

# BUDDHA`S BIRD

This is the story of my son Jonathan's turkey hunting outing with the guys from Grindem Outfitters(Jack & Gord) in Simcoe(Last May 15th). It's an interesting story as it has a unique prelude to it since the objective of that hunt was to get my son Jonathan( who had just turned 18yrs) to shoot his First ever Wild Turkey.

I said Prelude because Jonathan had been trying to shoot a bird for the last three years and it seemed like every time, something had to go wrong.... either we busted birds going to the field or they busted us...or bad weather was hitting us hard... we even had coyotes sneaking-up on our birds and spook-em away and that's not counting the time when a four wheeler came out of nowhere to scare the shit out of birds we were calling in....it was so bad that it got to a point where Jonathan thought he had been hit by a curse... the Curse of the Wild Turkey. I have to hand it to him ... all the getting-up at three in the morning & the crazy situations that prevented him from shooting a bird PLUS a really soar ass... didn't stop him from trying to shake that Curse off.

So it's in that frame of mind that he got to Simcoe... saying to himself... man if I can't shoot a bird hunting in Simcoe with Jack & Gord.... I'll never shoot a bird. So this hunt was one with a certain level of stress for him and pressure for the guys at Grindem... who really wanted him to get is first bird. I could really sense a stress factor in the air..... I mean Jack & Gord worked on their game plan for Jonathan's hunt the next morning till late at night and even told Jonathan to go drop a Nickel at our Motel's Buddha fountain to make a wish.... they also told him to rub is belly for good luck.... as we were drinking a nice cold beer...shooting the shit... I could see that Jack & Gord's frame of mind was still focused on their game plan for the next day.... I could actually hear them thinking.... where will we set-up...should I bring the Killer B decoy or just stick to the Jennies... That's when I knew that the pressure was on for Jack & Gord... these guys wanted Jonathan to shoot his first Turkey... that way they could see him jump for joy & make him happy.... all the while... securing the bragging rights to Jonathan's first bird... for years to come.

So the next day .. we got up... hookep-up at Tim Horton's for a quick coffee and drove straight to the field to set-up. GORD had brought a relaxed hen decoy and the Killer B male strutting decoy from Primo"s(oustanding good looking decoys) to the field. We got to our spot and Gord set Jonathan up so he would get an amazing view to a kill and maximize is shooting action. So the set-up was done... the boys were laying low... and the Heat was on for Jonathan's first bird.... things started slowly but at around a quarter to six.. we heard our first

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gobble coming from the left...our spirit was up and GORD got cracking.... a few soft yelps... ousps we heard another gobble this time from the right... & we knew we were getting into some action. A fly down cackle, a few other yelps & cuts later and we had two gobblers setting up for us... we also had a hen coming our way. Man there was a frenzy feeling in the air.... and GORD started to put some action on the Killer B decoy..... he was pulling on that string and getting that turkey fan to move up and down...he was moving that bird like an air traffic controller.....showing these gobblers where the landing strip was. He was pulling and shaking that Killer B decoy like you wouldn't believe.... the movement & tempo on that decoy.... made John Travolta's performance in Saturday Night Fever.... look like a Kindergarden show.... it was magnificent... add to that all the Calls that GORD was throwing in there..... and that decoy had Tempo,Action & Style.... Man.. it could have been featured on "So You think You can Dance America".....

During all that time the Gobblers were on Fire and coming straight for us... until, at one point, one of these birds couldn't take it anymore and came straight to the decoy 20 yards away...right smack in front of Jonathan.... GORD said...Take-him! that's when we heard the first shot and saw the Gobbler running away...GORD said.. Take-him..Take-him.... then we heard the second shot... and saw the bird starting to fly away.... and then we heard GORD say....Shoot...Shoot... and we heard that third and final shot.... we saw a puff of feathers in the air and looked on as the bird flew away into another field... that's when we heard the sound of something large and heavy falling to the ground.... so we turned around and ran to GORD who had **just fallen to his knees**...LOL... after recovering his senses.... there was this odd atmosphere in the Air... Jonathan was shaking his head wondering what had gone wrong... while we were looking at ourselves in total disbelief since normally Jonathan is a good shooter....something had gone wrong...the pressure of getting that bird was most likely too much for him and he had cracked.

Then GORD said ... You know what... that Bird got some lead into him...I saw him ...he got Shot... and Jonathan's spirit was lifted a little bit.... so GORD said.... we need to go look for that bird.... it got shot.... and I could feel hesitation and anticipation in Jonathan's eyes.... so we picked-up our stuff and went looking for that bird.... we walked quite a bit and crossed over a fence row to the other field... then I saw something... and said to GORD.. hey what's that..and Jonathan`s eyes opened-up so wide they could have fallen to the **ground**.. GORD.. said...NAWWW ... it's just dirt... and Jonathan's **spirit** fell to an all time low.... but then GORD said.... hold-on.. I think I see something back there... not sure but there seems to be something...let's go see.... following GORD... I could see

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Jonathan looking to the sky... then the wind and a ray of light gave us a reflection that wasn't uncommon to GORD... he said... there's your Turkey...see it...there it is... and we heard Jonathan yell out ..."Thank You! GOD! Thank You! His face had litten-up & he was all smile... the CURSE was over..... GORD was also all smiles.... MAN... we were all jumping for Joy.... it was an amazing moment ... where a true feeling of Brotherhood shined....the whole group was so happy for Jonathan... it's a moment we won't ever forget.

So Jonathan picked-up his bird and carried it back to the truck while we were asking him what had gone wrong on the first two shots.... Nice Bird.... sixteen pounder...five inch beard... nice tail(see attached picture)...we pulled his cord plenty about the missed shots... and he brushed them off laughing... the Bird was down... the Wild Turkey Curse was Lifted...nothing else mattered. I said to Jonathan...see it was a good thing... you listened to the guys and Rubbed Buddha's Belly... he answered back... Actually...I did rub his belly... but...just to be on the safe side... I went the Extra mile and Rubbed his Balls too..... We laughed hard....I guess he really wanted to shoot his first Wild Turkey.LOL

GORD & JACK at GRINDEM OUTFITTERS.... MISSION ACCOMPLISHED !!!  
You guys really came true for JONATHAN THANK YOU! Very Much... this trip was simply AMAZING and You GUYS....On TOP of being True Professionnals and Classy guys... are Simply said JUST Plain FUN to be With..... Shooting Birds is just the Added BONUS....

Thanks! a lot for Great Memories & Great Stories( Buddha's Bird & Li'L Jack Stories won't be forgotten)

Looking Forward to Hunting again with You guys in a near future.  
Thanks! & Take Care!

Jacques Pascal & Jonathan Pascal