

# **The Science of Being Great**

**Wallace D. Wattles**

*Foreword and Updates by Peter Wink*

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# FOREWORD

Have you ever wondered what truly makes a person great?

Is it someone's intrinsic ability to take charge of any situation, command an army during war, lead a nation's government, build a world class company, or inspire a nation to unite under the most dour of circumstances?

OR...

Maybe it's a rare individual's willingness to stand up for what they believe in, show up and do an honest hard days work, inspire their child to do big things, stand up to injustice, or work in the spirit of community?

To truly define what makes a person great would be difficult at best, as there are as many interpretations of greatness as there are people pondering its definition.

This is why I'm a real proponent of Wallace D. Wattles "The Science of Being Great."

Here you'll learn how to build a foundation for greatness – from your inner core.

This is a guide for anyone seeking to better themselves and stand out among the crowd.

I've been practicing "The Science of Being Great" for over 15 years now and benefited tremendously from its teachings.

Here are just a few of the results I've attained as a direct result of "The Science of Being Great"...

- **Stand up for myself in all situations, everywhere, anytime, with anyone.** Never become a pushover or welcome mat for anyone. Be your own person. This is a fundamental for becoming "great."
- **Work as a successful board director and leader in my extremely large community.** I truly believe that a big part of becoming great is your ability to work with and help others in your community.
- **Became a better husband, friend, colleague, and family member.** As you'll learn, being "great" starts in the home. If you cannot be great at home – you will not be great anywhere else.
- **Earn my money through hard work, diligence – with a spirit to advance all life around me.** Great people never expect handouts or do less than their best. Even when things go sour – great people always persist and land on their feet. The word "victim" is not part of their vocabulary. Never use this word. Act like it does not even exist.

- **Go for what I want everytime, anytime with no excuses.** Never be afraid to take chances and risks. A sure sign of greatness is the individual who goes for their dreams with no apprehensions. Be intrepid.
- **Stay away from people who attack others with gossip and other senseless chatter.** Throughout my life I've come across people trying to build themselves up by ripping others down. Great people create their image on their own merits and sweat. People who attack others are not, and will not become great. End of story.
- **Consistently study and practice the skills of people I consider great leaders by my own definition.** Like anything else, acting on the principles of greatness takes hard work and persistence. Practice, practice, and practice some more.
- **Treat everyone with respect and dignity.** Great people treat everyone with equal respect and dignity. They do not favor people because they can get something from them.
- **Eradicate people from my life who are not positive or are otherwise detrimental to my attitude.** Negative people are like cancers needing to be eliminated from your life. They will suck the lifeblood from you and influence you in ways you'd never dream possible. Lose the losers!
- **Tell people the truth in all situations.** Be honest and straightforward and you'll never have to look over your shoulder in any situation ever. Great people maintain integrity at all times in all situations.
- **Score people by what they do and not what they say.** Most people are talkers with no substance whatsoever. You know the type – they're always going to do something someday. Do you ever notice someday never seems to come around? Always measure someone by their actions – not their words. This will save you a great deal of disappointment.
- **Make quick decisions and stand by them no matter what the result is.** Great people make decisions quickly and decisively. Exercise your decision-making skills everyday in every situation.
- **Face my fears head on with a sense of wonder, adventure, and enthusiasm.** Be fearless. Go for what you want with no fears or regrets. If you make a mistake – don't spend time crying home to mama. Get off your rear and keep going.

I could keep going with no end here.

No matter what your definition is of being great, "The Science of Being Great" will help you get there.

So here's my immediate suggestion...

Clear your mind of any pre-conceived notions and be open to new information – no matter what your past experience has been. Once you're ready, pull up a very comfortable chair and start reading every word of "The Science of Being Great" in the order it is presented. Absorb every word, let it become a part of

your heart and soul, and practice what it teaches everyday, with no reservations or fear.

And read it over and over again until you see and feel the changes.

OK...we've thought and talked enough about being great and what you should do. Let's cut to the chase and stop talking and start taking decisive action right away – which is the first step to becoming great.

To your greatness!

*Peter Wink*

If you have any further questions or want information regarding seminars, consultation, coaching or personal appearances -- please contact me at...

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# YOU MAY BECOME GREAT

THERE is a principle of “power” in you at this very moment. By the intelligent use and direction of this principle, you can develop your own mental faculties.

**YOU HAVE AN INHERENT POWER ALLOWING YOU TO GROW IN WHATEVER DIRECTION YOU PLEASE AND THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO YOUR POSSIBILITIES.**

Nobody has become so great in any faculty that someone else cannot become greater. The possibility is in the original substance from which man is made.

Genius is omniscience flowing into you. Genius is more than talent. Talent may only be the disproportionate development of one faculty over others. True genius is the union of man with spirit in the acts of the soul.

Great people are always greater than their deeds. They are in connection with a limitless reserve of power. And nobody knows where the boundary of mental powers lies. We do not even know if a boundary exists.

The power of conscious growth is not given to animals. It's only given to mankind and it may be developed and increased by man alone. Animals can be trained and developed by man but only mankind can train and develop themselves. Man alone has this power and it appears unlimited.

Like plants and trees, your purpose in life is growth. And there's one big difference. Trees and plants grow automatically along fixed lines while you can grow at will. Trees and plants can only develop certain possibilities and characteristics while you can develop any power.

**IF YOU CAN THINK IT – YOU CAN CREATE IT.**

Nothing that you can think of is impossible to put in action. Nothing that you can imagine is impossible to realize.

You are formed for growth and under the necessity of growing. It is essential to your happiness to continuously advance.

Life without progress becomes unendurable. And if you cease growing you will likely become an imbecile or insane. The greater and more harmonious and well rounded your growth, the happier you will be.

All possibilities are in everyone. And if everyone proceeded naturally, no two people will grow into the same thing, or be much alike. Everyone comes into the world with a predisposition to grow along certain lines and growth is easier for them along those lines than in any other way. This gives endless variety to all.

Take the example of the gardener...

If a gardener threw all their bulbs into one basket they would look similar in the eyes of a casual observer. Growth will ultimately reveal a tremendous difference.

It's the same for people.

A group of people to a casual observer may be just as similar as a basket of bulbs. And upon growth, one person may become a rose and add brightness and color to some dark corner of the world. One person may be a lily and teach a lesson of love and purity to everyone. Another person may be a climbing vine and hide the rugged outlines of some dark rock. And yet another person may be a great oak among whose boughs the birds shall nest and sing.

**REGARDLESS OF THE DIFFERENT PATTERNS OF GROWTH, EVERYONE WILL BE SOMETHING WORTHWHILE, SOMETHING RARE, SOMETHING SPECIAL, AND SOMETHING PERFECT.** This includes you.

There are undreamed of possibilities in the common lives all around us. In a large sense, there are no "common" people. In times of national distress and danger, even the local drunkard and lethargic loafer become heroes and statesmen by quickening the principle of power within them.

**THERE IS A GENIUS IN YOU RIGHT NOW WAITING TO BE CALLED UPON.**

Every locality has its great person. In some cases – more than one. This is someone that people go to for advice in troubling times. This is someone who is instinctively recognized for having tremendous wisdom and insight and is tacitly recognized as being great. They do small things in a big way. And you can too. The principle of power gives you what you ask for. If you undertake little things, it only gives you power for little things. And to the contrary, if you do big things in a great way – it gives you all the power you need and then some.

Never do anything in a small way. Let me discuss why.

There are two mental attitudes you can possess.

The first attitude is like a football.

A football has absolute resilience and reacts strongly when force is applied to it – but it originates nothing. The football never acts on its own and there is no intrinsic power in it. People with this attitude are controlled by circumstances and environment and their destinies are determined externally, by things outside of themselves. The principle of power in them is never active. These people never speak or act from within.

The second attitude is like a flowing spring.

Power comes out from the center of this person. They have a well of water inside them that springs up into everlasting life and radiates force. The principle of power in them is in constant action because they are self-active.

**NO GREATER GOOD CAN COME FROM YOU THAN TO BECOME SELF-ACTIVE.**

All the experiences of your life are designed by spirit to push you into self-activity and cease being a creature of circumstances. Your duty is to become a master of your environment.

In your lowest stage, you are the child of chance and circumstance, as well as a slave to fear. Your acts are all reactions resulting from the forces in your environment. You act only as you're acted upon and originate nothing.

Even the lowest savage has within them a principle of power strong enough for them to master all their fears. And if they learn this and become self-active, they become all powerful.

Awakening the principle of power in you is a real conversion. It's the equivalent of passing from death to life. It's like being reborn.

Nobody possesses any special powers that are not inherent in you or that you cannot quickly develop with purpose. Nobody has more spiritual or mental power than you can attain.

