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## Death by 1000 paper cuts

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Derek,

The tiniest annoyances can derail an entire day.

Consider my garbage can. It seems like an innocent household item. But for years, it drove me mad.



*Garbage can make Ramit MAD!*

The shape didn't quite fit the cabinet where I stored it. So if I wanted to throw out a piece of trash I had to shimmy it out, then jiggle it back into place until it fit in the cabinet again.

I know what you're thinking. In the grand scheme of current global problems, an ill-fitted garbage can isn't high on the list.

But think about it. How much do these tiny annoyances add up throughout the course of a day?

One or two of them in a day isn't so bad. That's life sometimes.

But if I have to deal with something multiple times a day, it becomes a hassle. (I can feel my blood boiling and stress levels rising as I write this!) Pretty soon, it becomes "Damn, I want to throw this garbage can out the window!"

It's the old idiom, "Death by a thousand paper cuts."

Anyways, I got my garbage can issue fixed. I went to my friend's apartment and saw that she had this beauty:



I asked where she got it and then had one installed the very next day.

Boom! Problem fixed forever. My days went so much smoother.

I asked my readers what their daily annoyances were. And most importantly, how they dealt with them.

Here are two of my favorite answers that anyone can apply:

"I got tired of coming home and realizing we forgot to turn on the light, and fumbling with the keys in the dark.

**Replaced old school outdoor bulb with LED light. We can leave this sucker on 24/7 and it still uses less electricity than the old bulb.**" -- Matt Inglot

**“I have a duplicate of every cable I need for travel -- iPod, Lightning, FitBit, and a USB wall plug. I have found this to be an odd sort of luxury, not to have to pack and unpack my travel bag. Also, it’s great for not forgetting. A few dollars and headaches are history.” -- Prescott Perez-Fox**

What’s a tiny problem that irritates you every day?

Reply back and let me know.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rant Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

P.S. Tomorrow, I’m going to share one annoyance most people don’t give a second thought to. But when you add up the numbers it sucks as much as 6 hours a day from people. Stay tuned.

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