

Twitter Thread by Alexandraah! Erin



Alexandraah! Erin

@alexandraerin



So, I got an email recently from someone thanking me for having pointed out that it's okay to PayPal a dollar, because that's usually what they have and they'd always thought of pledging/tipping a dollar on social media as rude, like tipping a waiter a penny.

It really isn't.

Some people have the impression that with transaction fees a dollar isn't "worth it", and might even effectively cost the person who receives it money. Also not the case.

The difference between a digital performance or service, like I provide on Twitter dot com, and the labor done by a waiter or bartender or driver, is that they're doing the job each time for each and every person who receives it. I do the same job for everybody who receives it.

It's worth it for me in the sense of being a sustainable way to spend my time if the money I bring in, in aggregate, is enough make it worth it. That works out the same if it's one generous patron dropping a ton of money at once or a crowd of appreciative audience members with \$1

And in fact, in terms of long-term sustainability and independence, it's better to have lots of small patronage than a few high rollers.

All of this is applicable to both Patreon and PayPal, and also to people you see with "pay what you want" digital goods like books, games, music, etc.

If an artist/creator hasn't set a floor on the price you can pay for their work, believe me, they would rather have your dollar and you have their work than for you to sit outside with your nose pressed up against the glass like a hungry urchin afraid to come inside.

If you follow me you'll notice that I vary my appeals for tips quite a bit, because I've found that no one angle appeals to everybody the same way. But the one I RT the most often specifically references the idea of \$1 tips as a lifesaver.

Anyway, just wanted to put this information out there again, not just for myself but for everybody else trying to make a living through their digital work or performances.

The bottom line: there's a whole lot more people out there who can afford to throw in a dollar than who can afford to throw in five or ten of them. I don't take it as a referendum on how much I'm worth, but a sign that someone who had a dollar to spend thought I was worth it.