**YOU CAN BECOME WHAT YOU WANT TO BE.**

# HEREDITY AND OPPORTUNITY

YOU are not barred from attaining greatness because of heredity.

**IT DOES NOT MATTER WHO YOUR ANCESTORS WERE OR WHAT THEY DID, YOU CAN BECOME GREAT.**

There is no such thing as inheriting a fixed mental position. No matter what you received from your parents, you can do and have more. You were not born incapable of growth.

Heredity does count for something. We are born with subconscious mental tendencies like melancholy, cowardice, or even ill temper. But all these subconscious tendencies may be overcome. When the real person awakens and pushes forward, they can throw them off very easily.

Nothing of this kind need keep you down. **IF YOU HAVE INHERITED UNDESIRABLE MENTAL TENDENCIES, YOU CAN ELIMINATE THEM AND PUT DESIRABLE TENDENCIES IN THEIR PLACES.** An inherited mental trait is a habit of thought from father or mother impressed upon your subconscious mind. You can substitute the opposite impression by forming the opposite habit of thought. You can substitute a habit of cheerfulness for a tendency to be despondent. You can overcome cowardice or ill temper in a moment's decision.

Heredity may count for something, too, in an inherited conformation of the skull. There is something in phrenology, if not as much as its exponents claim. It is true that the different faculties are localized in the brain and that the power of a faculty depends upon the number of active brain cells in its area. A faculty whose brain area is large is likely to act with more power than one whose cranial section is small. So people with a specific conformation of the skull show talent as musicians, orators, and mechanics, as well as a host of other talents.

It has been argued from this that a man's cranial formation must, to a great extent, decide his station in life, but this theory tends to be false. It has been found that a small brain section, with many fine and active cells, gives as powerful expression to faculty as a larger brain with coarser cells. And it has been found that by turning the principle of power into any section of the brain, with the will and purpose to develop a particular talent, the brain cells may be multiplied indefinitely. Any faculty, power, or talent you possess, no matter how small or rudimentary, may be increased. You can multiply the brain cells in this particular area until it acts as powerfully as you wish.

It is true that you can act most easily through those faculties that are now most developed. You can do, with the least effort, the things that "come naturally" but it is also true that if you will make the necessary effort you can develop any talent. You can do what you desire to do and become what you want to be.

When you focus on a specific ideal and proceed as directed, all the power of your being is turned into the faculties required for the realization of that ideal. More blood and nerve force goes to the corresponding sections of the brain and the cells are quickened, increased, and multiplied in number. The proper use of your mind will build a brain capable of doing what the mind wants to do.

**THE BRAIN DOES NOT MAKE THE MAN – THE MAN MAKES THE BRAIN.**

Your place in life is not stifled by heredity. And you are not condemned to the lower levels of life and thought by circumstances or lack of opportunity. The principle of power in you is sufficient for all the requirements of your soul. No possible combination of circumstances, or particular person, can keep you down, if you possess the right positive, persistent attitude.

The power, which formed mankind and purposed it for growth, also controls the circumstances of society, industry, and government. And this power is never divided against itself. The power in you is in the things around you, and when you begin to move forward, the things will arrange themselves for your advantage, as described in later sections of “The Science of Being Great.”

You are formed for growth, and everything external is designed to promote your growth. When you awaken your inner greatness, and advance forward, you will find that nature, society, and your fellow man are there to help you along in ways you could never predict.

There is a principle of power in you. If you apply it in a certain way, you can overcome any heredity and master all circumstances and conditions to release a great and powerful personality.

# THE SOURCE OF POWER

YOUR brain, body, mind, faculties, and talents are the mere instruments you use in demonstrating greatness. In and of themselves they do not make you great.

You may have a large brain and a good mind, strong faculties, and brilliant talents, and not be great unless you use all these in a great way. That quality which enables you to use your abilities in a great way makes you great. And that quality is what's called wisdom.

**WISDOM IS THE ESSENTIAL BASIS OF GREATNESS.** Wisdom is the power to perceive the best ends to aim at and the best means for reaching those ends. It is the power to perceive the right thing to do. The person who is wise enough to know the right thing to do, who is good enough to do the right thing, and who is able and strong enough to do the right thing is great. They will instantly become marked as a personality of power in any community and people will honor them.

Wisdom is dependent upon knowledge. Where there is complete ignorance there can be no wisdom and no knowledge of the right thing to do. Mankind's knowledge is comparatively limited – so its wisdom must be small. That is unless they can connect their minds with knowledge greater than their own and draw from it, by inspiration, the wisdom that their limitations deny them.

This is what really great people have done.

Mankind's knowledge is limited and uncertain – therefore it cannot have wisdom in itself. Only spirit knows all truth. **THEREFORE, ONLY SPIRIT CAN HAVE REAL WISDOM OR PERCEIVE THE RIGHT THING TO DO AT ALL TIMES.**

Let me delineate for a moment...

Regardless of his limited education, Abraham Lincoln had the power to perceive truth. He also had the ability to know the right thing to do at all times, under all circumstances. He had the will to do the right thing, he had the talent and ability to be competent, and he was able to do the right thing.

Back in the days of abolition, and during the compromise period when all other men were more or less confused as to what was right or what to do, Lincoln was always certain. He saw through the superficial arguments of the pro-slavery men, he saw the impracticability and fanaticism of the abolitionists, he saw the right ends to aim at, and he saw the best means to attain those ends.

It was because men recognized that he perceived truth and knew the right thing to do that they made him President of the United States. Any man who develops the power to perceive truth, and who can show that he always knows the right

thing to do, and that he can be trusted to do the right thing, will be honored and advanced. The world is looking eagerly for such men.

When Lincoln became President of the United States, he was surrounded by a multitude of so-called able advisers. Hardly any two of them ever agreed on anything. At times they were all opposed to his policies. At other times, the entire North was opposed to what he proposed to do. Through it all, he saw the truth when others were misled by appearances. His judgment was seldom, if ever wrong.

He was at once the ablest statesman and the best soldier of the period. Where did he, a comparatively unlearned man, get this advanced wisdom? It was not due to some peculiar formation of his skull or to some fineness of the texture of his brain. It was not due to some special physical characteristic. It was not even a quality of mind due to superior reasoning power.

### **PROCESSES OF REASON DO NOT OFTEN REACH KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH.**

It was due to a spiritual insight. He perceived truth. But where did he perceive it and where did the perception come from?

We see something similar in Washington, whose faith and courage, due to his perception of truth, held the colonies together during the long and often apparently hopeless struggle of the Revolution. We see the same characteristic in the phenomenal genius of Napoleon, who always knew, in military matters, the best means to adopt. We see that the greatness of Napoleon was in nature rather than in Napoleon – and we discover back of Washington and Lincoln something greater than either Washington or Lincoln.

We see the same thing in all great men and women. Great people perceive truth. Truth cannot be perceived until it exists and there can be no truth until there is a mind to perceive it. Truth does not exist apart from mind. Washington and Lincoln were in touch and communication with a mind that knew all knowledge and contained all truth. The same is true of all who manifest wisdom.

### **WISDOM IS OBTAINED BY CONNECTING WITH SPIRIT.**

# THE MIND OF SPIRIT

THERE is a cosmic intelligence that is in all things and through all things. This is the one real substance. All things emanate from it. It is intelligent substance or mind stuff. **IT IS SPIRIT.**

Where there is no substance there can be no intelligence or anything else. Where there is thought there must be a substance which thinks. Thought cannot be a function. Function is motion. And it is inconceivable that mere motion should think. Thought cannot be vibration. Vibration is motion. And that motion should be intelligent and not thinkable. Motion is nothing but the moving of substance. If intelligence is present, it must be in the substance and not in the motion. Thought cannot be the result of motions in the brain. If thought is in the brain it must be in the brain's substance – not its motion.

Thought is not in the brain substance, for brain substance, without life, is quite unintelligent and dead. Thought is in the life-principle that animates the brain – in the spirit substance. The brain does not think. You think and express your thought through the brain.

There is a spirit substance that thinks. Just as the spirit substance in you permeates your body, and thinks and knows in your body, so does the original spirit substance. It permeates, thinks, and knows in nature. Nature is as intelligent as man, and knows more than man. Nature knows all things. Spirit has been in touch with all things from the very beginning and contains all knowledge.

The truths you perceive by inspiration are thoughts held in your mind. If they were not thoughts you could not perceive them, as they would have no existence. Truths can only exist in the mind. And a mind can be nothing other than a substance that thinks.

You are thinking substance – a portion of the cosmic substance. But you're limited, while the cosmic intelligence from which you emanate, is unlimited. All intelligence, power, and force come from spirit.

