



NAPOLEON HILL

1883–1970

NAPOLEON HILL WAS BORN IN 1883 in the remote mountains of Wise County, Virginia. He was born into poverty, and his mother died when he was nine years old. One year later his father remarried, and his stepmother became a source of inspiration for the young boy.

With the influence of his stepmother, Hill became a newspaper reporter while in his teens. His writings got the attention of Robert L. Taylor, former governor of Tennessee and later a United States senator. Taylor owned *Bob Taylor's Magazine* and employed the young Hill to write success stories. At the time, Hill was enrolled at Georgetown University Law School.

In 1908 Hill was assigned to interview Andrew Carnegie and a three-hour interview became one that lasted three days. While Hill did the interviewing, Carnegie sold him on the idea of organizing the world's first philosophy of personal achievement, based on the principles of success.

Carnegie provided Hill with introductions to giants of the time including Henry Ford, Thomas A. Edison, and John D. Rockefeller. Hill was to spend twenty years interviewing, studying, and writing about successful individuals.

It would be twenty years after Hill interviewed Andrew Carnegie before he wrote the eight-volume *Law of Success* in 1928. He was to write many best sellers in his lifetime. In 1937 Hill wrote *Think and Grow Rich*, which became the best-selling self-help book of all time and continues today to sell millions of copies all over the world. Little wonder that Hill was often introduced as Miracle Man—Maker of Millionaires.