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WONTON FOOD INC.
220-222 Moore Street
Brooklyn, NY 11206

Dear WONTON FOOD:

I enjoy going to Chinese places with my friends because it is such good food at such a great price. My friends and I used to eat at Chinese places all the time when we were in school. We usually would make it an entire afternoon affair and eat enough to keep us all satisfied for the next two or three days (at only \$5.25 a person if we got there during the lunch buffet).

I do recall one unfortunate incident when we stayed for about 5½ hours so that we could safely digest our meals and have room for more. The owners of that location were not very happy with us (I don't understand why, LOTS of people have breaks in their dining while they engage in conversation -- we did nothing different). We were not allowed to go back there for months, but there were plenty of other Chinese buffets to patronize, so we were not harmed.

Well, now I am grown and no longer hang out with those old friends, but I have found a new group of friends in my new city, and I don't even have to pay them all that much to hang out with me. Sometimes I even invite them over to my apartment and cook food for them on my Char-Broil® grill so that they will continue to be my friends.

Sometimes my new friends and I go out to the local Chinese buffet restaurant. A few weeks ago we went and had a really good time. But the best time was always at the end of the meal when we get our fortune cookies (made by WonTon Foods). Oh the laughs when those get read aloud!

That is until that one fateful day when they were laughing AT me instead of WITH me because of the fortune that I got. You see, on that day, my fortune read: "Alas! You are the apple of my eye." When I read THAT fortune aloud there were many laughs, but like I said, they were laughing at me. I didn't cry until I was out of eyesight and earshot because I didn't want them to think that I was a baby or anything, but their laughing really hurt and it was because of your fortune. (I enclosed an enlarged photocopy of the fortune for you to read).

I wonder how something like this could happen. This fortune is not a good one. My dictionary says that this word is used to express unhappiness, pity, or concern. So the fortune was basically saying that someone was unhappy for me being the apple of his or her eye (hopefully a her). What psychological mind games are you trying to play with your fortune recipients? I just hope that you will correct this problem and adjust this fortune to say something like: "Hooray! You are the apple of my eye."

The only other explanation I can think of is that the fortune lost something in the translation from Chinese. Is that maybe the problem? If so, PLEASE correct it. But speaking of translations, I REALLY enjoy the Learn Chinese feature on the reverse side of your fortunes. So far, my two favorite Chinese expressions are Bu ke-qi and Sheng-dan-jie. (Those, of course, mean 'you're welcome' and 'Christmas'). But my Chinese vocabulary is growing weekly.

I also have a question about those lucky numbers. I notice that my lucky numbers change with each new fortune that I get and that makes me wonder: Just how long are my lucky numbers good for? At first I thought that my lucky numbers had to be the same all the time and would sort of be lucky numbers AND favorite numbers at the same time. But then one of my dining mates explained to me that the numbers expire, kind of like the way milk does. But the fortune lucky numbers don't seem to have a posted expiration date. So I need to ask you, do the numbers expire after just a day? Or are those my lucky numbers until I have my next Chinese meal? Sometimes it is a matter of weeks between one fortune and the next, sometimes it is only a day or two. Do they turn into Unlucky numbers after they expire? Please explain this to me.

Also, did you ever notice that the Chinese fortunes have SIX lucky numbers and that they rarely go much above 40 or 50? I'm not sure what my highest ever lucky number was, but I got to thinking and realized that I could use my lucky numbers to play in the state lottery. I haven't won anything yet, but the idea just came to me one day and I wanted to let you in on my little secret. I thought that you might be able to use that as a way to advertise you fortune cookies. You could say, "Get a fortune, learn Chinese, AND maybe even win a million dollars in your state lottery!" You might have to change the advertising slogan in different areas on different weeks because the jackpot isn't always only a million dollars, but I'll leave that up to your marketing experts. THEY are the ones with the special degrees and making the big money. But, my friends, I will be the one with the 'big money' once my lucky numbers come up in the lottery!!! But think about it: you've been sitting on this gem for years and never realized it!

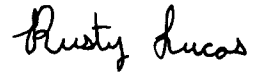
My other thought was that you could create a TV game show called Wheel of Fortunes. Contestants can spin a giant wheel with pie shaped sections. Each section can have a different fortune printed on it. In order to receive the fortune that the contestant's marker lands on, they would have to translate a common word or phrase from English into Chinese (just like on your fortunes, only reversed), and then they could also get six lucky numbers and mark those off on a Bingo card of some sort (but only if they got the translation correct). Then one of the contestants can yell out: -- what is the Chinese word for "Bingo?" -- after they get their card filled. Then the contestant who got Chinese Bingo gets to go to the lightning round where they see how many words they can translate in 60 seconds. The host can call off words in Chinese and have the lightning round contestant shout out the English equivalent.

The only problem with the show is that contestants of Chinese descent would have to be ineligible because that would look like it was a fix or unfair for the normal contestants. Unless you had all contestants of each ethnic group compete only against contestants of the same background. That might be the way to go.

Please get back in touch with me on these ideas and also to let me know when you have corrected the problem with the fortune I received. I will be watching my mail for your reply and

I hope that you liked my ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rusty Lucas".

Rusty Lucas

P.S. I wondered if it was possible to get any free promotional baseball caps with the WonTon Food logo embroidered on the front. If not, I will wait for when the Wheel of Fortunes baseball caps come out. And let me wish you a Merry Sheng-dan-jie about a month early.