We are immersed in a mind containing all knowledge and truth. Our mind is seeking to give us this knowledge. **THE GREATEST PEOPLE, PAST AND PRESENT, WERE MADE GREAT BY WHAT THEY RECEIVED FROM COMMUNICATING WITH SPIRIT.** This limitless reservoir of wisdom and power is open to you and you can draw upon it, as you wish, according to your needs. You can make yourself what you desire to be. You can do what you wish to do. You can have whatever you want. To accomplish this you must learn to become one with spirit so that you may perceive truth and have wisdom and know the right ends to seek and the right means to use to attain those ends. This will allow you to secure the power and ability to use these means.

**RESOLVE TO LAY ASIDE ALL ELSE AND CONCENTRATE UPON THE  
ATTAINMENT OF CONSCIOUS UNITY WITH SPIRIT.**

# PREPARATION

DRAW out every ounce of wisdom available from spirit.

**YOU CAN NEVER BECOME A PERSON UNTIL YOU OVERCOME ANXIETY, WORRY, AND FEAR. IT'S VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN ANXIOUS, WORRIED, OR FEARFUL PERSON TO CORRECTLY AND OBJECTIVELY PERCEIVE THE TRUTH.** All things are distorted and thrown out of their proper relations by such mental states. And if you're in one of these states, you cannot be aligned to spirit.

If you're financially poor or anxious about business or financial matters, you are recommended to study, "The Science of Getting Rich." It will present you with a solution for your financial problems, no matter how large or how complicated they may seem to be. There is not the least cause for worry about financial affairs. You can rise above your wants, have all you need, and become financially rich. The same source that you propose to draw for mental unfolding and spiritual power is at your service for the supply of all your material wants. Study this truth until it is fixed in your thoughts and until anxiety is eradicated from your mind. Enter the certain way that leads to material riches.

If you're anxious or worried about your health, realize it is possible for you to attain perfect health so you may have strength sufficient for all that you wish to do and more. The same intelligence that is ready to give you wealth, mental, and spiritual power will also give you perfect health. Perfect health is yours for the asking, if you will obey the simple laws of life and live in accord with these laws.

Conquer ill health and cast out fear.

Still it's not enough to rise above financial anxiety, physical challenges, and worry. **YOU MUST RISE ABOVE MORAL EVIL-DOING AS WELL.** Make sure all your efforts are for the good of your fellow man and for the advancement of life. Let your conscious guide you to the most moral of efforts.

You must cast out lust, cease to be ruled by appetite, and govern appetite. You must eat only to satisfy hunger – never for gluttonous pleasure. You must make your flesh obey spirit.

Lay aside greed and have no unworthy motive in your desire to become rich and powerful. It is legitimate and right to desire riches, if you want them for the sake of the soul – but not if you desire them for the lusts of the flesh.

Cast out pride and vanity. Banish thoughts of trying to control or outdo others. This is a vital point. There is no temptation as insidious as the selfish desire to rule over and control others. In fact, it's a delusion to believe you can control

anything outside yourself. It's impossible. **PEOPLE ULTIMATELY ALWAYS ACT BY THEIR OWN VOLITION AND SO DO YOU.**

Nothing seems to appeal more to people than to be in the best restaurants, be respected in the business community, and to be called "boss." Controlling others is the secret motive of every selfish person. The struggle for power over others is the battle of the competitive world and you must rise above these motives and aspirations.

Never be envious of anyone else. You can have all that you want and you do not need to envy what anyone else possesses.

Do not hold malice or enmity toward anyone. This mindset will cut you off from spirit, whose wisdom you seek.

Eradicate all superficial personal ambitions and seek the highest good. **NEVER BE SWAYED BY SELFISHNESS.**

Go over all the foregoing behaviors and banish them from your life. Then resolve to abandon all evil thoughts, deeds, habits, and courses of action that do not produce moral ideals.

Make this resolution with all the power of your soul. And then you're ready for the next step toward greatness, which is explained in the following section called "The Social Point of View."

# THE SOCIAL POINT OF VIEW

WITHOUT belief it is impossible to connect with spirit, which is the source of intelligence. And without belief it's impossible for you to become great.

**THE DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC IN ALL GREAT PEOPLE IS AN UNWAVERING BELIEF IN THEMSELVES, THEIR IDEAS, AND THE GREATER GOOD.**

We saw this in Lincoln during the dark days of the war and we saw it in Washington at Valley Forge.

Every great person has a strong belief in principle. A principle that says if you hold to the "right" moral way of doing something, victory will surely come in due time.

If you have no belief in principle, you will never attain greatness. You must learn to see the world as being produced by evolution – as something that is forever evolving and becoming – not as a finished work.

Millions of years ago, spirit developed very raw, nascent, and somewhat crude forms of life by our current standards. Yet it all was perfect. In the successive ages, higher and more complex organisms like animals and vegetables appeared. The earth passed through stage after stage in its unfolding, each stage perfect in itself, and to be succeeded by a higher one.

Please keep in mind that the so-called "lower organisms" are as perfect after their kind as the higher ones. The world in the Eocene period was perfect for that period. It was perfect, and still spirit's work was not finished. This is true of the world today. Physically, socially, and industrially it's all good and perfect – just not complete. We are forever evolving.

**THE WORLD AND ALL IT CONTAINS IS PERFECT – THOUGH NOT COMPLETED.** This is a great fact. There is nothing wrong with anything or anybody.

There is nothing wrong with nature. Nature is a great advancing presence working for the happiness of all and advancing life. All things in nature are good – nature in itself possesses no evil. Like the earth, nature is not complete. Nature's is forever evolving. Nature is perfect – still not complete.

It's also the same for human society and government.

Bill Gates, Rupert Murdoch, Ted Turner, and Sir Richard Branson are as necessary to the coming social order as the strange animals in the reptile age

were to the life of a succeeding period. Just as the reptiles were perfect after their kind, so are the great industrialists.

**GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ARE PERFECT RIGHT NOW AND ARE STILL ADVANCING FORWARD.** They are part of the great evolution we call life. Once you understand this, you will no longer have fear, anxiety, or worry regarding any of them. Never waste time complaining about either of them, as they're perfect. This is the very best possible world for the stage of development mankind has reached to this point.

This may sound like folly to you. "What!" you may be saying. "Isn't the exploitation of child labor and the filthy conditions of most factories considered evil? Aren't bars, saloons, and brothels evil? Do you mean to say that we shall accept all these and call them good?"

Child labor, factory conditions, bars, saloons, and brothels, are no more evil than the way of living, habits, and practices of the cave dweller. Their ways were those of the savage stage of mankind's growth – and for that stage, during that time, they were perfect. Our Industrial practices are those of the savage stage of industrial development, and they are also perfect.

We need to cease being mental savages in industry and business and become people living in a higher plane.

The cure for this inharmoniousness lies with the workers, not with the politicians or employers. Whenever they reach a higher viewpoint, they can establish complete harmony in industry because they have the numbers and the power. They're now getting exactly what they desire. When they desire a higher, purer, and more harmonious life, they'll receive more. True, they want more now, but they only want more of the things that make for animal enjoyment, and so industry remains in the savage, brutal, animal stage. When the workers begin to rise to the mental plane of living and ask for more of the things that make for the life of the mind and soul, industry will at once be raised above the plane of savagery and brutality. But it is perfect right now.

The same holds true of saloons and dens of vice. If the majority of people desire these things, it is right and necessary for them to have them. When the majority desires a world without such discords, they will create such a world. **AS LONG AS PEOPLE ARE ON THE PLANE OF BESTIAL THOUGHT, SO WILL THE SOCIAL ORDER.**

The people make society what it is, and as the people rise above the bestial thought, society will rise above the beastly. But a society that thinks in a bestial way must have saloons and brothels. Society is perfect after its kind, as the world was in the Eocene period.

None of this prevents you from working toward better things and a better life.

You can work to further advance society instead of simply renovating a decaying one. You can work with a happy heart and an unwavering spirit. **IT WILL MAKE AN IMMENSE DIFFERENCE WITH YOUR BELIEF AND SPIRIT WHETHER YOU LOOK UPON CIVILIZATION AS A GOOD THING THAT IS ADVANCING OR AS AN EVIL THING THAT IS DECAYING.** One viewpoint gives you an advancing and expanding mind and the other gives you a descending and decreasing mind.

One viewpoint will make you grow greater and the other will inevitably cause you to grow smaller. One will enable you to work for the eternal things and to do large works in a great way. The other will make you a mere patchwork reformer – working without hope, to save a few lost souls from what you consider a lost and doomed world.

Now you can see how large of a role your social viewpoint plays in your willingness to become great.

