

Excursions

by Amit Gawande

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make sans serif. use old style numerals.

December 29, 2021

12:07 AM

An inner monologue around my site's theme to follow. I have grown bored by looking at my current theme. Not that I don't like it, it just needs a reset. This has been how the site looks for a couple of years now. It looks so bland. Not playful. Not *personal*. There is no character.

Over the year, I have added so much stuff to the theme. It does not, at all, resemble what I started with. It feels hacky all around. I have realised I can't create anything polished, so I prefer not to build something totally custom. I prefer anything that comes ready-made. But that's tricky as these are still early days for theming with Micro.blog. I like a couple, but neither is perfect. Shall I start with one and personalise in limit? Do I want to take the project up?

I know, I know. "It is the words that matter and not what's around." & "Make the content beautiful, not the container" & blah blah.

I get it. That's the writer in me speaking. But [the developer in me](#) is craving for change. Can I hold him back?

11:54 PM

I decided against [replacing my theme](#) with something entirely new. I have too many custom components baked in currently that I [don't have time to](#) replicate afresh. Plus, all the feedback from folks helped me convince myself that what I have is good enough.

But, I have refreshed a few aspects in the existing theme. As advised by Khalid, I started with a typeface and replaced it with a serif one. It looks a lot bolder to me. A few clean-ups around accent colours. And a lot of moving stuff around.

What I have, thus, is something that looks different, yet is the same. The journey is incomplete yet, there are many ugly corners that need clean-up. But I will get to those as time permits.

December 28, 2021

12:29 AM

I tried to watch Red Notice today. I couldn't beyond an hour or so - it's such a terrible movie.

10:30 AM

I didn't realize that the repository for [MicroThreads](#) was private till now. No idea why I kept it so. Well, I made it public today. You can check out the [code on GitHub](#), if interested.

This small utility continues to help me every day to discover new conversations and users.

05:44 PM

A minor upgrade to the [Posts Stats plug-in](#) - the numbers are displayed with commas now, grouped on thousands. Without this, the larger numbers were annoying to watch. Anyway, that's that. **PS:** I still haven't found out a way to include config for disabling menu item.

10:48 PM

Oh, I have a [profile on omg.lol](#). To be frank, that's neither OMG, nor LOL. I did manage to not subscribe during all the giveaways. But I like the fun element. Always. So I had to. Also, I blame [@maique](#) 🙄

December 27, 2021

12:45 AM

I like to remind myself about the number of words that I've written on my blog. Well, now I do, through [my Archive page](#). It's auto-generated, refreshed every time I publish. And if you host with Micro.blog, you can achieve the same with [this plugin](#). It's basic, but works.

I have published **1692 posts** with **231897 words** (that's almost 5 novellas) since October, 2005.

December 26, 2021

01:11 PM

Remember that you've been doing research your whole life, merely by existing. You are the only expert in your own experience. Embrace this as your supreme qualification.

Source: [How To Write by Elizabeth Gilbert](#)

December 25, 2021

08:12 PM

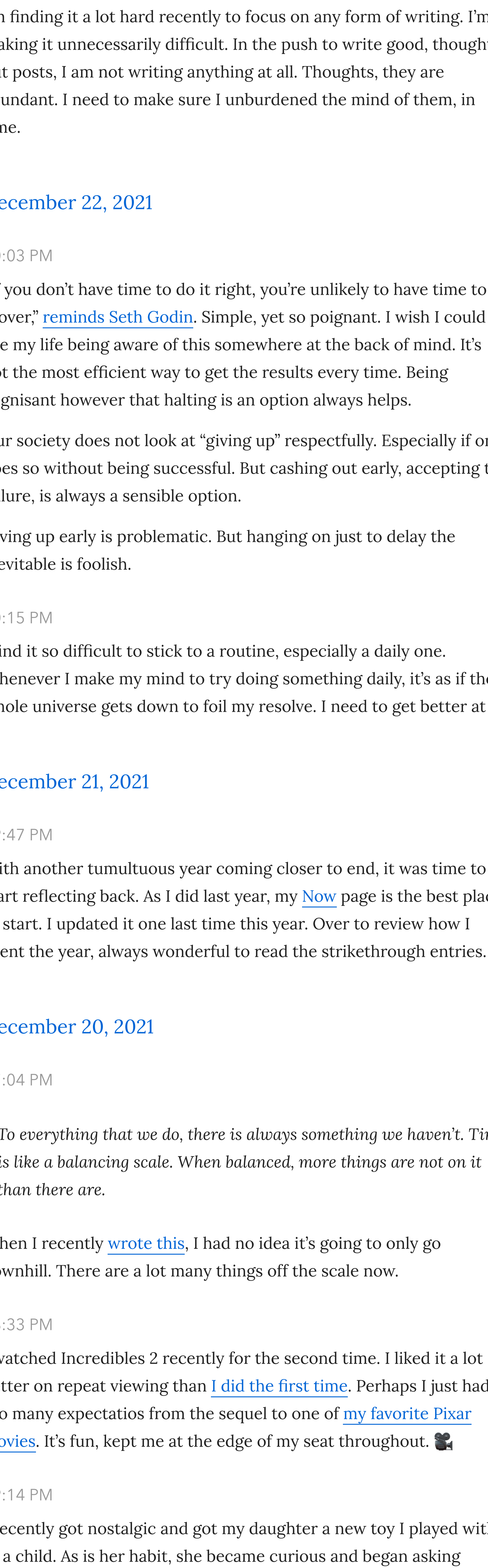
Christmas, the last festival for our family in the season of festivities.

