



2024 Contemplated

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In the early weeks of 2025, I wrote an extensive summary of 2024 considering my goals, successes, and failures for the year. That document has been lost, and I can only imagine I decided to delete it because it seemed at the time exceedingly pessimistic. Today, more than halfway through 2025, I regret having lost that record of my thoughts, and in this essay I endeavor to record how 2024 passed and the goals I held entering 2025.

Antonio and I began 2024 with a week-long roadtrip across Mexico. Having married in 2023 we set off to pass the year traveling. We visited a good number of sites across Mexico including: Campeche, Villahermosa, Veracruz, Xalapa, Coatepec, Puebla, San Miguel de Allende, Querétaro, and Guanajuato.

Arriving in Guadalajara in early February we set out to explore the city for 3 months. In May, we set off again for a European tour. We stayed in Madrid for 3 months (May thru July) using our apartment there as a hub to visit Lisbon, Barcelona, Paris, and London. We also traveled locally to explore small towns around Madrid - Toledo, Segovia, and Aranjuez. We passed many days simply enjoying life in Madrid, and made a wonderful friend of our single neighbor, Alex Rojo (@_alexrojo). It was a wonderful experience, but as the summer heated up, we found Spain very uncomfortable with daily temperatures reaching 40 degrees celsius. Ryan and Jon Young visited us for Madrid Pride, and I'm sad to

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say it wasn't particularly enjoyable in that heat. We were happy to return to Guadalajara when August came.

Our primary goal for 2024 was to secure Antonio's residency visa, and traveling was just a means to pass this time fruitfully while waiting. We applied in September 2023 and expected the process to last 14 months, envisioning ourselves moving to Seattle by the end of 2024. The reality was that we would not receive our visa approval until February of 2025. We celebrated the new year under the uncertainty of a process which seemed impossible to predict. This felt like a great defeat, but there were bright moments in the year as well.

In July, while still in Madrid, I began a course in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. I would go on to find a nice job in Guadalajara teaching English at the Proulex Language Center.

In December, we traveled together to Huatulco, Oaxaca at the invitation of Antonio's sister-in-law. We were invited to celebrate the 60th birthday of her mother. For Antonio's family, this provided an excuse to gather for a grand party. It was a great experience to take a trip with Antonio's mother, sister, and brother. We were treated like part of the family, and I could tell it was very meaningful for Antonio.

I closed 2024 with a good bit of disappointment, but I also did my best to form a list of 2025 goals - Teaching Excellence, Toastmaster Advancement, Exercise, Weight loss, Alcohol Reduction, Shoulder Healing, Reading 5 English and 2 Spanish Books, and Completing a Skill Growth Course.



Joshua Brandon Kilpatrick. August 16, 2025. You can find this essay and other writings at joshuabkilpatrick.online.