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Think And Grow Rich Original Version

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Think And Grow Rich Original Version: Unlocking the Timeless Wisdom of Napoleon Hill's Classic

More than 80 years after its initial publication, Napoleon Hill's *Think and Grow Rich* remains one of the best-selling and most influential personal development books ever written. But not all copies are created equal. The **Think And Grow Rich Original Version**—first published in 1937—contains a raw, unfiltered philosophy that later editions have sometimes diluted or altered. For serious students of success, understanding what makes the original edition unique is essential. In this comprehensive article, we explore the history, core principles, and lasting impact of the authentic 1937 text, and explain why the original version still holds immense power in today's fast-paced world.

The Story Behind the Original Version

The journey of Napoleon Hill's masterpiece began in 1908, when industrialist Andrew Carnegie challenged Hill to interview 500 of the most successful people of the era and synthesize their secrets into a formula that anyone could use. Carnegie, a self-made steel magnate, believed that success followed a predictable pattern—one that could be taught. Hill spent the next two decades interviewing figures such as Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Theodore Roosevelt, and John D. Rockefeller. The result was a massive manuscript that eventually became *Think and Grow Rich*.

The original version was published in March 1937 by the Ralston Society. It hit shelves during the tail end of the Great Depression, a time when millions were desperate for hope and a practical path out of poverty. Hill's message resonated powerfully: your thoughts, when directed with purpose and desire, can create wealth and transform your life. The **Think And Grow Rich Original Version** is therefore not just a book—it is a historical artifact, a testament to the resilience of the human spirit during one of America's toughest eras.

Key Differences Between the Original Version and Later Editions

Over the decades, numerous publishers have released revised, abridged, or "updated" editions of Hill's work. While many preserve the core philosophy, they often omit crucial content. Understanding these differences helps readers appreciate why the original version remains the gold standard.

- Preface and Introduction: The 1937 edition includes a heartfelt preface by Hill himself, explaining the Carnegie commission and the twenty-year research effort. Later versions sometimes replace this with modern forewords that diminish the historical context.
- Language and Tone: The original version uses period-specific language that reflects the 1930s mindset. Some later editions modernize the phrasing, but in doing so, they lose the sharp, authoritative cadence of Hill's original prose.
- Chapter on Sex Transmutation: Perhaps the most controversial difference is the chapter "Sex Transmutation." In the original version, Hill devotes significant attention to how sexual energy can be channeled into creative and business success. Many later abridgments soften or even remove this content, arguing it is too

“old-fashioned” or uncomfortable. However, the original treatment is far more nuanced and integral to Hill’s overarching philosophy.

- Religious and Spiritual References: Hill frequently references God, Infinite Intelligence, and Christian concepts in the original text. Some later editions replace these with more generic “energy” or “universe” terminology. Scholars argue that Hill’s original wording was intentional and grounded in his own spiritual beliefs.
- Additional Principles: In some reprints, Hill’s six-step method for turning desire into gold has been shortened or reorganized. The original version provides a step-by-step sequence that feels more organic and actionable.

For collectors, a true first-edition copy of the **Think And Grow Rich Original Version** can be identified by the Ralston Society imprint, the 1937 copyright date, and the inclusion of a photo of Napoleon Hill on the frontispiece. Reproductions from the 1960s onward often contain disclaimers or revised chapter titles.

The 13 Principles of the Original Version

The foundation of Hill’s philosophy is built on thirteen principles, each a chapter in the book. The original version presents them in a clear, progressive order that builds upon itself.

1. Burning Desire: The starting point of all achievement. Hill emphasizes that desire must be intense, specific, and backed by a definite plan.
2. Faith: Visualizing and believing in the attainment of your desire. Faith is the “head chemist” of the mind that turns thoughts into reality.
3. Auto-Suggestion: The principle of self-talk and repeated affirmations to program the subconscious mind.
4. Specialized Knowledge: General knowledge is not power; power comes from organized, specialized knowledge applied through a definite plan.
5. Imagination: The workshop of the mind where all plans are created. Hill distinguishes between synthetic and creative imagination.
6. Organized Planning: Turning desire into action through a practical plan, often requiring cooperation with others (the Master Mind).
7. Decision: The habit of making prompt, firm decisions and changing them slowly. Hill notes that successful people are decisive.
8. Persistence: Sustained effort in the face of failure. Persistence is willpower in motion.
9. Power of the Master Mind: The coordination of knowledge and effort between two or more people who work toward a defined purpose in a spirit of harmony.
10. The Mystery of Sex Transmutation: Channeling sexual energy and desire into creative and productive outlets. Hill treats this as a powerful but often misunderstood force.
11. The Subconscious Mind: The filing cabinet of the mind. Every thought that reaches the subconscious is acted upon automatically.
12. The Brain: A broadcasting and receiving station for the vibrations of thought. Hill connects the brain to Infinite Intelligence.
13. The Sixth Sense: The door to Infinite Intelligence. Through the Master Mind and meditation, one can tap into a form of intuitive guidance that transcends logic.

