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Clues hints omens portents

There are among us quite sensible people who truly believe that they are in control of their lives. They have visions and goals; they plan, prepare and execute, guided by Gant charts and milestones, targets and dashboards. Projects have lifespans of five or ten years and calendars show red letter days of achievements. *'Lord, what fools these mortals be!'* (Shakespeare: **A midsummer night's dream.**)

The rest of us stumble through our days, buffeted by the merry caprices of whimsical Fate. We are happy to wake up in the morning and tiredly content to turn in at night. Who has time to plan? We'll have a braai on Friday night – cloudy skies indicate it might rain, so perhaps we'll have to squeeze into the gazebo. We want to spend two weeks in romantic Paris – the exchange rate plummets, so all we can afford is a weekend in Parys. We all know that *man proposes,*

God disposes. We depend on signs from the world around us to minimise the worst of daily hitches, listening to traffic reports on the radio to ease the commute or the (legal) weather report to choose an outfit for the day.

A child named Prudence, Patience or Justice wilfully ignores the parents' hopeful clues to

guide future choices; travellers to Putsonderwater are surprised to encounter water restrictions in the area. Did the name not raise a quizzical eyebrow? Unlike the ancient civilisations that placed great value on the utterings of oracles and the divination of omens, we today seem to ignore really strong hints of impending disaster.

Leopold II of Belgium is infamous for his consistent and ruthless massacre of the indigenous peoples of the Congo and his calculated exploitation of Africa's bountiful resources for the benefit of his small European kingdom, all in the name of extending civilisation to the Dark Continent.

Belgium is also a nation that honours a naked boy waving his willy at the world, peeing endlessly into a fountain. Their tourist economy is based on the exploitation of child pornography!

Hey, people! These are clues.

A history of flagrant disregard for African rights and a reverence of dubious perversion are two important hints that should have been examined, not ignored by South Africa when shopping for a library management system. Strident omens, clear for all to see and interpret, should have given us pause before signing on the dotted line and blithely handing over our precious gold. In the past the Belgians raided Africa's treasures and coffers with impunity; they disrespected Africa's children for purely commercial gain. Why on earth would anyone believe that it would be different in this century? Duh!!

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