



1. If anything was possible, what would your dream job be, and why?

I want to be an astronaut. Because when I was a young boy, I was always fascinated by the National Geographics television. They inspired me to discover the Earth and everything around it. One of my favorite planets is Saturn. It emanates unique beauty, especially with its elongated rings. Currently, Mars is being studied by the Mars rover; the recent pictures from it excite me and make me wonder if there really is life beyond earth.

The Northern Star is also one of the definitive discoveries of mankind. Being able to tell true north just by locating the stars sure is a useful skill when lost. When I was younger, I thought the sun was the biggest star there is, but I couldn't have been more wrong. Then there's Pollux, Betelgeuse, and many more. I bet there are even way bigger stars that haven't been discovered yet. Doesn't that also excite you?

And that's why I wish I could be an astronaut. Discovering for yourself the limits and trying to extend them, however small it may be.

2. Have you ever experienced a stressful situation in your past workplace (college if fresh graduate), what was it and how did you overcome it?

I mainly work in the kitchen, so the word itself is tantamount to stress. As popularized by a popular and decorated chef—Gordon Ramsey. There was a time when I was assigned to a breakfast buffet. My main role was to cook fresh omelets for the hungry guests. We normally have two cooks for this particular setup, but my partner was not feeling well and was absent; he failed to notify our head chef ahead of time. And so, the predicament begins. I had to rush every single order so as not to anger the hungry guests, but still I received complaints about how their omelets were already cold and not up to standard.

I was really disappointed not only in my partner but also in myself. I learned to be accountable to my supervisors and to those I am partnered with while also holding them accountable to me. First, I should let my supervisors know my current condition or anything that might affect the line of operations. Secondly, I should also ask for an update or even be aware of the whereabouts of the personnel on duty.



3. In your previous position, what task did you find most challenging and why? What task did you enjoy most and why?

I am not fond of tasks working remotely or requiring little to no collaboration. That might sound like I am extremely dependent, but let me explain myself. I like to keep track of the work of others to synchronize the output of a certain task, which requires constant communication. I like to be updated; it encourages me and keeps me on the right track, and most of all, it keeps me company.

And the task that I enjoy the most is working outside or fieldwork; I like discovering things and exploring. When I was stationed near the beach cooking for people, I found it really exhilarating because I was in the middle of nature, conversing with various people, and cooking what they love, nothing could be nicer than that. When connecting with people and nature, you also connect to yourself, what you like, and what you don't like. It really is fun to do fieldwork.

4. How would your past colleagues or managers describe your work ethic?

Perhaps fun but erratic at times. As I have said before, I like to discover things and basically explore them. Well, of course it has its pros and cons. The pros are that I like to be a pioneer of something, leading the way and risking myself to discover information or experience. While the cons are mainly losing interest quickly, a treasure for now might become trash tomorrow. Failing to maintain what is already established. Be it relationship or company standards.

One example of my adventurous personality in the workplace is discovering a more efficient way to refrigerate premade sauces for the kitchen. We usually make 15 liters of a sauce and freeze it, but when you need to use it, you have to thaw the whole batch, and that takes a lot of hours, especially company hours. So what I proposed is that we order small food pans to freeze small batches of sauce so that we won't have to defrost the whole batch for it.



5. What personal or professional accomplishments are you most proud of?

I grew up without a father and supported my sister when she was still studying. And recently I have had an opportunity to visit her outside of the country. It was a fantastic experience; growing up together and exploring new places together, making new friends, and trying new foods is an experience worth living for. Every time I saw her off to work last year, it sometimes made me teary. Remembering our hardships and misfortunes but still gritting through the process.

I think there are three main reasons why food tastes so good. The first one is you are hungry, the second one is you earned it, and the final reason is grace. You just don't deserve it; that's why food is called grace. I can't change any of the hands that I was dealt. But what I can do is work. But that still doesn't mean I deserve what I have or what I will have. It will always be grace.