

## Redacted Journal Entries

25/9 (Fri) 2020

Had a fairly light day today. Weather was unusually cold (it snowed in some parts of SA). Late in the afternoon. I learnt that we had the go ahead to proceed with our proposal. Welcome news after months of negotiating, planning & preparation. Decided to go for a walk in the chilly afternoon. Went to the stormwater catchment area. The sound of flowing water, the birds, the twilight sun made for a relaxing, almost mystical experience. Even the strollers I encountered seemed to be in a similar state of awe & wonder. Can't believe it's been a week since my first meditation retreat in the hills. Learnt so much from it, about letting go of images of yourself you want to project <sup>to</sup> the world, the desire to be on top of every situation - social, professional. Of wanting to be at a certain point or place at a certain point in your life. Accepting where you are, who you are. Giving yourself permission to be content with you.

self, who you are, what you have achieved.  
Letting go of plans, the past, goals you  
had set, the life you had imagined  
- along with that all the striving.  
Accepting that where I am now is where  
I am meant to be. Quit moving and  
remaining still.

28/09 (Mon) 7:39 am

"The night is always darkest before  
the dawn."

"When all seems lost is when you must  
persist, because that is when a breakthrough  
is imminent / possible."

An important principle I learnt at  
retreat. Only by giving up our pre-conceived  
notions of how things ought to be, can we  
begin to consider other possibilities,  
whether at a personal or professional  
level, this has been seen to take place.  
By returning over & over again to the  
calm & stillness, can we begin to re-

frame ("break frame + make frame")

Today's appointments:

→ Deloitte arranged us to meet with  
[redacted] Council officials re:  
defence industry mapping

This week's challenge:

→ Progressing ARC linkage  
after economic cluster approval  
in-principle

→ Other important work:

1) BLADE Prax Community meeting,  
setting a task to document project  
work.

2) Assign mining <sup>capex</sup> task to an  
analyst - stakeholder mgt.

3) Mentoring + training analyst

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

9:30 pm

The meeting <sup>organised by</sup> with Deloitte went quickly.



It was the first time that I got to talk with a local council. It seems we can meet their needs quite easily.

- The meeting with ~~us~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ a little testy. I could see their desire to control or steer the discussion towards their own frame - even after, they took it on themselves to confine it to what they were comfortable with. But they couldn't completely lock us out - nor could they guarantee that their avenues of investigation would provide useful data. It's very hard to convince someone of a course of action, even if it's in their interest, if they are completely sold on their own way.

- Dragged kicking & screaming to do something on population - they still want to steer it their way. Anyway it's their knuckles that are on the line, not mine. The luxury that I have is I can continue to resist & advise.

without the risk of being  
in the line of fire from above or  
this. Better for now to remain in  
the tent as a junior partner than be  
left out. In. I can influence.

- How much easier it is to work with  
others when one's ego or pride are  
checked at the door. Recalling the  
lessons from my retreat. Being seen  
to have won or gotten the last word  
is a product of one's ego - a social  
construct based on power impressions.
- In my trade that's the power of  
expertise - but that's also an illusion.
- In one and I'm pretty sure of what  
I can deliver - with data + methods  
that are proven as opposed to pres-  
pective ideas that aren't proven.
- It's those who have something to prove,  
and they're painting themselves in  
a corner. Better for me to stand aside  
& watch/wait for them to fall over.

29/9 7:07am

In the remaining time that I have, where what I do remains relevant, I'll try to have the most impact & show the way. I've already fashioned a way of promoting collaboration across agencies to work on common problems. Now is the time to harness it to deliver. Time to shine.

Affirmation: I am a sovereign being.

01/10 7:57am

Building a community of truth seekers - essential  
for positive change. Structuring discussions,  
finding meaning - illuminating complex



environments, providing insight, giving concrete foundations. helping to grapple, gain a handle on situations - in small ways, can help steer the ship. Let my work bring about this. Through the community.

9:05 pm

I just realized that Monday's meeting with [redacted] was a face saving exercise for them. All the data that they were promising - [redacted] has no confidence that it will produce anything useful. or ready in time. she's willing to compromise on recency to get actual data. It turns out all that gas lighting that MADIP was inadequate because of one reason or another came out of insecurity on their part. Finding out yesterday of the dysfunction at [redacted] that his own people don't believe in his mode of doing everything himself,

was all the proof I needed. If I can harness the power/capabilities of the Prox Com then it could be the source for data insight for economic policy. The ARC is just a way of funding an data integration.

A key insight this week: Policy research is research. It's micro-research, but it informs policy. I can use the ARC grant to procure services for our micro research projects. This gives it both policy & academic relevance.

