

## Personal Mission & Ethics

Vusi Sindane

- 1. The Mission of Possibility:** Growing up, my father told me that it is possible. My mission is to find out what he meant. What, exactly, is possible?
- 2. Humility & Reticence:** In pursuing this grand mission, there will be times when my greatest effort does not produce desired outcomes. There will also be times when I make significant gains without the commensurate effort. Therefore, I must remain reticent: neither too excited nor negative in the relationship between effort and outcomes.
- 3. Excellence:** There is no excuse for mediocrity and substandard work. Excellence is the standard. More than outcomes, excellence is about character; it is about putting facts before opinions, taking counsel before big decisions, having courage where necessary, developing the right habits, and making moral considerations before acting.
- 4. Emotions and Impartiality:** Emotions give insight into the inner state and provide a gateway to empathy and self-discovery; they are not to be ignored. However, extreme emotions are not the appropriate grounds for decision making. As far as possible, therefore, I must cultivate a state of mind that can formulate universalizable principles in decision making.
- 5. Identity, dedication and continuous learning:** I am a family man, an applied philosopher, and a friend of humanity. My time and effort are dedicated to developing excellence of character in these areas. Therefore, I surrender my life to formal and informal scholarship expressed through commercial and non-commercial activities to realise the best possible version of my chosen identity.
- 6. Health and Wellbeing:** My personal mission and identity hang on my health and wellbeing. Therefore, I will dedicate a portion of every day to physical activity, meditation, aesthetic appreciation, conscious eating, and sufficient sleep.
- 7. The Journey of Life:** Except by faith, no one knows how life came to be. Nevertheless, we are enjoined to partake in this life, sturdily headed towards death. Each is therefore a traveller, making the best of their journey in life. Considering this, I am charged with a duty of care and humanity (Ubuntu); a duty to harmonise wherever possible.
- 8. Love, Meaning and Death:** I will die, but I do not know when and how. It is in reckoning with this fact that I remain grounded in what matters; in finding that which is worthy of sacrifice and where necessary, that for which I am prepared to end my life. It is in these rare things that I will find and learn about the meaning of love.

Henceforth, I invite you to hold me accountable to these ideals as I embark on a mission of a lifetime.

**Vusi Sindane**