

Transcript of “Napoleon Hill: Whatever the mind can conceive, the mind can achieve”

Video retrieved October 22, 2013, from www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3i9pP2wMzc.

Transcribed by Sarah Collinge.

My search led me to the study of the spiritual forces with which all of us are blessed. And it was in this field that I came upon a clue, which has enabled me to help millions of people to find their earthly destinies.

I want to describe my discovery in the simplest terms possible, because it may be revealed to you why it is true that whatever the mind can conceive and believe the mind can achieve, regardless of how many times you may have failed in the past or how lofty your aims and hopes may be.

I caught my first fleeting glimpse of the profound law, which provides the means by which we may choose our own purpose in life and attain it while I was being coached by Andrew Carnegie during the organization of the Science of Success Philosophy. I had just finished telling Mr. Carnegie that I had feared he had chosen the wrong person to give the world his first practical philosophy of personal success, because of my youth, my lack of education, and my lack of financing.

Well, at this point, Mr. Carnegie delivered a lecture that I shall never forget because it changed my entire life and paved the way for my helping to change the lives of millions of people, some of them not yet born.

“Let me call your attention to a great power which is under your control,” said Mr. Carnegie, “the power which is greater than poverty, greater than lack of education, greater than all of your fears and superstitions combined. It is the power to take possession of your own mind and direct it to whatever ends you desire. This profound power,” Mr. Carnegie continued, “is the gift of the creator and it must have been considered the greatest of all His gifts to man because it is the only thing over which man has the complete and unchallengeable right of control and direction.”

“When you speak of your poverty, your lack of education,” Mr. Carnegie explained, “you are simply directing your mind power to attract these undesirable circumstances. Because it is true that whatever your mind feeds upon, your mind attracts to you.”

“Now you see why it is important that you recognize that all success begins with definiteness of purpose, with a clear picture in your mind of precisely what you want from life.”

Then, Mr. Carnegie continued his speech with a description of the great universal truth which made such an impact upon my mind that I began then and there to give myself a new outlook on life and I set up for myself a goal so far above my previous achievements, that it shocked my friends and relatives when they heard about it.

“Everyone,” said Mr. Carnegie, “comes to the earth plane blessed with the privilege of controlling his mind power and directing it to whatever ends he may choose. But,” he continued, “everyone brings over with him at birth the equivalent of two sealed envelopes, one of which is clearly labeled: The riches you may enjoy if you take possession of your own mind and direct it to ends of your own choice. And the other is labeled: The penalties you must pay if you neglect to take possession of your mind and direct it.”

“And now, let me reveal to you,” said Mr. Carnegie, “the contents of those two sealed envelopes. In the one labeled **riches** is this list of blessings:

1. Sound health.
2. Peace of mind.
3. A labor of love of your own choice.

4. Freedom from fear and worry.
5. A positive mental attitude.
6. Material riches of your own choice and quantity.

“In the sealed envelope labeled **penalties**,” Mr. Carnegie continued, “is this list of prices one must pay for neglecting to take possession of his own mind:

1. Ill health.
2. Fear and worry.
3. Indecision and doubt.
4. Frustration and discouragement throughout life.
5. Poverty and want.
6. And a whole flock of evils consisting of envy, greed, jealousy, anger, hatred, and superstition.”

Now, my mission in life is to help you and everyone who needs my help to open and use the contents of the sealed envelope labeled riches. And the starting point from which you must take off if you wish to write your own ticket from here on out, for the remainder of your life, I will describe for you in these simple instructions.

Procure a neat pocket-size notebook and on page one write down a clear description of your major desire in life, the one circumstance or position or thing which you will be willing to accept as your idea of success. And remember before you begin writing that your only limitations are those which you set up in your own mind or permit others to set up for you.

On page two of your notebook, write down a clear statement of precisely what you intend to give in return for that which you desire from life. And then start right where you stand now to begin giving.