“All’s right with the world. Nothing can possibly be wrong but my personal attitude, and I will make that right. I will see the facts of nature and all the events, circumstances, and conditions of society, politics, government, and industry, from the highest viewpoint.

**ALL IS PERFECT – THOUGH INCOMPLETE.**

It’s all the handiwork of spirit and me.”

Let’s now discuss “The Individual Point of View.”

# THE INDIVIDUAL POINT OF VIEW

YOU must learn to see everyone around you as perfect beings becoming more complete.

## **THERE ARE NO “BAD” OR “EVIL” PEOPLE.**

An engine, which is on the rails pulling a heavy train, is perfect after its kind, and it is good. The steam power that drives it, is also good. If a broken rail throws the engine into a ditch, it does not become bad or evil because it is displaced. It is still a perfectly good engine – just off the track. The steam power that drives the engine into the ditch and wrecks it is not evil. It is still perfectly good power.

Just because something is misplaced or applied in an incomplete, or partial way, does not make it evil. There are no evil people in the world – there are perfectly good people who are off track. They do not need to be condemned or punished, as much as they need to get on track again.

People who are undeveloped or incomplete, often appear to us as evil because of the way we’ve trained ourselves to think.

The root of a bulb that shall produce a white lily is an unsightly thing. One might look at it with disgust. But how foolish we would be to condemn the bulb for its appearance when we know the lily is within it. The root is perfect after its kind. It’s a perfect but incomplete lily.

This delineates why we must learn to look at every person, no matter how unlovely in outward manifestation, as perfect in their stage of being, while realizing they’re striving to become complete. **EVERYTHING IS PERFECT.**

When you arrive at this point of view, you will lose all desire to find fault with people, to judge them, criticize them, or condemn them. You will have nothing but good words to say about everyone as you see that all humanity is striving for completeness.

This new association with everyone around you will put you into an expansive and enlarging attitude of mind. You will see everyone as great beings and you will begin to deal with them and their affairs in a great way.

If you take the contrary point of view that people are evil, harmful, bad, or ugly, you will sink into a contracting mindset. Your relationships will all reflect your lower-self viewpoint.

You must also see yourself as perfect and striving for completion. Learn to say, “What made me knows no imperfection, weakness, or sickness. The world is incomplete and spirit in my own consciousness, is both perfect and complete.

Nothing can be wrong except my own personal attitude, and my own personal attitude can be wrong only when I disobey that which is within me. I am a perfect manifestation of spirit so far, and I will press on to be as complete as possible. **I WILL TRUST MYSELF WITHOUT TREPIDATION.**”

When you are able to say this with belief, you will have lost all fear and will be far advanced on the road to the development of a great and powerful personality.

Let's continue our journey toward greatness.

# CONSECRATION

NOW that you understand the viewpoint that puts you in the right relations with your fellow man – the next step is consecration.

**FOR OUR PURPOSES, CONSECRATION SIMPLY MEANS OBEDIENCE TO YOUR SOUL.**

Everyone, including you, has a natural inclination toward the upward and advancing way. That inclination is directing you toward the principle of power and you must obey it without question.

If you are going to become great, the greatness will manifest out of something inside you. It is not the mind, intellect, or reason. You cannot be great if you go no further back than to your reasoning power. Reason does not know principle or morality. Your reason is like a lawyer that argues on behalf of both sides. The intellect of a thief will plan a robbery or murder as readily as the intellect of a saint will plan philanthropy. Intellect helps us to see the best means and manner to do the right thing. But intellect never shows us the right thing. Intellect and reason serve the selfish man for his selfish ends as readily as they serve the unselfish man for his unselfish ends. Use intellect and reason without regard to principle, and you may become known as a very able person, but you will never become known as a person whose life shows the power of real greatness.

There is too much training of the intellect and reasoning powers and too little training in obedience to the inner soul. This is the only thing that can be wrong with your personal attitude when it fails to be one obedient to the principle of power.

By being centered, you can always find the pure idea of right for every relationship. **BEING GREAT AND HAVING A FEELING OF POWER COMES FROM THE GREATNESS WITHIN YOU.**

There are many outdated ideas in your mind that through habit, you still permit to dictate the actions you take in your life. Cease all this non-sensical behavior and resolve to abandon everything you've outgrown. There are many less than noble customs, social and other, that you may still follow. These will dwarf and belittle you and keep you acting in a small way. Rise above all this. I'm not saying you should disregard conventionalities or the commonly accepted standards of right and wrong. You cannot do this. Still, you can deliver your soul from most of the narrow restrictions that bind the majority of your fellow people. Do not give your time and strength to the support of obsolete institutions, religious or otherwise. Do not be bound by creeds you do not believe. Be free. You have perhaps formed some sensual habits of mind, body, and spirit – abandon them. You may be indulging in distrustful fears that things will go wrong or that people will betray

or mistreat you. Get above these fears. You may act selfishly in many ways and on many occasions. Cease to do so.

Abandon all these thoughts, feelings, and behaviors right away. In their place, start acting in a great way.

Remember, you can only do as well as you think. **LET YOUR THOUGHTS BE RULED BY PRINCIPLE – AND THEN LIVE UP TO YOUR THOUGHTS.**

Let your attitude in business, politics, neighborhood affairs, and in your home, be the expression of the best thoughts you can think. Let your manner toward all other people, great and small, be kind, gracious, and courteous.

There are only a few steps to complete consecration.

You cannot be ruled from below if you are to be great – you must rule from above.

You cannot be governed by physical impulses – you must bring your body into subjection to the mind.

Your mind without principle may lead you into selfishness and immoral ways.

You must put the mind into subjection to the soul. And remember that your soul is limited by the boundaries of your knowledge. So connect with spirit to attain all its wisdom.

Say, “I surrender my body to be ruled by my mind. I surrender my mind to be governed by my soul. I surrender my soul to the guidance of spirit.”

Once you make this consecration complete and thorough – you will have taken the second step in the way of greatness and power.

# IDENTIFICATION

NOW that you've recognized spirit as the advancing presence in nature, society, and your fellow man, and harmonized yourself with it, the next step is to become aware of and recognize that the principle of power within you is spirit itself.

## **YOU MUST CONSCIOUSLY IDENTIFY YOURSELF WITH SPIRIT.**

This is not some false position. It is a fact needing to be recognized. You are already one with spirit and you need to be consciously aware of it.

There is one substance, the source of all things, and this substance has within itself the power that creates all things. All power is inherent in it. This substance is conscious, it thinks, and it works with perfect understanding and intelligence. You know this is true because you know that substance exists and that consciousness exists. You also know it must be substance that is conscious.

You are conscious and think. You are substance or you would be nothing and not exist at all. If you are substance and you think, as well as conscious – you must be conscious substance. It is not conceivable that there should be more than one conscious substance, so man is the original substance, the source of all life and power embodied in a physical form.

You cannot be something different from spirit. Intelligence is one and the same everywhere. It must be everywhere and an attribute of the same substance. There cannot be one kind of intelligence in spirit and another kind of intelligence in mankind.

Intelligence can only be in intelligent substance and intelligent substance is spirit. You are one and the same stuff as spirit. **SO ALL THE TALENTS, POWERS, AND POSSIBILITIES THAT ARE IN SPIRIT ARE ALSO IN YOU – NOT JUST IN A FEW EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE – THEY ARE IN EVERYONE.**

The principle of power in you is you yourself – and you are part of spirit. While you are original substance, and have within you all power and possibilities, your consciousness is limited. You do not know all there is to know, so you're liable to make mistakes. To save yourself from these mistakes, you must unite your mind to spirit, which knows all. You must be consciously one with spirit. There is a mind surrounding you on every side, closer than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet. In this mind is the memory of all that has ever happened from prehistoric days to the present time.

Held in this great mind is the great purpose behind all nature – so it knows what is going to be. You are surrounded by a mind that knows all there is to know, past, present, and future. Everything that mankind has said, done, or written is present there.

You are the same identical stuff as this mind. You proceeded from it and you can identify yourself with it, so you can know all it knows.

**YOUR IDENTIFICATION OF YOURSELF WITH SPIRIT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY CONSCIOUS RECOGNITION ON YOUR PART.**

Recognizing that there is only spirit, and that all intelligence is in the one substance, you must affirm the following.

“There is only one and that one is everywhere. I surrender myself to conscious unity with spirit. I will to be one with spirit. I am one with infinite consciousness. There is one mind and I am that mind.”

If you have been thorough in the work outlined in the preceding chapters – and if you have attained to the true viewpoint – and if your consecration is complete – you will not find conscious identification hard to attain. Once it is attained, the power you seek is yours, for you have made yourself one with all the power there is.

