

I thought of a dozen plans by which I might solve my problem, but dismissed them all as being either impractical or impossible of achievement. I felt like one who was lost in a jungle without a compass. Every attempt I made to work my way out brought me back to the original starting point.

For nearly two months I suffered with the worst of all human ailments: indecision. I knew the seventeen principles of personal achievement, but what I did not know was how to apply them! Without knowing it I was facing one of those emergencies of life through which, Mr. Carnegie had told me, men sometimes discover their “other selves.”

My distress was so great that it never occurred to me to sit down and analyze its cause and seek its cure.

“The worst of all human ailments: indecision.”

Have you ever felt paralyzed by indecision? This was the first major turning point in Napoleon Hill’s life. His moving from job to job, seeking contentment and his own ideal professional life, sounds like many people today . . . people who are seeking contentment in their jobs and lives. Hill’s predicament was, by his own admission, self-inflicted. However, he found himself in very much the same circumstances as someone today who has been negatively affected by the present economic situation. Hill took advantage of his temporary defeat, using it as a spur to force himself into thought and analysis—to find his “other self.” If you have been dealt a blow by economic circumstances, you too can use it as a lever and motivation to find your “other self.”
