**The shadow of experience**

“[Experience is what you get when you didn’t get what you wanted. And experience is often the most valuable thing you have to offer.](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3364076)” After Campus, my first Job was not what I had desired since Uganda’s economy could not accommodate my career. Even then I always look back with a smile because the months spent were never in vain but treasured due to the experience that revealed more of myself as I adapted to the working class. Without a doubt experience is worth anything but, have you deluded yourself before that the so called treasured experience blindfolded you to the window of opportunities? Well, I tested that a week ago when preparing for one of the most defining moments of my career.

It all began when I was invited by [Andela](https://andela.com/insights/welcoming-uganda-andela-family/) to participate in my second official software development boot camp. At that point, I was focused on how to exceed expectations without looking anywhere below than that, given the invaluable experience that I had gained from the first boot camp. Right away, I began the preps to take on the upcoming assignments making sure every bit of the previous challenges that had almost turned into a threat was dealt with. “Man !!!”, I was in the zone. The well-documented lines of code increased gradually, the programming logic was astounding as I held the principles of coding with python ([zen of python](https://zen-of-python.info/)) but only for a moment. A day or two had passed and surprisingly, the well built up positive energy was not existent as before. Slowly a sudden drag feeling crept in unannounced sucking away the blissful memories of progress I had earlier.

“Am Bored!”, I said to myself after noticing that I could no longer uphold the [zen of python](https://zen-of-python.info/). It was a total shock given that the boot camp was around the corner and my mind could no longer recognize its significance. Was I feeling ill, do I have a sleep debt, did I eat a lot of starch for lunch. All these ran through my mind as I painstakingly tried to rectify the issue. Out of it all, I finally recognized that it all stemmed from the experience of boot camp I had accumulated which involuntarily forced my mind to shut down because it no longer had the uncertainty that would definitely force me to be alert and cautious in preparations.

How about that? Where is the value in the experience that we all dearly hold onto to take our minds off the failure faced? What happened to the advantage of experience? surely, surely, surely. It was clear as day that I was facing the back of experience. “What can I do?”, “Where should I go from here?”, a coding session had turned from a thriller to a Drama slowly progressing to a horror. I decided to a take a leap of faith and play a risky move. This obviously was going to incur a heavy price on my body. Come Monday morning, boot camp assignments have been shared and my move was already in play. This required me to sit back and force myself to work on the assignments close to the submission deadline forcefully beating my mind into a serious panic mode.

“Oh my!”, it was a horror and something I will surely avoid for the rest of my life for “[The mind once enlightened cannot again become dark.](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/14175200)”