# IDEALIZATION

**YOU ARE A THINKING CENTER IN ORIGINAL SUBSTANCE.** The thoughts of original substance have creative power. Whatever is formed in its thought and held as a thought-form must come into existence as a visible and so-called material form – and a thought-form held in thinking substance is a reality. It is a real thing, whether it has become visible to the mortal eye or not.

You internally take the form you think of yourself. Surround yourself with the invisible forms of the things that you associate with in your thoughts. If you desire a thing, picture it clearly and hold the picture in your mind until it becomes a definite thought-form. From there, you will attract it in material form.

Never make a thought-form of yourself in connection with disease or sickness – just perfect health. Make a thought-form of yourself as strong, healthy, and perfectly well. Impress this thought-form on creative intelligence, and if your practices are not in violation of the laws by which the physical body is built, your thought-form will become manifest in your flesh.

Make a thought-form of yourself, as you desire to be. Set your ideal as close to perfection as possible.

Let me delineate for a moment. If a law student wishes to become great, let them picture themselves as a great lawyer, pleading a case with matchless eloquence and power before the judge and jury. They need to picture themselves as having an unlimited command of truth, knowledge, and wisdom. As the thought-form grows more definite and habitual in their mind, the creative energies, both within and without, are set at work. They begin to manifest the form from within and all the essentials without, that go into the picture. They make themselves into the image and spirit works with them to manifest it.

Focus on what you wish to make of yourself. Think about this until you conclude that you're making the right choice. Do not pay too much attention to the advice or suggestions of those around you, as nobody else can know what is right for you. Listen to what others have to say and form your own conclusions and make your own decisions.

**DO NOT LET OTHER PEOPLE DECIDE WHAT YOU ARE TO BE – BE WHAT YOU FEEL YOU WANT TO BE.**

Do not be misled by a false notion of obligation or duty. You can owe no possible obligation or duty to others that should prevent you from making the most of yourself. Be true to yourself.

When you have decided what thing you want to be, form the highest conception of that thing that you are capable of imagining, and make that conception a

thought-form. Hold that thought-form as a fact, as the real truth about yourself, and believe in it.

Close your ears to all adverse suggestions. **NEVER MIND IF PEOPLE CALL YOU A FOOL AND A DREAMER.** Dream on. Remember that Napoleon Bonaparte, the half-starved lieutenant, always saw himself as the general of armies and the master of France. And he became in outward realization of what he held in his mind. So can you.

Listen carefully to all that has been said in the preceding chapters, and act as directed in the following ones. If you do, you'll become what you want to be.

# REALIZATION

**IF YOU WERE TO STOP READING HERE... YOU WOULD BE A MERE DREAMER.** And that's the challenge. Too many like to think about their dreams and never take decisive action to manifest them. They do not understand the importance of taking immediate, decisive action to realize their vision. This is how you manifest from thought-form.

To manifest from thought-form, two things are necessary.

First you need to produce an accurate, articulate, detailed thought-form in your mind. Second you need to appropriate yourself with everything that goes into, and around the thought-form.

We have already discussed how to produce a thought-form. So I'm now going to jump into how you can manifest that thought-form.

Now that you have your thought-form – you are already, in your interior, what you want to be. So the next step is to become what you want to be externally.

You are already great within, but not doing great things externally. This is normal at this point as you cannot do great things until others know who you are.

For instance, you cannot be a great doctor, lawyer, author, politician, scientist, musician, or actor, until you are known and trusted by others.

Still...you can begin to do small things in a great way and start getting known. This is the big secret. You can begin the process of being great today in your own home, store, office, on the street, or anywhere else. Start by doing everything you do in a great way. Put the power of your great soul into every act, however small and commonplace. Reveal and demonstrate greatness to your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Do not brag or boast of yourself. Simply set the example by demonstrating greatness.

If you simply tell people you are great, you will be held suspect. **IF YOU SHOW GREATNESS, IN EVERYTHING YOU SAY AND DO, NOBODY CAN DOUBT YOUR GREATNESS.**

Be just, generous, courteous, and kind in all your relationships. This is a sign of greatness.

Have unwavering belief in your own perceptions of truth. Never act in haste or hurry and be deliberate in everything.

Look for the true way in everything you say and do. And when you feel you know the true way, be guided by your own belief, even if the rest of the world disagrees

with you. **WHEN YOU FEEL THAT A CERTAIN ACT IS THE RIGHT ACT – DO IT, AND HAVE UNWAVERING BELIEF THAT THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE GOOD.** When you're deeply impressed that a certain thing is true, no matter what the appearances to the contrary may be, accept the thing as true, and act accordingly. The one way to develop a perception of truth in large things is to trust your perception of truth in small things.

Remember that you're seeking to develop the perception of truth and learning to read the thoughts of spirit. Nothing is great or small in the eyes of spirit. Spirit is just as interested in the little matters of everyday life as is in the affairs of nations.

When you feel compelled to take a course that seems contrary to all reason and worldly judgment, take that course. Listen to the suggestions and advice of others, but always do what you feel is the right thing to do. Rely on your own perception of truth and do not act in haste, fear, or anxiety. Rely on your own perception of truth in all the circumstances of life.

If you feel that a certain man will be in a certain place, on a certain day, go there with the belief he will be there, no matter how unlikely it may seem. If you feel that certain people are making certain combinations, or doing certain things, act in the belief they are doing those things. If you feel sure of the truth of any circumstance or happening, near or distant, past, present, or to come, trust in your perception. You may make occasional mistakes at first, but you will soon be guided to the right choices. Soon your family and friends will begin to defer more and more, to your judgment, and be guided by you. Soon your neighbors and colleagues will be coming to you for advice. Soon you'll be recognized as one who is great in small things, and you will be called upon more and more to take charge of larger things.

Obey your soul and have unwavering belief in yourself. Never think of yourself with doubt or distrust, or as one who makes mistakes.

# HURRY AND HABIT

YOU may have many domestic, social, physical, and financial problems that need an instant solution. There may be debts you need to pay or other obligations you must meet. And you may feel the need to handle them all at once. Do not get into a hurry and act from superficial impulses.

Solutions to any of these problems will come to you through the same power that brings you anything else you desire. This is a thought you must grasp and understand.

No matter what you desire, it will be impelled toward you. Therefore, a steadily held thought, with unwavering belief, will eventually bring you the things you desire – as long as you take action. Always believe in yourself and your decisions and be fearless when taking action.

**HURRY IS A MANIFESTATION OF FEAR.** When you are in a hurry you are acting from a place of fear.

If you make a decision you believe in, you will never be too late or too early and nothing will go wrong. If things appear to be going wrong, do not let it bother you mentally. It is only an appearance. Nothing is wrong unless you perceive it to be. And you can only be or go wrong when your attitude is wrong.

Whenever you find yourself getting excited, worried, or hurried, sit down and think it over. Take a break or even go on vacation. All will be right when you return. If you act in haste – you are not acting from a place of greatness.

Hurry and fear will instantly cut your connection with spirit. If you are not acting from a calm mindset, you will have little, if any, power, wisdom, and information. Fear turns strength to weakness. Power and poise are inseparably linked.

**THE CALM AND BALANCED MIND IS THE STRONG AND GREAT MIND WHILE THE HURRIED AND AGITATED MIND IS WEAK.** Whenever you fall into hurry, you will lose the right viewpoint and look upon the world, or some part of it, as going wrong. During such times, remember that nothing is going wrong, and nothing can be wrong. Be poised, calm, cheerful, and have full belief in yourself and your fellow man.

Now, I want to discuss habit.

You may find that your greatest difficulties will be overcoming your habitual ways of thinking and forming new habits. The world seems to be ruled by habit. Politicians, kings, tyrants, masters, and plutocrats hold their positions solely because people have come to habitually accept them. Things are as they are because people have formed the habit of accepting them as they are. When

people change their habitual thoughts about governmental, social, and industrial institutions, they will change them.

You may have even formed the habit of thinking of yourself as a common person – as one of a limited ability – or one who is a failure. **WHATEVER YOU HABITUALLY THINK OF YOURSELF, YOU WILL BECOME.**

You must form a new habit that will decide your destiny. Form a conception of yourself as possessing unlimited power. And hold this thought consistently. It will do you no good to take a few moments to affirm you are great, if during the balance of the day, you do not think you're great. No amount of affirmations will make you great if you habitually regard yourself as small.

Use affirmations that you believe in to change your habitual thoughts. Any act, mental or physical, often repeated, becomes a habit. The purpose of practicing affirmations is to repeat certain thoughts over and over until you think those thoughts habitually. Thoughts you continually repeat become convictions.

