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NAPOLEON HILL was a very successful American author in the area of the new thought movement—one of the earliest producers of the modern genre of personal-success literature. He is widely considered to be one of the great writers on success.

"What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve" is one of Hill's hallmark expressions.

He was born in Pound, Southwest Virginia, to a very poor family. His mother died when he was very young. As a young man he was known as the "Mountain Reporter" for rural newspapers. He had to drop out of college because of lack of funds to support his education.

The turning point in Hill's life occurred in the year 1908 with his assignment, as part of a series of articles about famous and successful men, he interviewed the industrialist Andrew Carnegie. At the time, Carnegie was one of the most powerful men in the world. Hill discovered that Carnegie believed that the process of success could be outlined in a simple formula that anyone would be able to understand

and achieve. Impressed with Hill, Carnegie asked him if he was up to the task of putting together this information, to interview or analyze over five hundred successful men and women, many of them millionaires, in order to discover and publish this formula for success. As part of his research, Hill interviewed many of the most famous people of the time, including Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, George Eastman, Henry Ford, Elmer Gates, John D. Rockefeller, Sr., Charles M. Schwab, F.W. Woolworth, William Wrigley Jr., John Wanamaker, William Jennings Bryan, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft and Jennings Randolph.

As a result of Hill's studies via Carnegie's introductions, the Philosophy of Achievement was offered as a formula for rags-to-riches success by Hill and Carnegie, published initially in 1928 as the multi-volume study course *The Law of Success*. Hill later produced his most famous work, *Think and Grow Rich*, which is one of the best-selling books of all time. Hill's work examined the power of personal beliefs, and the role they play in personal success. He became the advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt from 1933-36.

Today's philosophy-of-success teachers still use the research formulas taught by Hill to expand their students' knowledge of personal development. Napoleon Hill died in South Carolina at the age of eighty-seven while working on You Can Work Your Own Miracles which was published after his death in 1971.