

INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN COMMENT

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THE EIGHT PRINCES

by Douglas R. Johnson
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THE EIGHT PRINCES is the name of chapter two of the book by Napoleon Hill titled "The Master Key to Riches".

The names of the Eight Princes are:

1. The Prince of Material Prosperity
2. The Prince of Sound Physical Health
3. The Prince of Peace of Mind
4. The Prince of Hope
5. The Prince of Faith
6. The Prince of Love
7. The Prince of Romance
8. The Prince of Overall Wisdom

Mr. Hill unconditionally represents the Eight Princes as distinct entities. On page 26 he refers to them as "my friends who have done most for me in preparing my mind for the acceptance of riches. I call them the Eight Princes. They serve me when I am awake and they serve me while I sleep."

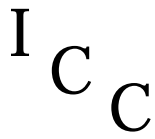
He further states on page 29, "My greatest asset consists in my good fortune in having recognized the existence of the Eight Princes...." Note here that he did not make them up in his imagination but rather came to realize that "they exist".

Mr. Hill opens the chapter by saying that you can call them other names beside "princes" but he specifically gives them attributes of distinct beings that can impute knowledge and have powers to affect physical events.

Mr. Hill states that Andrew Carnegie "was blessed with the services of the Eight Princes. The Prince of Overall Wisdom served him so well that he was inspired not only to give away all his material riches, but to provide the people with a complete philosophy of life through which they too might acquire riches."

Mr. Hill communicated with these beings every day expressing gratitude to each one for the named function. The exact words he used in addressing these beings are given on pages 27 through 29.

Mr. Hill refers to his communication as a "ceremony" on page 30 where he states, "Observe that I ask for nothing from the Princes, but I devote the entire ceremony to an expression of



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gratitude for the riches they have already bestowed upon me."

Mr. Hill gives further credit to theses beings: "The Princes know my needs and supply them!"

Mr. Hill goes on: "Yes, they supply all of my needs in overabundance."

This chapter is designed to give credence to the seventeen principles, of which five are defined in the balance of the book.

Mr. Hill, while discussing the philosophy of life that the princes gave, said: "It supports all religions yet it is a part of none!"

Mr. Hill's has stated in other of his books that he rejected the religion of his youth which I gathered to be some sect of Christianity. He believes that he is not associated with any religion but has knowledge that "supports all religion".

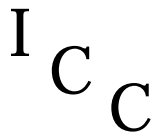
Mr. Hill states on page 26 that he never met these beings face to face. In one of Mr. Hill's other books, however, he describes how beings actually materialized in front of him and talked with him.

It is my opinion that when you communicate with spiritual beings and pay homage to them, you are practicing a very specific religion. It is a very old religion while current advocates call it a "new age" religion.

Christianity forbids such religious practices and although "new age" type religions claim you can worship God in whatever way one believes, the Judeo Christian principles as taught in the Bible refer to God as the sole Creator who is a jealous God. In fact the first of the ten commandments say one must not have any other gods nor worship them.

As for me, I thank God, the Creator, as revealed in His Word, the Bible, for all the blessings I have. I do not thank these eight beings as specified in Mr. Hill's writings.

It may be argued that Mr. Hill's use of beings to describe how he learned various knowledge is only a figment of his imagination that he is using to describe some natural phenomena. It can further be argued that Mr. Hill does not worship these imaginary objects nor does he suggest that anyone do that. That logic says that he only used them to help focus his thoughts.



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I had believed that much of Mr. Hill's teachings are very good and quite consistent with Christian doctrine as one of his earlier works, "Think and Grow Rich", was a clear help to me. I now see that one must consider the source of knowledge as well as the actual details that are taught.

On Saturday afternoon, June 3, 1995, I was thinking about the source of Mr. Hill's knowledge. When I later started my evening Scripture reading in Psalm 119, I noticed that both verses one and two start with the word, "Blessed". I believe the Holy Spirit used that word to trigger Psalm 1:1 which also starts with that word.

"Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly." [Psalm 1:1]

Whatever the term "ungodly" means, chapter 2, "The Eight Princes", of Napoleon Hill clearly demonstrates that he is one who is "ungodly". He has counsel that gives glory to other than God so there can be no question that his counsel is "counsel of the ungodly."

The theory is that you can take the good from the counsel and reject the bad. This, unfortunately, is "natural thinking" and goes against Psalm 1:1.

The trouble with God is that wants an exclusive with your life. It is His clear teaching that He will not share glory, praise, worship, thanksgiving, nor even gratitude with any being whether real or imagined. You cannot take a little of this and a little of that where God is concerned.

The ungodly are not so bound. They are free to take what they want from God, the Bible, and/or any secular source. They then make up a "workable philosophy" that they assert to be "the basis of all religions but part of none."

Once you get in contact with the spiritual force behind the philosophy, Mr. Hill contends that the money will come as if there were no limit.

This is, of course, exactly what the devil promised Jesus some 2,000 years ago:

"8 Again, the devil takes him up into an exceeding high mountain, and shows him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

"9 And said unto him, All these things will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me." [Matt 4:8,9]

Just acknowledge any degree of spiritual or natural force other than God the Father, and the devil will make good on his promise to Jesus.

My advice, however, is what I intend to do, namely adopt for my answer the answer that Jesus gave:

"10 Then said Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord thy God, and him only shall you serve."

Mr. Hill has a creed that he suggests you adopt. He calls it "A Happy Man's Creed". This creed is given on page 31. On page 21 he reveals the source of the creed as: "My Creed of Life was inspired by the Princes".

I reject that godless creed in favor of another from a far superior source:

"I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

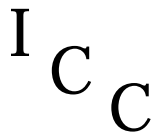
"I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

This creed is called "The Apostles' Creed", not because it was produced by them, but because it contains a brief summary of their teachings.

My "Philosophy of Life" is contained in their full teaching as contained in the New Testament of the Holy Bible which also affirms the Old Testament of the Holy Bible.

Jesus said that "I am come that they might have life, and



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that they might have it more abundantly." [John 16:10] Mr. Hill's abundance does not come from Jesus but from the other spiritual force.

The Apostle Paul said: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in Glory by Christ Jesus." [Phil 4:19] Mr. Hill's needs are supplied from the other source.

Let's take a look back to about 1937 when he wrote "Think and Grow Rich". At that time in Mr. Hill's life, he was communicating with an "imaginary cabinet" made up by himself of nine individuals who were long dead. He imagined them talking to himself. What he found was that knowledge came from them that he was not able to get from just thinking.

Mr. Hill said on page 216 of Think and Grow Rich: "In these imaginary council meeting I call on my cabinet members for the knowledge I wished to contribute, addressing myself to each member in audible words. . . ."

The Hill book, "The Master Key to Riches", was copyrighted in 1967 by Mr. Hill. By the time he wrote that book he had stopped talking to an "imaginary cabinet" and was talking with actual unseen beings.

Clearly the activities described in the 1937 book leads to the activities of the 1965 book!

Be assured that the activities if the 1965 book are not the end result. In 1967, another book was copyrighted, "Grow Rich with Peace of Mind". This is most likely the last book that Mr. Hill has ever written.

On page 158 of Mr. Hill's last book, he wrote:

"Now and again I have had evidence that unseen friends hover about me, unknowable to ordinary senses. In my studies I discovered there is a group of strange beings who maintain a school of wisdom which must be ten thousand years old, but I did not connect them with myself. Now I have found there is a connection. I am not one of them! - but I have been watched by them. Here is how I found out."

Further down that page he continues:

"I was alone in my study and all was very still.

"A voice spoke. I saw nobody. I cannot tell you whence the voice came. First it spoke a password known to few men, that riveted my attention."