You must repeat the new thought of yourself until it is the only way you think of yourself. Habitual thought, not environment or circumstance, has made you what you are.

Right now you possess a central idea or conception of yourself. This is how you classify and arrange all your facts and external relationships. **YOU ARE CLASSIFYING YOUR FACTS EITHER ACCORDING TO THE IDEA THAT YOU ARE A GREAT AND STRONG PERSONALITY, OR ACCORDING TO THE IDEA THAT YOU ARE LIMITED, COMMON, OR WEAK.** If the latter is the case you must change your central idea and conception of yourself.

Get a new mental picture of yourself. Do not try to become great by repeating a mere string of words or any superficial formulas. Repeat over and over the thought of your own power and ability until you classify external facts, and decide your place by this idea.

Let's dive in and discuss thought.

# THOUGHT

**GREATNESS IS ONLY ATTAINED BY CONSTANTLY THINKING GREAT THOUGHTS.** No man can become great in outward personality until he is great internally. And no man can be great internally until he thinks as such.

No amount of education, reading, or study can make you great without thought. At the same time, thought can make you great with very little study. There are far too many people trying to make something of themselves by reading books without thinking. All will eventually fail. You are not developed mentally by what you read. You are developed by what you think about what you read.

**THINKING IS THE HARDEST AND MOST EXHAUSTING OF ALL LABOR, WHICH IS WHY SO FEW DO IT.**

You have been formed to continuously think.

All of us either think or engage in some activity aimed at escaping thought. The continuous chase for pleasure is what most people spend all their leisure time doing. This is a way to escape thought. This chase for pleasure results in people spending an inordinate amount of time reading novels, attending shows, watching sports, going shopping, using drugs, or engaging in other amusement-based activities which require little, or no thought whatsoever.

The result is that most people spend the majority of their leisure time & working hours, running away from thought – which is why they are where they are. You will never move forward until you begin to think.

Think more and read less. Read about great things and think about great questions and issues.

At the present time, we have very few really great political figures. Most are petty at best. There are no more Lincolns, Websters, Clays, Calhouns, or Jacksons. Why? Because our current politicians only choose to deal with petty issues. They tend to only deal with money issues, expediency and party success, and material prosperity without regard to anyone's ethical rights. The politicians of Lincoln's and previous times, dealt with questions of eternal truth, human rights, and justice. Politicians thought about great themes, possessed great thoughts, and as a result became great men.

Thinking, not mere knowledge or information, makes a great personality. You cannot think without growing and thinking is growth.

**EVERY THOUGHT PRODUCES ANOTHER THOUGHT.** Write one idea and others will surely follow. You cannot even start to fathom what your mind can think of. It has no known boundaries. Your first thoughts may be crude. And as

you go on thinking you'll use more and more of your mind. You will quickly elicit new brain cells into activity and develop new faculties.

Heredity, environment, circumstances, and all other things must give way to you, if you practice sustained and continuous thought. If you neglect to think for yourself and are submissive to other people's thoughts, you will never know what you are capable of. You'll find yourself incapable of doing anything of value.

**THERE CAN BE NO REAL GREATNESS WITHOUT ORIGINAL THOUGHT.**

All you do on the outside is an expression and the completion of your inward thinking.

No action is possible without thought and no great action is possible until a great thought precedes it. Action is the second form of thought and personality is the materialization of thought. Environment is the result of thought. All things group and arrange themselves around you according to your thought. There is, as Ralph Waldo Emerson says, some central idea or conception of yourself by which all the facts of your life are arranged and classified. Change this central idea and you change the arrangement or classification of all the facts and circumstances of your life. **YOU ARE WHAT YOU ARE, AND WHERE YOU ARE, BECAUSE YOU DO WHAT YOU THINK.**

You now see the immense importance of thinking. Do this with the understanding that you live in a perfect world, among perfect people, and that nothing can possibly be wrong with you but your own personal attitude. Think about all this until you fully realize what it means to you becoming great.

Consider your connection with spirit and its processes of organic, social, and industrial evolution. Also note how it's all going on to even greater completeness and harmony. Consider that there is one great, perfect, intelligent principle of life and power causing all the changing phenomena of the cosmos. Think about all this until you see it is true and until you comprehend how you should live and act in the greater scheme of such a perfect whole.

Next, remember that this great intelligence is in you. It is your own intelligence. It is an inner light impelling you toward the right thing, the best thing, the greatest act, and the highest happiness. It is a principle of power in you, giving you all the ability and genius there is. It will infallibly guide you to the best if you will submit to it.

Consider what is meant by your consecration of yourself when you say, "I will obey my soul." This has tremendous meaning. It will revolutionize your attitude and behavior. Then think of how you identify with spirit. All its knowledge and wisdom is yours for the asking. You are great if you think and act great. If you consistently think you are great and act in great ways, you cannot fail to be great.

**THOUGHTS AND ACTS OF GREATNESS WILL END IN A LIFE OF GREATNESS.** Great thoughts will manifest in a great personality.

So think and act greatly at all times.

Let's move on in our journey to greatness.

## ACTION AT HOME

DO not merely think that you're going to become great. **THINK THAT YOU ARE GREAT RIGHT NOW.**

Do not think that you will begin to act in a great way in the future – act in a great way today.

Do not think that you will act in a great way when you relocate to a different environment. Act in a great way where you are right now.

Do not think that you will begin to act in a great way when you begin to deal with great things. Begin to deal with small things in a great way.

Do not think that you will begin to be great when you get among more intelligent people or among people who understand you better. Begin to deal with the people around you right now in a great way.

If you are not in an environment where you can utilize your best talents, you can move in due time. Meanwhile be great where you are. Lincoln was as great when he was a backwoods lawyer as when he was President. As a backwoods lawyer he did common things in a great way and he eventually became the President of the United States. If he waited until he reached Washington to begin to be great, he would have remained unknown.

You're not made great by the location you're in or the things surrounding you.

You're not made great by what you receive from others, as you can never manifest greatness as long as you depend on others. **YOU WILL MANIFEST GREATNESS WHEN YOU STAND ALONE.** Dismiss all thought of reliance on external things books, or people. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Shakespeare will never be made by the study of Shakespeare. Shakespeare will be made by the thinking of Shakespearean thoughts."

Never mind how the people around you treat you. That has nothing at all to do with you being great and it cannot hinder you. People may neglect you and be unthankful and unkind in their attitude toward you. Does that prevent you from being great in your manner and attitude toward them? Treat the unthankful and the evil in a great and perfectly kind way.

And do not speak of how great you are, as you're no greater than those around you. You may have started a way of living and thinking which they have not discovered, but they are perfect on their own plane of thought and action. You're not entitled to any special honor or consideration for your greatness.

You will fall into a boastful attitude if you see other people's shortcomings and failures and compare them with your own virtues and successes. And if you fall into the boastful attitude of mind, you will cease to be great, and become small. Think of yourself as a perfect being among perfect beings, and meet every person as an equal, not as either superior or an inferior. Give yourself no airs. Great people never do.

**ASK NO HONOR AND SEEK NO RECOGNITION - HONORS AND RECOGNITION WILL COME FAST ENOUGH IF YOU'RE TRULY ENTITLED TO THEM.**

Begin by being great at home. A great person is always poised, assured, calm, and perfectly kind, and considerate at home. If your manner and attitude with your own family are always the best, you'll soon become the one that everyone else relies on. You'll be a tower of strength and a support in times of trouble. You will be loved and appreciated.

At the same time don't make the mistake of throwing yourself away just to please others. The great person respects himself. They serve and help and are still never slavishly servile. You cannot help your family by being a slave to them or by doing for them those things that they should do for themselves. You do a person more damage when you wait on them too much. The selfish and scheming are better off if their requests are denied. The ideal world is not one where people are constantly being waited on by other people.

The ideal world is where everyone waits on themself.

It's ok to meet all demands, selfish and otherwise, with perfect kindness and consideration. Just do not allow yourself to be made a slave to the whims, caprices, or slavish desires of any member of your family. This would not be acting from greatness and is detrimental to the other party.

Don't become uneasy over the failures or mistakes of any member of your family. And do not feel you must interfere. Don't be bothered if others seem to be going wrong. And don't feel that you must step in and set them right. Remember that every person is perfect on their own plane.

Don't meddle in the personal habits and practices of others, as these things are none of your business.

Remember that nothing can be wrong except your own personal attitude. Make your attitude right and everything else will be right. **YOU ARE A TRULY GREAT PERSON WHEN YOU DO NOT CRITICIZE OR INTERFERE WITH PEOPLE DOING THINGS YOU DO NOT BELIEVE IN.**

Always do what's best for you – and believe that every member of your family is doing what's best for them.

Nothing is wrong with anybody or anything – it's all perfect.

