

26 ENEMIES OF CHARACTER

Quoted from Grow Rich With Peace of Mind

by Napoleon Hill

Courtesy www.GrowRichAudios.com



A Voice From Beyond Delivers a Message

Napoleon Hill said it came from a voice.

He was in his eighties when he wrote *Grow Rich With Peace of Mind*, near the end of a lifetime spent studying the most successful people on earth. In it, he tells a fascinating story.

One quiet day, alone in his study, he became aware of a presence. Then a voice, speaking to him directly, claiming to carry a message meant for all of humanity.

Twenty-six enemies, the voice said, lie in wait as we traverse the Jungle of Life. Defeat them, and walk out free into a life of peace, power, and abundance, and at the same time complete the divine, definite, major purpose of life. Leave even one alive, and you remain wandering in the Jungle.

So where did this message really come from? You'll have to read Napoleon Hill's description in his own words, and decide for yourself. Some will call it imagination. Some will call it inspiration. And others will feel they're holding a message handed down from the great beyond.

Here's the thing, though. Once you sit with the list, where it came from starts to matter a lot less than where it seems to point the soul. Both your soul as an individual, and the collective soul of the human race.

So read it slowly. Hold it up like a mirror. And start crossing off enemies.



The Twenty-Six Enemies

Fear

Cruelty

Greed

Mercilessness

Intolerance

Injustice

Egotism

Slander

Lust

Gossip

Anger

Undependability

Hatred

Dishonesty

Jealousy

Disloyalty

Impatience

Revenge

Deceit

Worry

Falsehood

Envy

Insincerity

Hypochondria

Vanity

Indecision

In Hill's Words

The foremost is FEAR. The expression of fear denies the use of true power of thought, a power which can enable each individual to acquire all physical needs and control his or her earthly destiny.

The next great enemy is GREED for the possession of material things and for power to control others for selfish ends. No person who is filled with greed and avarice can pass through the Jungle of Life and successfully attain and use the Supreme Secret, for he or she affronts the Creator when the rights of others are violated.

INTOLERANCE is third on the list of enemies. Intolerance is the evil partner of selfishness and ignorance. It closes the mind and shuts out facts. It deprives a person of valuable friendships that will be needed in the journey through life and repels the co-operation of others.

EGOTISM is the fourth great enemy of man. Self-respect is a most desirable quality, but self-love is self-deceit and causes one to lose respect for others.

LUST is the fifth enemy. It prevents sex emotion from being properly transmuted and properly directed. It leads to excessive sexual expressions which dissipate the vital creative forces of mind and body.

ANGER, the sixth enemy, is a form of temporary insanity. Righteous indignation that is controlled and directed toward the correction of a cause is occasionally necessary, but those who live with rage cannot truly know the Supreme Secret.

HATRED, the seventh enemy, is anger which has been allowed to dwell in the mind until it has hardened like so much cement. It is a mind-poison which erroneously twists the individual's thinking. One who harbors hate cannot control and direct power of thought toward constructive ends, and thus is denied this one and only outright prerogative with which mankind has been blessed by the Creator.

Then come JEALOUSY, that mixture of covetousness and fear; and IMPATIENCE, which prevents cause from bearing its fruit in effect.



Then DECEIT, which in the end deceives the deceiver; FALSEHOOD, which weaves a noose with which the liar spiritually hangs himself; the related enemy of INSINCERITY; and VANITY, which makes one vulgar and forms a repulsive force.

Then CRUELTY, which attracts all the other enemies like a pack of wolves, and MERCILESSNESS, which turns its back upon those in need and makes the soul shrivel.

Then INJUSTICE, SLANDER, and GOSSIP. One may know the Supreme Secret in words but cannot use it if he or she ever attempts to destroy others.

And the Black Forest closes in for a lifetime upon those who do not vanquish the enemies of UNDEPENDABILITY, DISHONESTY, DISLOYALTY, and REVENGE.

WORRY reveals that one is no bigger than that which is allowed to cause the worry. ENVY, a form of jealousy, most particularly destroys initiative and self-discipline. HYPOCHONDRIA prevents the mind from conceiving the continued good health of its bodily temple, and so gives ill health its first foothold, which often is in the mind. And INDECISION grows stronger the more it is indulged, until it rides one's back and one can fall and lie lost in the Black Forest.

“There are other enemies of man, but who conquers these twenty-six will conquer all the others.”



The Principle of Prayer

Prayer is to be based upon a real need for help to accomplish something of constructive value.

In true prayer one asks for help only after it has been proved, by individual effort, that one's own powers are not sufficient for the accomplishment of the purpose.

The person who prays for help should not assume to give over individual freedom of action, but rather should know he or she is to co-operate with the helping agencies that cannot be seen.

It must be known, with confident self-respect, that the first duty is to improve oneself and his or her condition; and that out of this, when it is well done, flows the second duty, which is to help humanity.



A Word of Caution

Now and then open spaces appear in that Black Forest, and as one walks clear of clinging underbrush it may be concluded that all of the twenty-six enemies have been conquered. This may be a deception on the part of the enemies.

A dependable way to keep track of the enemies one has overcome is to list them on a chart, thus:

☐ Fear	☐ Cruelty
☐ Greed	☐ Mercilessness
☐ Intolerance	☐ Injustice
☐ Egotism	☐ Slander
☐ Lust	☐ Gossip
☐ Anger	☐ Undependability
☐ Hatred	☐ Dishonesty
☐ Jealousy	☐ Disloyalty
☐ Impatience	☐ Revenge
☐ Deceit	☐ Worry
☐ Falsehood	☐ Envy
☐ Insincerity	☐ Hypochondria
☐ Vanity	☐ Indecision

The list should be checked at least once a year. Done honestly, and with the insight and self-knowledge one has gained, such a check enables one to search his or her record and know the names of the defeated enemies. These are crossed off the list. As long as one enemy remains, the person who made the list still wanders in the Jungle of Life. When every enemy has been accounted for, one has passed through the Jungle.