Commercialised are the celebrations here in India.

Never are for us.

Lots of joy, with family - that's the spirit we celebrate with.

Merry Christmas to one and all! 🎄



December 24, 2021

08:25 AM

Being surrounded by all the festive sales and offers for the past four months, it's been absolutely exhausting to not fall for any unnecessary purchases. Especially difficult given that I look at them through the screen of this two year old smartphone. Sigh! 1-2-3 Breathe-in ...

December 23, 2021

06:54 AM

I'm finding it a lot hard recently to focus on any form of writing. I'm making it unnecessarily difficult. In the push to write good, thought out posts, I am not writing anything at all. Thoughts, they are abundant. I need to make sure I unburdened the mind of them, in time.

December 22, 2021

10:03 PM

"If you don't have time to do it right, you're unlikely to have time to do it over," [reminds Seth Godin](#). Simple, yet so poignant. I wish I could live my life being aware of this somewhere at the back of mind. It's not the most efficient way to get the results every time. Being cognisant however that halting is an option always helps.

Our society does not look at "giving up" respectfully. Especially if one does so without being successful. But cashing out early, accepting the failure, is always a sensible option.

Giving up early is problematic. But hanging on just to delay the inevitable is foolish.

10:15 PM

I find it so difficult to stick to a routine, especially a daily one. Whenever I make my mind to try doing something daily, it's as if the whole universe gets down to foil my resolve. I need to get better at it.

December 21, 2021

09:47 PM

With another tumultuous year coming closer to end, it was time to start reflecting back. As I did last year, my [Now](#) page is the best place to start. I updated it one last time this year. Over to review how I spent the year, always wonderful to read the strikethrough entries.

December 20, 2021

07:04 PM

To everything that we do, there is always something we haven't. Time is like a balancing scale. When balanced, more things are not on it than there are.

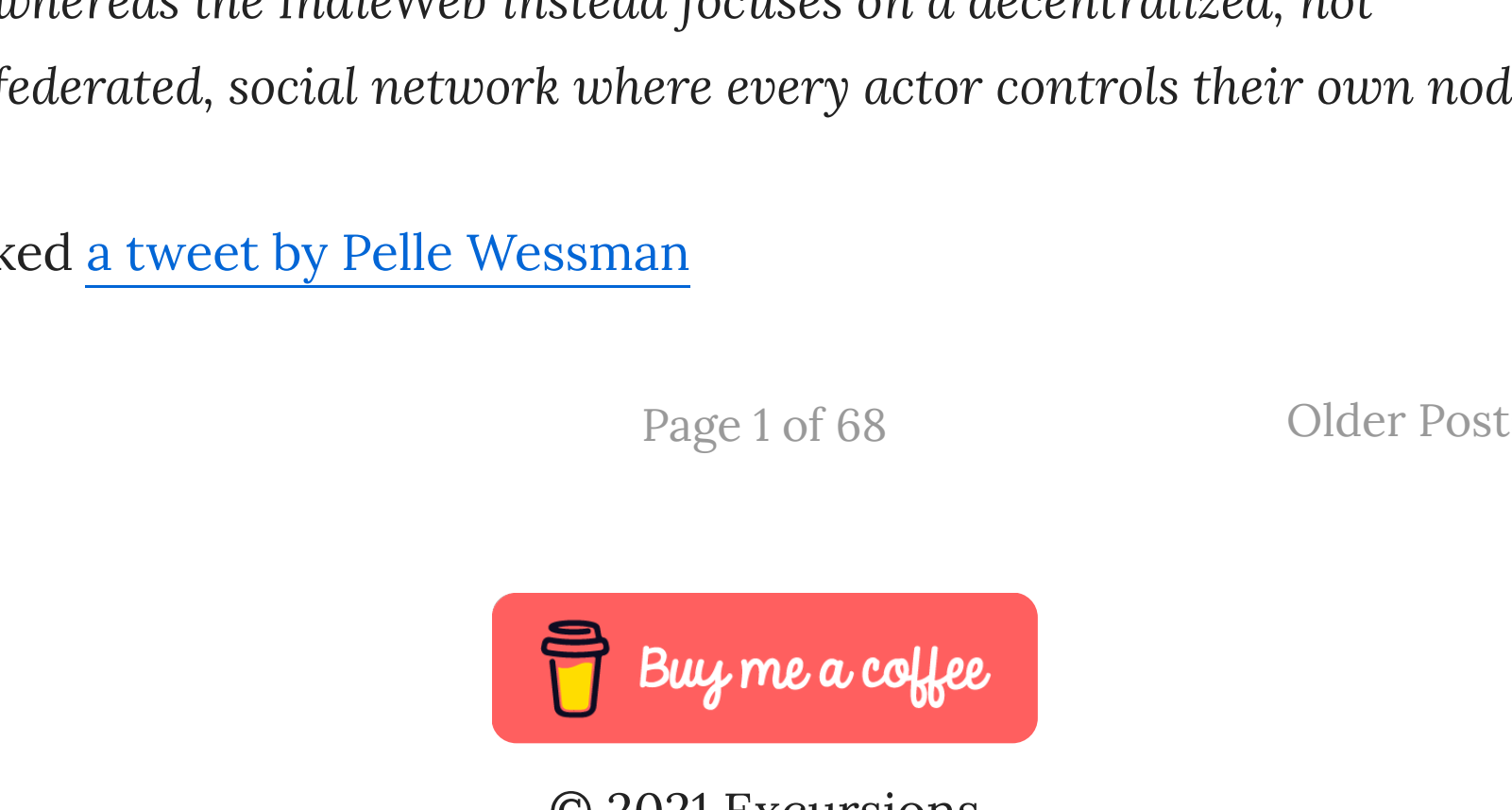
When I recently [wrote this](#), I had no idea it's going to only go downhill. There are a lot many things off the scale now.