Mr. Hill does not reveal what that password was but goes immediately to the subject matter of what was next said. Whatever that password was, I am confident it was not the words spoken to Moses out of the burning bush which said: "I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses asked what he should say God's name was when speaking to the children of Israel he was told "I AM". Clearly Mr. Hill's messenger was not sent from the God of the Jews.

Jesus gave instruction to his disciples to act in His name. When the apostle Paul was first converted, he fell to the ground and was blinded. Ananias was sent by God to him and he said: "The Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou came, hath sent me, that thou might receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost." [Acts 9:17b] Clearly Mr. Hill's messenger was not sent from the God of the Christians.

Mr. Hill was interested to find out just who it was who was speaking to him. The text continues on page 159:

"I [Mr. Hill] whispered: 'who are you?'"

"...the unseen speaker replied: 'I come from the Great School of the Masters. I am one of the Council of Thirty-Three who serve the Great School and its initiates on the physical plane.'"

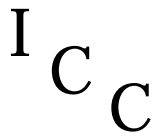
Mr. Hill explains about this being further down on that page:

"The School has Masters who can disembody themselves and travel instantly to any place they choose Now I knew that one of these Masters had come across thousands of miles, through the night, into my study."

Mr. Hill quotes this invisible "Master" as saying among many other things:

"And now I shall name the enemies who must be met and conquered in the journey"

One of these "enemies" listed is "Intolerance". It is



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significant that the "Master" does **not** say that we should be tolerant of the beliefs of Jews and Christians. It is in fact the teachings of the Jews and Christians that is the true enemy of this "Master".

The facts are that the practices done by Mr. Hill as stated in this his three books described above are the most condemned activities in all of the Holy Bible both Old and New Testaments!

Do you intend to serve God or serve the devil? That seems like an easy choice. But what about a little of this and a little of that? Why not follow Mr. Hill's advise in private but in public give God the glory?

"14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

"15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

"16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

"17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" [Rev. 3:14-17]

But you say: "I am not lukewarm. Jesus is my Lord. I love Jesus. I just take the good from what Mr. Hill wrote. I do not worship false gods. These principles described as master keys to riches are just that on their own. I use the keys but reject Mr. Hill's beliefs."

The Apostle Paul ran into a similar situation with a young woman who not only embraced Christianity but also was a strong public witness for Christ as she said in public concerning Paul and Silas: "These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation." This woman like you did not consider herself "lukewarm". She was "on fire for Jesus" as evidenced by her publicly promoting the ministry of Paul.

Let's look at the full passage:

"16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us,

which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

"17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

"18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

"19 And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

"20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

"21 And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.

"22 And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

"23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

"24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks." [Acts 16:16-24]

This woman used the occult to produce financial gain. That is exactly what Mr. Hill is suggesting. It worked for Mr. Hill. I have heard many people witness that these teachings of Mr. Hill have produced "much gain".

Paul said: "I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." He was acting on the "Great Commission" of Jesus:

"15 And [Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

"16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

"17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils...." [Mark 16:15-17a]

Now certain authority is reserved to church leadership but the authority to "cast out devils" is available to "them that believe". Certainly Paul was one that believed. Clearly the "spirit of divination" that this was a devil as Paul cast it out.

When Paul was there preaching Jesus, no one was upset. Even the devil inside this woman gave an "ok". But when Paul cast out that devil, it effected the income of those profiting from the master keys to riches that have been around, according to Mr. Hill, for some 10,000 years. Paul was then:

1. Brought before the magistrates.
2. Beaten with many strips.
3. Cast into prison.

Suppose that you publicly criticize Mr. Hill's teaching to such a degree that you effect the income of those making gain using his teaching. For sure you will be:

1. Brought before the magistrate in civil court and sued for every penny you have.
2. Beaten with many stripes - not officially of course but I am sure physical violence would be a real threat.
3. Cast into prison. You think not? Have you never heard of a "restraining order"? If you are acting on instructions from God, you would not let such a court order stop you so you too would be cast into prison.