

any form of constructive desire. The mind acts upon one's dominating, or most pronounced desires. There is no escape from this fact. It is a fact indeed. "Be careful what you set your heart upon, for it surely shall be yours."

Did They Speak From the Grave?

While I was passing through the age of "hero-worship" I found myself trying to imitate those whom I most admired. Moreover, I discovered that the element of faith, with which I endeavored to imitate my idols, gave me great capacity to do so quite successfully.

I have never quite divested myself of, this habit of hero worship, although I have passed the age commonly given over to such state of being. My experience has taught me that the next best thing to being truly great is to emulate the great, by feeling and action, as nearly as possible. I have never known of this habit doing anyone any harm.

Long before the LAW OF SUCCESS philosophy was completed, before I had ever written a line for publication or endeavored to deliver a speech in public, I followed the habit of reshaping my own character by trying to imitate the nine men whose lives and life-works had been most impressive to me. These nine men were Emerson, Paine, Edison, Darwin, Lincoln, Burbank, Napoleon, Ford and Carnegie. Every night, over a long period of years, I held an imaginary council meeting with this group, whom I called my "Invisible Counselors".

The procedure was this: Just before going to sleep at night, I would shut my eyes and see, in my imagination, this group of men seated with me around my council table. Here I had not only an opportunity to sit among those whom I considered to be great, but I actually dominated the group by serving as the chairman and leader.

I had a very definite purpose in indulging my imagination through these nightly meetings. My purpose was to rebuild my own character so it would represent a composite of my imaginary counselors. Realizing, as I did early in life, that I had to overcome the handicap of a lowly birth in an environment of ignorance and superstition, I deliberately assigned myself the task of voluntary rebirth through the method here described.