Cabbage Soup

Peter Spyros Goudas, Theologos Kangelidis
transcribed by Bernadette Scott
**Cabbage Soup**  
*“Old Bitch Recipe”*

We would like to give you the directions for creating homemade cabbage soup. It is actually quite simple.

You may add pieces of your favourite meat or bacon, if you so choose.

There is also a funny story following the recipe (which has been incorporated into the name of the soup. We hope it entertains you a little).

1 small head green cabbage, coarsly shredded  
2 medium onions, thinly sliced  
3 tbsp butter or vegetable oil  
2 carrots, sliced

2 medium potatoes, peeled & cubed  
1 stalk celery, leaves sliced  
1/4 cup rice - any variety  
2 tomatoes, chopped  
1/2 to 1 teaspoon dried dill weed  
salt & pepper  
1/8 cup vinegar

Feel free to add more spices and chili pepper if you wish to “spice up” the flavour.

Place cabbage, onions, carrots, potatoes, rice and tomatoes in a pot. Add enough water to cover generously.

Cook at medium level until the cabbage is faded and the water has turned bright purple in colour.

Add the vinegar (additional spices), and continue cooking at the low level until it is cooked to your satisfaction.
Mr. Goudas Cabbage Soup
“Old Bitch Recipe”

December 18, 2003

One morning at 4 a.m., Mr. Goudas arrives at his office, which is the norm after so many years, and starts his day with his 67 years young personal assistant (Maria).

As always, she has already made his morning coffee.

His day normally starts with 1002 problems, however, his motto is “Let’s forget the 1000 problems for the moment, and concentrate on the two”.

The morning time slowly passes, and at about 10:00 am, the mail arrives, where one person receives a letter from Mr. Jim Gunn about Mr. Goudas’ Cabbage Soup, and reads Mr. Gunn’s letter in a very soft voice to all the office employees.

The letter reads as follows:

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Jim Gunn

Windsor / ON / Canada

I buy quite a few of your products, and I’m part of the old breed of Canadians that worked so hard to make a place for “new Canadians”, such as yourself to prosper and to forget about all of the bloodshed and bullshit that your “old country” offered.

But as one Canadian to another-brother your cabbage soup tastes like shit.

I remember visiting my sister who rented from some old bitch from Europe on Harbord Ave. (just off Bathurst St.) and your soup reminds me of that stench...

I taste your cabbage soup and imagine I’m drinking that old battle-axe’s bathwater or the laundry water left over from washing that old lady’s massive bras.

Now you could go into any deli on Spadina Avenue and have a tasty cabbage soup but your cabbage soup is the absolute pits.

Try it -I’m sure you’ll agree.
They were all thinking whether it would be wise to relay the letter to Mr. Goudas in fear that he may suffer an acute heart attack after reading the contents of the letter.

WWOOWW! What a letter!

Mr. Goudas loves to read all letters relating to products because he greatly values the opinions of his customers.

This particular letter broke some employees’ hearts knowing fully well the amount of effort and sleepless nights that went into perfecting this product, as he does with the hundreds of other products.

Finally, the employees decided to give Maria the honour to walk slowly into Mr. Goudas office, where she could not control her hands from shaking, just from carrying such comments on paper.

She left the paper on the desk for Mr. Goudas to read, where she saw him read the letter for the first time.

He then picked up Koukla (the French poodle) and while petting her, he read the letter over and over again, to capture its true meaning.

Although, the office employees were at their desks supposedly working, they were still looking into his office through the corner of their eyes.

They were more concerned with what reaction he would have to the letter once he read it.

After a long silence, finally he started talking to himself and fell into that mode, as the plaque on the outside of his office reads “If you see me doing nothing, please do not disturb; this is when I am busiest”.

The office staff started hearing Mr. Goudas talking, as if Mr. Gunn was in his office.

The employees captured the speech and helped with the response to Mr. Jim Gunn, which follows:
Dear Mr. Jim Gunn:

We appreciate your letter, we also thank you so much that you purchase so many of our products and love most of them.

We would like to respond to your letter as follows:

Over the 35 years of Mr. Goudas’ existence we finally realized in our company that you could not produce a product loved by everyone.

There will always be someone that disagrees with a particular taste.

We can assure you that before we put the product into the market, we spent every possible effort as far as the recipe, ingredients and other things are concerned, towards creating the product.

If we followed the Spadina Recipe, with a list of ingredients including pork fat and bacon strips in order to satisfy your taste, it would not be vegetarian.

However the list of ingredients in our cabbage soup states clearly the goodness of the product within the can.

We can assure you that our cabbage soup was based on the recipe used by the “Old Bitch”, as you call her.

Although you may not be happy, and we appreciate that; I would like to point out to you, that we do have complimentary letters from wonderful customers like You, telling us how delicious it is.

In fact, after Mr. Goudas read your letter, he is considering to re-label this wonderful soup and call it “The Old Bitch Recipe”.

Please view in the same column letters from wonderful customers like You.

Once again we truly appreciate your comments.

The comment and answer is posted in www.goudasfoods.com.

The Comments Section is viewed by thousands and this story is a subject of discussion, since it makes people laugh at the candidness of both participants Mr. Goudas and Mr. Gunn.

Mr. Gunn’s letter is framed in Mr. Goudas’ office as an objective reminder that no matter how hard Mr. Goudas tries, he will never be able to please everyone when it comes to taste.

On the other hand, we have customers who love our recipes so much they take the time to let us know their feeling about our products as evidenced by the following letters:

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Helen Reilly

Dear Mr. Goudas - Feb 5 2003

I love your food. Today I am having your Cabbage Soup for lunch. It is more like Cabbage stew though because there is so much food in it. Yummy! You see, I’m on a diet and I would hate to have to give up eating.
Mr. Goudas believes that Mr. Gunn, who is a supporter of Goudas Foods products, as he states in the beginning of his letter, delivered his feelings and opinion towards this product in the most pleasing manner.

If you have a special occasion coming up, or you simply need to lose weight fast, the Cabbage Soup may be just what you are looking for.

Although not suitable for long-term weight loss, the Cabbage Soup will help you get into shape fast before you start a long-term eating plan.

You will lose weight fast. And, you may eat as much as you want.

It provides a great start for a more moderate diet.

The Cabbage Soup is a quick and safe method of weight loss.

It allows you to eat as much cabbage soup as you like but not much else.

It is only effective for temporary weight loss and is by no means a long-term nutrition plan.