02/10 7.15am Friday

End of week intention - get commitment from Adel Uin [redacted] to dedicate resource under ARC to undertake micro-research. [redacted]

6/10 1:42 am

Enjoying the stillness of the morning.  
 Not allowing my ego to take control  
 of me, letting go, letting things be,  
 not projecting a narrative game  
 me the space to calmly respond to  
 situations (the loan repayment + labor  
 question) as they arose. Unblocking  
 me - giving me the power + capacity  
 to perform. It's much better to exist  
 in this manner. Good to know that  
 I'm able to behave more rationally  
 with wisdom at my age! Hoping to  
 teach it to others by example & they  
 sharing what I've learnt.

This week's intentions:

- 1) Do some planning for what's ahead  
 in SABRE/BLADE/MADIP groups.
- 2) Schedule meetings, 3) Prepare the  
 agenda, 4) ~~Prepare the agenda~~
- 5) Structure my portfolio.

8.05 pm

Not knowing what the end of this week

will bring. Focusing on what I can control  
letting go of what I can't. Will other  
states agree to provide funding. Will  
other agencies agree to fund us? Will  
mmc achieve its financial goals? Who  
knows. But I'm not focussed on that.

Whatever happens happens. Will work,  
find a way through, or not. Coalition  
building is tough. I am learning though.  
Strength comes in numbers. Giving birth  
to something. Making sense and mean-  
ing with others. Community bldg.



16/10/20 7.29 am 4 hrs

Yesterday's hectic schedule was exhausting, but I did find pockets of stillness within the day. And I rewarded myself with an ice cream at the petrol station on the way home.

Today's intention - try to consolidate the gains from yesterday and take lots of breaks. Go for a walk.

9.27 pm

Satisfied with the work I accomplished today. "Hurry slowly." My funding request is in a good shape. Will see tomorrow what others think. Seeking advice early in the week helped. Consulting tomorrow, but ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ saying we're on same page of ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~. Helps to have an ally + mentor like him. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~



Sunday 25 Oct 20 1:23 pm

Reflecting on where I want to take my remaining years in the QA public sector. What I want to be remembered for... is the proper way to frame things? If that is the case, I'd like to be remembered for bringing / marshalling people + resources together, for the innovativeness, creativity, resourcefulness, thoughtfulness, forward thinking, long-range view to public policy driven by data + emergent reality. For fostering collaboration, cooperation, engagement.

For utilising cutting edge strategies and methodologies for illuminating issues and solving problems. For not necessarily following the latest fashion or buzzwords. For being determined, patient, driven. I'd like to be all that, exemplify, enact it.

Monday 26 Oct '20 9.05 pm

After meeting w/ [redacted] today, I now know how I can impact the direction of the projects - I have a better plan ahead.

My instinct to seek advice from [redacted] is also crucial in getting [redacted] to take note and be aware of what we're doing.

Will need to do a lot strategising and planning this week in preparation.

Wed Oct 28 11:36 am

Need to figure out next steps.

My work keeps me busy. I've found my place and where I fit. Performing my role in this world. Becoming an authority in my profession as a project lead.

Developing a framework for evidence based policy using data linkages for a subnational regional economy. Opportunities for it abound. My position + experience allows me to connect different agencies and experts. I am able to join up various fields. Apply reasoning to address policy questions - applying concepts + methods. It's most relevant to the world I deal in - or else wouldn't have been successful in raising support. The data/IS artefact can be put to use in solving a range of policy questions.

Today's very tight. 30 min meeting w/ people w/ [redacted] to confirm their contribution to SA BAADE. ARC LP. Then team meeting & then meeting with more finance. [redacted] [redacted]. Might not get enough sleep.

Sat 14/11/2020 7.47 am

Having to re-jig budget as DSA w/drawing funding apparent. Ideas on how to use Renewal SA funding to help ARC LP pre-approval - construct a data frame. Use [redacted] instead of [redacted] or any other if [redacted]. other consultants. Use the MOA as the handle.

Thinking of many solutions for our HR, Quality, Admin/collection issues. Solutions for every problem. [redacted]

[redacted] Wandering where to take it from here.

Wak's party, not likely at [redacted] tonight. Got to sleep normally. Today - lunch w/ [redacted] (today).



Monday 30 Nov 10.40pm

Had a premonition that things would go bad today. Centered myself. It came - before I even arrived at the office. Then compounded by a few other blunders. Was thinking clearly & calmly althroughout though.



Usually, I would be feeling self-pity when this happened in the past. Followed by wanting some form of validation - seeking it externally. But this time, I settled myself. Staying on my baseline. By afternoon insights were being realized. Processes not decisions. Because I was not expecting to be somewhere else - <sup>was</sup> could not doo disappointed that to be where I am.

This can be turned into a developmental opportunity still for staff.

Need to focus on that because that's how we can perform better next time. Need to find the 2<sup>o</sup> that will result in 10x improvements. Having these incidents erupt isn't such a bad thing if it can be turned into developmental moments for me & new staff.

9.09 pm