**DO NOT BE ENSLAVED BY ANY ONE ELSE – AND DO NOT ENSLAVE ANY ONE ELSE TO YOUR OWN NOTIONS OF WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG.**

Think deeply and continuously.

Be perfect in your kindness and consideration.

Never think of yourself as being superior to anyone.

**START BEING GREAT IN YOUR OWN HOME.**

Let's move on and discuss action abroad.

# ACTION ABROAD

## **YOU MUST BE GREAT EVERYWHERE YOU ARE.**

Always remember that this is a perfect world and you're no better than anyone else. You are as great as the greatest, but everyone is your equal.

Rely on your perception of truth. Always trust how you feel inside – rather than to any contrary reason. Always act with poise, grace, and calmness.

Always remember that you're able to tap into the knowledge and wisdom of spirit at anytime.

You can get through any contingency that arises. All that's required is that you stay calm and listen to the internal wisdom in you. If you act with poise, grace, and possess an unwavering belief in yourself, you'll know exactly what to do. Never worry or hurry.

Don't be disturbed if you're alone. If you need friends they will be brought to you at the right time. Do not be disturbed if you feel that you're ignorant. The information you need will be furnished to you when you need it.

That which is in you impelling you forward is in the things and people you need, impelling them toward you. If there is a particular person you need to know, they will be introduced to you. If there is a particular book you need to read it will be placed in your hands at the right time. **ALL THE KNOWLEDGE YOU NEED IS COMING TO YOU FROM BOTH EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SOURCES.**

Your information and your talents will always be equal to the requirements of the occasion. As soon as you awaken and begin to use your faculties in a great way, you'll apply power to the development of your brain. New cells will be created and dormant cells will be moved into activity. Your brain will be qualified as the perfect instrument for your mind.

Do not try to do great things until you're ready to do them in a great way. If you deal with great matters in a small way, from a low viewpoint, or with incomplete consecration and wavering faith and courage, you will definitely fail. Do not be in a hurry to get to the great things. Doing great things will not make you great – becoming great will lead you to doing great things.

## **BE GREAT WHERE YOU ARE IN THE THINGS YOU DO EVERY DAY.**

Don't be hasty to be recognized as a great person. Don't be disappointed if people don't nominate you for office within a month after you begin to practice being great. Great people never seek recognition, applause, or money for being great. Greatness is the only reward they seek. **THE JOY OF BEING**

**SOMETHING AND OF KNOWING THAT YOU'RE ADVANCING ALL LIFE IS THE GREATEST OF POSSIBLE JOYS.**

Remember to be great with your family, neighbors, friends, and colleagues. You'll soon find them depending on you, seeking your advice, looking to you for strength & inspiration, and relying on your judgment.

Avoid meddling in anyone else's affairs. Help everyone who comes to you and don't try to change them. Mind your own business. It's not your mission to judge and correct people's morals, habits, or practices. Lead a great life, doing all things with a great spirit in a great way. Give help to others as freely as you have received – but don't force your help or your opinions on anyone. If your neighbor wishes to smoke or drink, it's their business. It's not yours until they consult you about it. If you lead a great life without preaching, you will save a thousand times as many souls as one who leads a small life and preaches continuously.

If you hold the right viewpoint of the world, others will find out and be impressed by it through your daily conversation and practice. Do not try to convert others to your point of view, except by holding it, and living accordingly. If your consecration is perfect you do not need to tell any one. It will quickly become apparent to everyone that you're guided by a higher principle than the average person.

To become known as a great person, you do not have to do anything except live. Don't go looking for big things to do. **LIVE A GREAT LIFE WHERE YOU ARE, IN THE DAILY WORK YOU DO, AND GREATER WORK WILL FIND YOU.** Great things will come to you asking to be done.

Demonstrate how much you value others by treating everyone, beggar or otherwise, with the most distinguished consideration. Remember that we are all equal and nobody is inferior to anyone else. Everyone is perfect the way they are. Do not save all your consideration for the poor – the billionaire is as good as the tramp and vice versa. This is a perfectly good world, and there is not a person or thing in it that is not perfect. Always keep this in mind in all your dealings with all things and people.

Form your mental vision of yourself with care. Make the thought-form of yourself as you wish to be, and hold this thought with unwavering belief that it is being realized.

Always act and speak like a great person, everywhere, with everyone.

Let's move forward.

## SOME FURTHER EXPLANATIONS

I want to re-address the matter of point of view. This is a vitally important topic that is likely to give you the most trouble.

**WE HAVE ALL BEEN TRAINED, MAINLY BY MISTAKEN RELIGIOUS TEACHERS, TO LOOK UPON THE WORLD AS BEING LIKE A WRECKED SHIP – STORM-DRIVEN UPON A ROCKY COAST WITH DESTRUCTION AS ITS INEVITABLE END.** This is false information.

This view teaches us to consider the world bad and getting worse. It robs us of our hope for society, government, and humanity, while giving us a decreasing outlook and contracting mind. This is all wrong.

The world is not wrecked. It's like a magnificent steamer with the engines in place and machinery in perfect order. The bunkers are full of coal and the ship is amply provisioned for the cruise. There is no lack to be found. Spirit has provided everything necessary for the safety, comfort, and happiness of the crew. The steamer is out on the high seas riding the waves up and down because nobody has learned the right course to steer. We're learning to steer and in due time, we will dock grandly into the harbor of perfect harmony.

**THE WORLD IS GOOD AND GETTING BETTER EVERYDAY.** Existing discords and inharmoniousness are nothing but the pitching of the ship incidental to our own inability to steer correctly. This will all change in due time. This view gives us an increasing outlook and an expanding mind. It enables us to think largely of society and of ourselves, and to do things in a great way.

Nothing can be wrong with such a world or with any part of it – including our own affairs. Everything is moving toward completion.

You and all that you're concerned with are moving on toward completeness. Nothing or nobody can check this forward movement except yourself. And you can only check it by assuming a mental attitude that is aligned with spirit. You have nothing to keep right except yourself. If you keep yourself right, nothing can possibly go wrong with you, and you have nothing to fear. No business or disaster can intimidate you if your personal attitude is right. No matter what happens to you, it will not matter, if you're increasing and advancing life.

**YOUR THOUGHT-FORM WILL BE MAINLY SHAPED ACCORDING TO YOUR VIEWPOINT OF THE WORLD.** If you see the world as lost and ruined, you'll see yourself as part of it. If your outlook of the world is hopeless – your outlook for yourself will be hopeless. If you see the world as declining, you cannot see yourself as advancing. Unless you think well of all the works of spirit, you cannot really think well of yourself, and unless you think well of yourself, you can never become great.

**I WILL CONSISTENTLY REPEAT THAT YOUR PLACE IN LIFE, INCLUDING YOUR MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT, IS DETERMINED BY THE THOUGHT-FORM YOU HABITUALLY HOLD OF YOURSELF.** When you make a thought-form of yourself, you can hardly fail to form in your mind a corresponding environment. If you think of yourself as an incapable, inefficient person, you will think of yourself with poor or cheap surroundings. Unless you think well of yourself you will be sure to picture yourself in a more or less poverty-stricken environment. These thoughts, habitually held, become invisible forms in the surrounding mind-stuff, and are with you continually.

In due time, by the regular action of the eternal creative energy, the invisible thought-forms are produced in material stuff, and you're surrounded by your own thoughts made into material things.

See nature and society as great living and advancing presences. It is all one, coming from one source, and it is all good. You are made of the same stuff as spirit and also advancing.

Let's take a moment and revisit thought.

## MORE ABOUT THOUGHT

**YOU WILL BECOME GREAT WHEN YOUR OWN THOUGHTS MAKE YOU GREAT – THEREFORE IT IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO ALWAYS THINK.**

You will never do great things in the external world until you think great things internally.

You will never think great things until you think about truth and about the verities. To think great things you must be sincere. You must know in your heart that your intentions are right. Insincere or false thinking is never great.

Your first and most important step is to seek the truth about human relations. You need to know what you ought to be to others and what they ought to be to you. This brings you back to the search for a right viewpoint.

The next step is to think yourself into the right personal attitude. Your viewpoint tells you what the right attitude is – and obedience to the soul puts you into it. If you're selfish in your aims, dishonest and crooked in your intentions or practices, your thinking will be false and your thoughts will have no power. Think about the way you're doing things. Think about all your intentions, purposes, and practices, until you know they are right.

To rid yourself of old, false ideas, you'll have to think about the value of people. Cease from looking at human mistakes and look at successes. Cease from seeing faults and see strengths.

