Tourists come to take photos; passers-by stop to watch her; and even some officials from the tax department came to visit her. Fai said: "Many people come just to look and take pictures and not necessarily to eat." She said happy customers are more important to her than "a million stars".