Each principle in the **Think And Grow Rich Original Version** is illustrated with anecdotes from Hill’s research subjects, making the theory concrete and inspiring.

Why the Original Version Remains Relevant Today

Despite the passage of nearly a century, the lessons within the original 1937 text are as fresh as ever. In an age of constant distraction and quick-fix promises, Hill’s emphasis on discipline, desire, and deliberate action offers a timeless antidote. Entrepreneurs, athletes, artists, and executives continue to cite the original version as a core influence.

One reason for this lasting relevance is that the original version does not rely on fads or transient business trends. Hill focuses on human psychology—the same brain and emotional structures that governed success in

the 1930s still govern it today. The original language also carries a certain gravitas that modern self-help books often lack. When Hill writes, “Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve,” he does not dilute the message with qualifiers. That bluntness inspires action.

Moreover, the original version’s treatment of topics like fear and doubt is more thorough than in later editions. Hill identifies six basic fears (poverty, criticism, ill health, loss of love, old age, and death) and provides specific techniques to overcome them. Many abridged versions reduce these sections, weakening the reader’s ability to conquer internal obstacles.

How to Identify and Obtain the Original Version

If you are eager to read the authentic **Think And Grow Rich Original Version**, you have several options. Reputable publishers like the Napoleon Hill Foundation continue to release replicas of the 1937 text, often with a note confirming it is the “original edition.” Look for:

- Publisher: Ralston Society (original), but authorized reprints from the Foundation often state “Original 1937 Text” on the cover.
- Publication Date: 1937 or later reproductions explicitly marked as “unabridged.”
- Chapter Count: The 13 chapters exactly as listed above, including the chapter on sex transmutation.
- Language: Older phrasing, such as “you will see that it is unnecessary for you to….”

Digital versions are also widely available. Be cautious of free PDFs that may have been scanned from abridged editions. The best approach is to purchase a physical or Kindle version from the Napoleon Hill Foundation’s official site or a reputable bookstore that specifies the original edition.

Practical Steps to Apply the Original Principles Today

Reading the original version is only half the journey; applying its principles is where true transformation occurs. Here is a simple action plan based on the original text:

1. Write Your Burning Desire: Copy Hill’s six-step formula for turning desire into money. Write your desire in a single sentence, specifying the exact amount of money you want and by when. Read it aloud every morning and night.
2. Use Auto-Suggestion Daily: Create a written statement of your plan and repeat it with feeling, as Hill instructs. Visualize yourself already in possession of the wealth or achievement you seek.
3. Build a Master Mind Group: Identify two to three people who share your goals or complementary skills. Meet regularly to support each other and hold one another accountable.
4. Conquer the Six Fears: Write down which of Hill’s six basic fears holds you back most. Use his specific antidotes (e.g., for fear of poverty, concentrate on financial planning and self-reliance).
5. Practice Decision and Persistence: Make one small decision each day without vacillating and stick to it. When you encounter a setback, remind yourself that persistence is the only substitute for talent.

By following these steps, you are not merely reading the **Think And Grow Rich Original Version**—you are embedding its philosophy into your daily life.

Conclusion

The **Think And Grow Rich Original Version** is more than a historical curiosity. It is a comprehensive manual for personal transformation, written with a force and clarity that later adaptations have failed to replicate. Whether you are a first-time reader or a longtime fan returning to the source, you owe it to yourself to experience Hill’s work exactly as he intended. The original 1937 text challenges you to think differently, desire deeply, and act boldly. In a world that constantly tries to simplify success into a single hack, the original version reminds us that true wealth begins with an unwavering thought. Embrace the original, and you embrace the possibility of greatness.

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