08:33 PM

I watched Incredibles 2 recently for the second time. I liked it a lot better on repeat viewing than [I did the first time](#). Perhaps I just had too many expectatios from the sequel to one of [my favorite Pixar movies](#). It's fun, kept me at the edge of my seat throughout. 🎬

09:14 PM

I recently got nostalgic and got my daughter a new toy I played with as a child. As is her habit, she became curious and began asking questions on how it works. She did find out, and of course, decided to make a video of it. So, [a new video premiered today](#).



December 19, 2021

12:30 AM

I love emails, sending and receiving them. In today's world of social timelines where you shout into a void and expect an echo back, the medium of email feels a lot more personal. Drafting a long email to a friend today reminded me of the time when I wrote letters to my family, a few pages long. When we carefully selected and penned the words to convey the emotions we were living through. Physical letters were replaced by their digital form, the email, but the manner we communicated didn't change.

With email, there's no urgency, no pressure of read receipts and associated expectations for response. And when the response does arrive, there's a feeling of connectedness. Instant messages, those words we spurt in burst, don't exude that sense of affinity. A well-thought email does; it makes you mindful of the fact that someone cares.

One is a letter, another is messaging. It's unfortunate that we have forgotten how to draft the former. I wish I knew more people who shared my liking for this medium.

December 18, 2021

03:21 PM

It was around [three years ago](#) that I had recorded the first episode of a microcast. Now that I am back on the premium plan on Micro.blog, do I want to record and hear my voice again? More than that, can I keep up? Nope, I hear?

07:14 PM

I watched the pilot for Superstore today. Looks to be a fun, feel-good show. Need such shows to wind down the hectic days with. 🎬

December 17, 2021

[Managing unreasonable expectations from time](#)

06:50 AM

Why is it so tiring to stay positive? Or to keep oneself motivated at times? It happens more so when I expect a lot in return from the time at hand. Why do I do that? [A reminder to self](#). Time is not something I have. Time is something I am. Burdening it with unreasonable expectations is not fruitful. Anyway, there is no limit to our expectations from time.

If we manage to be productive for an hour, we still haven't done enough as against what we would have in a couple of hours.

If we publish a post, we still haven't participated in a social community we are part of. If we finish reading a book, we still haven't read those newsletters or RSS feeds.

If we complete a task list at the office pending for weeks, we still haven't spent enough time with our child. And the list goes on and on.

To everything that we do, there is always something we haven't. Time is like a balancing scale. When balanced, more things are not on it than there are. To add anything to such a scale, we need to remove something first. The heavier the thing we put in, the more we extract.

We are balancing our time day in, day out. Acknowledging that we can't do it all on a given day, we have to let a few things off our schedule for later. Why, then, ruin our days with something we didn't do rather than celebrate it for something we did?

07:45 AM

Every time I feel agitated or uncomfortable or frustrated, I pause and go on with my 5-deep-breaths routine. I have been doing this a lot lately. Such have been the days.

December 16, 2021

04:00 AM

The last Sunday was pretty productive. I finished writing [a personal story](#) that I have been meaning to pen for some time now. I wasn't sure before what story I wanted to tell. I also published [the next video](#) with my daughter. The feedback to both has been encouraging. Yay!

06:36 AM

Based on our research and findings, we assess this to be one of the most technically sophisticated exploits we've ever seen, further demonstrating that the capabilities NSO provides rival those previously thought to be accessible to only a handful of nation states.

Source: [A deep dive into an NSO zero-click iMessage exploit](#)

December 15, 2021

11:33 PM

I'm pretty sure the "fediverse" refers to the federated social network that is Mastodon (where every node typically serves many people), whereas the IndieWeb instead focuses on a decentralized, not federated, social network where every actor controls their own node

Liked [a tweet by Pelle Wessman](#)