You can no longer look at people as lost and ruined beings descending into a lower life form. You must regard everyone as shining souls advancing life. This will require willpower at times. **AND THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO USE YOUR WILLPOWER THAN TO DECIDE WHAT YOU WILL THINK ABOUT AND HOW YOU WILL THINK.**

The function of the will is to direct thought. Think only about the good, lovely, and attractive side of people.

Here some interesting quotes regarding the importance of thought and how it relates to being great...

“We may divide thinkers into those who think for themselves and those who think through others. The latter are the rule and the former the exception. The first are original thinkers in a double sense and egotists in the noblest meaning of the word.” – Schopenhauer

“The key to every man is his thought. Sturdy and defiant though he look, he has a helm which he obeys, which is the idea after which all his facts are classified.

He can only be reformed by showing him a new idea which commands his own.”  
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

“All truly wise thoughts have been thought already thousands of times; but to make them really ours we must think them over again honestly till they take root in our personal expression.” – Goethe

“All that a man is outwardly is but the expression and completion of his inward thought. To work effectively he must think clearly. To act nobly he must think nobly.” - Channing

“Great men are they who see that spirituality is stronger than any material force; that thoughts rule the world.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Some people study all their lives, and at their death they have learned everything except to think.” – Domergue

“It is the habitual thought that frames itself into our life. It affects us even more than our intimate social relations do. Our confidential friends have not so much to do in shaping our lives as the thoughts have which we harbor.” – J. W. Teal

“When God lets loose a great thinker on this planet, then all things are at risk. There is not a piece of science but its flank may be turned tomorrow; nor any literary reputation or the so-called eternal names of fame that may not be refused and condemned.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

**THINK! THINK!! THINK!!!**

## A VIEW OF EVOLUTION

YOU may be wondering, “How can we throw ourselves into altruistic work if we are surrounded by poverty, ignorance, suffering, and every appearance of misery?”

Those who live where the hand of want is thrust upon them from every side appealingly for aid must find it difficult to refrain from continuous giving. Again, there are social and other irregularities and injustices done to the weak. This moves generous souls with an almost irresistible desire to set things right. We want to start a crusade. We feel that the wrongs will never be righted until we give ourselves wholly to the task. In all this we must fall back on the right point of view.

### **WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A GOOD WORLD IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING COMPLETE.**

There was a time when there was no life on this earth. According to early geological studies, the earth was once a ball of burning gas and molten rock clothed with boiling vapors. It seems impossible that any form of life could have existed under such conditions. Geological studies also tells us that later on a crust formed, the earth cooled and hardened, the vapors condensed and became mist or fell in rain. The cooled surface crumbled into soil, moisture accumulated, ponds and seas were gathered together, and at last somewhere in the water or on the land something alive appeared. It is reasonable to assume that this first life was single-celled organisms. And behind these cells was the insistent urge of spirit, the great one life seeking expression. Soon organisms having too much life to express themselves with one cell had two cells. And even more life was poured into them.

Multiple-celled organisms were formed including plants, trees, vertebrates, and mammals. They were all different colors, shapes and sizes. All of these organisms were perfect.

Many of these organisms were crude and almost monstrous forms of both animal and plant life. **STILL, EVERYTHING FILLED ITS PURPOSE IN ITS DAY AND IT WAS ALL FOR THE GOOD AND ADVANCEMENT OF LIFE.**

Then another great day of the evolutionary process took place when man first appeared. The first man was an ape-like being, little different from the beasts around him in appearance, but infinitely different capacity for growth and thought. Art, beauty, architecture, song, poetry and music, were unrealized possibilities in that ape-man’s soul. And for his time and kind he was very good.

From the day the first mankind appeared, spirit began to work in them, putting more and more of itself into each succeeding generation. Spirit pushed mankind

to larger achievements and to better social, governmental, and domestic conditions. Those who studied ancient history saw the awful conditions that existed, as well as the barbarities, idolatries, and sufferings. For this reason, mankind had to rise. This was accomplished by the successive unfolding of the various powers and possibilities latent in the human brain.

**SPIRIT DESIRED TO EXPRESS ITSELF AND LIVE IN A FORM ON THE HIGHEST MORAL AND SPIRITUAL PLANE.**

The ages of warfare, bloodshed, suffering, injustice, and cruelty were tempered in many ways with love and justice as time advanced. And this was developing the brains of mankind to a point where they should be capable of giving full expression to the justice of spirit.

Let's discuss how to serve spirit.

# SERVING SPIRIT

WHEN people start making something of themselves, and practicing “the Science of Being Great,” they find themselves compelled to rearrange many of their relationships.

There are friends who may feel alienated. There are relatives who misunderstand and feel they’re being slighted.

Many people often consider a great person selfish – especially those connected to them in some way. These people believe that the great person should give them extra attention or benefits.

So great people are faced with a seemingly difficult question – “Is it my duty to make the most of myself regardless of everything else? Or shall I wait until I can do so without any friction or without causing loss to any one?”

## **THIS IS THE QUESTION OF DUTY TO SELF VS. DUTY TO OTHERS.**

Your duty to the world has been thoroughly discussed already, so I will now give some consideration to the idea of duty to spirit. An immense number of people have a great deal of uncertainty, not to say anxiety, as to what they ought to do for spirit.

The amount of work and service that is done for spirit is enormous. An immense amount of human energy is, and has been expended in serving spirit. I propose to briefly consider what serving spirit is and how you may best may serve spirit.

The view of evolution we have taken shows spirit seeking expression through each individual. **THROUGH ALL THE SUCCESSIVE AGES SPIRIT HAS HELPED MANKIND ADVANCE.** It is during this advancement that spirit has continually been seeking expression. Every generation is more spirit-like than the preceding generation. Every generation demands more things like fine homes, pleasant surroundings, congenial work, rest, travel, play, and opportunity for study, than the preceding generation.

I have heard some shortsighted economists argue that the working people of today should be content because their condition is so much better than that of the workingman three hundred years ago. This is the same workingman that slept in windowless huts on floors covered with dirt in the company of their pigs. Obviously the workingman of three hundred years ago was not content and the world is better for it.

And we should be no more content than they were and work to advance life even further.

Most people today have a comfortable home and many other things that were unknown in the past. Still, we are rightfully not content.

Spirit is constantly raising the bar so any common man can picture a better and more desirable life than he has under existing conditions. **AS LONG AS MANKIND STAYS DISCONTENT WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE, THEY WILL ADVANCE LIFE.**

The only service you can render spirit is to give expression to what it is trying to give the world, through you – and make the very most of yourself.

# A SUMMARY OF THE SCIENCE OF BEING GREAT

ALL individuals are made of the one intelligent substance, and therefore all contain the same essential powers and possibilities.

Greatness is equally inherent in all, and may be manifested by all.

Every constituent of spirit is a constituent of mankind.

## **YOU CAN BECOME GREAT.**

You can overcome heredity and circumstances by exercising the inherent creative power of your soul. If you are to become great, your soul must act, and must rule your mind and the body.

Your knowledge is limited, and you will, from time to time, fall into error through ignorance. To avoid this you must connect your soul to spirit. Spirit is the intelligent substance from which all things come. It's in and through all things. All things are known to this universal mind, and you can unite yourself with it and tap into its knowledge.

To do this you must cast out everything separating you from spirit. You must rise above all moral temptations and forsake every course of action that's not in accord with your highest ideals.

You must reach the right viewpoint, recognizing that spirit is all, in all, and there is nothing wrong. You must see that nature, society, government, and industry are perfect in their present stage, and advancing toward completion.

**ALL PEOPLE ARE GOOD AND PERFECT.** Know that all is right with the world, and unite with spirit to complete this perfect work. You must see good in all so you can rise to greatness.

You must consecrate yourself to the service of the highest within yourself and obey the voice of your soul.

Recognize that you are one with spirit and act accordingly. You must have absolute belief in your perceptions of truth, and begin acting on these perceptions at home. As you see the true and right course in small things – you must take that course.

You must form a mental conception of yourself and hold this conception habitually. Outwardly realize and express this conception in all your actions.

**YOU MUST DO EVERYTHING IN A GREAT WAY.**

In dealing with your family, neighbors, acquaintances, colleagues, and friends, you must make every act an expression of your ideal.

When you make every act, however trivial, an expression of your ideal, you'll attain greatness. Everything you do will be done in a great way. You'll make yourself known, and will be recognized as a personality of power. You'll receive knowledge by inspiration, and will know all you need to know. You'll receive all the material wealth you form in your thoughts, and will not lack for anything. You'll be given ability to deal with any combination of circumstances that may arise, and your growth and progress will be continuous and rapid.

**GREAT WORKS WILL SEEK YOU OUT, AND ALL PEOPLE WILL DO YOU HONOR.**

THE END