

A Trip to Remember

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Have you ever gone on a trip and felt like you were on an episode of Punk'd? Well, it happened to me while on a trip to visit my Godfather who lives in Texas. Even though it was as expected, it was still special for a few reasons. First, it was a long-awaited trip planned by my Godfather who had been asking me to visit for over 20 years. Secondly, this would be my first time traveling with my sons on an airplane. Consequently, that caused some nervousness, but mostly excitement.

After a long day of travel, there is a sigh of relief once we land safely and begin to head to our destination. Arriving at my Godfather's home was the start of the unplanned, weeklong diet we were not expecting. Typically, you expect to eat good and gain some weight on a vacation, right? We anticipated some tasty southern style food for dinner, but that did not happen. Instead, we are offered some four-day old sandwiches from a leftover meeting my Godfather had facilitated days prior. Did he just admit to giving us some old left-over food? Well, we were tired and hungry at this point, so old sandwiches it is! Hard bread, no condiments, but hey, we made it work.

The next day will be the day I am already planning to eat some fried chicken, barbeque, maybe even some seafood. Well, today will not be the day either. Instead, my Godfather had a road trip planned. We spent hours on hours just touring the state and we all know how big Texas is. Finally, I ask if we can stop so I can feed my kids. He says, "you guys are hungry?" By this time, it was the afternoon, of course we are! He then proceeds to tell me how he had a meeting earlier that morning while we were still asleep, so he had eaten already and just did not realize anyone else had not. Again, we are in disbelief, but we make a stop at Whataburger. We had never heard of this burger place, and we enjoyed it. The spicy ketchup was a hit. It was a long day, but we did get to see some nice landmarks and enjoyed seeing my Godfather's courtroom.

He is a well-known retired judge in Texas, so it made me feel proud to be able to stand in his courtroom and see his picture on the wall.

Needless to say, this continued throughout our trip. My sons and I found ourselves wondering why we even came in the first place. There was absolutely no food in the refrigerator or beverages to drink. This trip was years ago, so during this time there was no such thing as UberEATS or Door Dash, so we felt slightly helpless. We ended up just trying to make the best of it. We played hide and go seek, explored his spacious back yard that had a lake with ducks and various kinds of birds. I had not played hide and seek since I was a child. It was nice to just live in the moment.

At the time a lot of frustration set in for my Godfather. I could not believe that he would invite us to his home and not provide minimal necessities. By any means, I was not expecting him to provide us with luxurious meals but to ask if we wanted to go to the store, out to dinner, or to order take out, anything would have been appreciated. To expect us to just not eat was unacceptable. I would have been more than happy to pay for it. At the time I felt more hurt than anything. For myself, I can make do, but I had my kids with me. Two growing boys, with very hearty appetites that need and love to eat.

In the end I concluded, that although my Godfather is a remarkably successful man, he is also a man that has never had children of his own. I do not think he really knows how to care for children. I actually think he is totally oblivious to what is needed. While in Texas it was hard for me not to show how upset I was with him. In no way did I want it to come off as if I was not appreciative of this fully paid trip. I do know he loves me very much and would not intentionally hurt me or my children. In his mind he was so overcome with joy that we were there, but simply forgot that at some point we would need to eat something throughout the week.

Although it was not a memorable trip in the positive sense, my kids and I laugh about it now. We have even talked many times about going back to Texas to visit, but not stay with Bill! We enjoyed our time together. It was nice to see the different architecture of the homes and how much land they have. There are no brick fences separating the yards, everyone's grass was so green and there were so many trees. It was very humid, but beautiful. I would not take it back and cannot wait for the moment we get to do it again.