

“The world is in need of a practical, understandable philosophy of achievement, organized from the factual knowledge gained from the experience of men and women in the great university of life. In the entire field of philosophy I find nothing which even remotely resembles the sort of philosophy which I have in mind. We have few philosophers who are capable of teaching men and women the art of living.

“It seems to me that here is an opportunity which should challenge an ambitious young man of your type; but ambition alone is not enough for this task which I have suggested. The one who undertakes it must have courage and tenacity.

“The job will require at least twenty years of continuous effort, during which the one who undertakes it will have to earn his living from some other source, because this sort of research is never profitable at the outset, and generally those who have contributed to civilization through work of this nature have had to wait a hundred years or so after their own funerals to receive recognition for their labor.”

*NOTE to READERS: Sharon Lechter adds her comments in special sections like this.*

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**Twenty years of labor with no pay and possibly no recognition! How would you respond to this “offer”? As he discusses below, Hill accepted Carnegie’s challenge and, with a letter of introduction from Carnegie, set about interviewing the giants of that time, including Theodore Roosevelt, Thomas Edison, John D. Rockefeller, Henry Ford, Alexander Graham Bell, King Gillette (founder of the Gillette Safety Razor Company), and many others. His effort ultimately culminated in the publication of several books, including the eight-volume *Law of Success* and *Think and Grow Rich* after more than twenty-five years of research. *Think and Grow Rich* is widely recognized as**