Chef Haikal Johari

In the world of culinary excellence, where passion often drives chefs to craft exquisite dishes, Haikal Johari stands out not only for his culinary prowess but also for his unwavering determination to overcome life's most formidable challenges.

He was the executive chef at the helm of Alma by Juan Amador, a renowned one-Michelin-starred restaurant in Singapore, Chef Haikal's journey is a testament to resilience and the indomitable human spirit. His story is one of triumph over adversity, a narrative that inspires all who hear it.

Born with a natural talent for cooking, Chef Haikal's culinary journey began long before he stepped foot into Alma's kitchen. For him, cooking wasn't just a career choice; it was a passion that fueled his desire to live fully. However, fate dealt him a cruel blow when a motorcycle accident left him paralyzed from the shoulder down. Overnight, his world turned upside down, and the once daredevil chef found himself confined to a wheelchair, facing a future filled with uncertainty.

But Chef Haikal refused to let his disability define him. Despite the daunting prognosis given by doctors, he embarked on a remarkable journey of recovery, fueled by sheer determination and an unyielding spirit. Through grueling therapy sessions and unwavering perseverance, he defied the odds and gradually regained control over his body.

His return to Alma marked a new chapter in his life, one defined by resilience and a renewed sense of purpose. Taking on the role of executive chef, Chef Haikal infused Alma's menu with his creative flair, showcasing his culinary mastery to diners from around the world. His passion for cooking became his lifeline, a source of solace and joy amidst the challenges he faced.

But Chef Haikal's journey isn't just about personal triumph; it's also about giving back to those who helped him along the way. Inspired by the dedicated healthcare workers who played a pivotal role in his recovery, he launched an initiative to provide hearty meals to the staff at the National University Hospital. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Chef Haikal remained undeterred, embodying the spirit of resilience and compassion.

Today, Chef Haikal continues to defy expectations, going to work daily and managing the kitchen with precision and passion. His story serves as a beacon of hope for those facing adversity, a reminder that with perseverance and determination, anything is possible. As he navigates the ups and downs of life, Chef Haikal remains steadfast in his belief that every hardship is followed by victory, a guiding light that propels him forward. He recently started his new venture at Avant, a fine-dining restaurant located in the luxurious Kimpton-Maalai Hotel in

Bangkok.

In the world of haute cuisine, where excellence is paramount, Chef Haikal Johari’s story stands as a testament to the power of the human spirit. Through his culinary creations and unwavering determination, he reminds us all that even in the face of adversity, the soul finds its strength in the kitchen.