



# **26 Enemies of Character**

By Napoleon Hill



Fear	Cruelty
Greed	Mercilessness
Intolerance	Injustice
Egotism	Slander
Lust	Gossip
Anger	Undependability
Hatred	Dishonesty
Jealousy	Disloyalty
Impatience	Revenge
Deceit	Worry
Falsehood	Envy
Insincerity	Hypochondria
Vanity	Indecision

“The foremost is **FEAR**. The expression of fear denies man the use of his true power of thought - a power which can enable each individual to acquire all of his physical needs and control his earthly destiny.

The next great enemy is **GREED** for the possession of material things and for power to control others for selfish ends. No person who is filled with greed and avarice can pass through the Jungle of Life and successfully attain and use the Supreme Secret, for he affronts the Creator when he violates the rights of others.

**INTOLERANCE** is third on the list of enemies. Intolerance is the evil partner of selfishness and ignorance. It closes the mind and shuts out facts. It deprives a person of valuable friendships he will need in his journey through life and repels the co-operation of others.

**EGOTISM** is the fourth great enemy of man. Self-respect is a most desirable quality, but self-love is self-deceit and causes a man to lose his respect for others.

**LUST** is the fifth enemy. It prevents sex emotion from being properly transmuted and properly directed. It leads to excessive sexual expressions which dissipate the vital creative forces of mind and body.

**ANGER**, the sixth enemy, is a form of temporary insanity. Righteous indignation that is controlled and directed toward the correction of a cause is occasionally necessary, but those who live with rage cannot truly know the Supreme Secret.

**HATRED**, the seventh enemy, is anger which has been allowed to dwell in the mind until it has hardened like so much cement. It is a mind-poison which erroneously twists the individual's thinking. One who harbors hate cannot control and direct his power of thought toward constructive ends, and thus he is denied this one and only outright prerogative with which man has been blessed by the Creator.

... **JEALOUSY**, that mixture of covetousness and fear; and of **IMPATIENCE**, which prevents cause from bearing its fruit in effect.

... **DECEIT**, which in the end deceives the deceiver; **FALSEHOOD**, which weaves a noose with which the liar spiritually hangs himself; the related enemy of **INSINCERITY**; and **VANITY**, which makes men vulgar and forms a repulsive force.

...**CRUELTY**, which attracts all the other enemies like a pack of wolves, and **MERCILESSNESS**, which turns it's back upon those in need and makes the soul shrivel.

...**INJUSTICE**, **SLANDER** and **GOSSIP**.

...one may know the Supreme Secret in words but cannot use it if he ever attempts to destroy others.

... the Black Forest closes in for a lifetime upon those who do not vanquish the enemies of **UNDEPENDABILITY**, **DISHONESTY**, **DISLOYALTY** and **REVENGE**.

**WORRY**, which reveals that a man is no bigger than that which he allows to worry him; **ENVY**, a form of jealousy which most particularly destroys initiative and self-discipline; **HYPOCHONDRIA**, which prevents the mind from conceiving the continued good health of its bodily temple and so gives ill health its first foothold, which often is in the mind; and **INDECISION**, which grows stronger the more it is indulged until it rides one's back and one can fall and lie lost in the Black Forest.

"There are other enemies of man, but who conquers these twenty- six will conquer all the others.'

### **The principle of prayer.**

"Prayer is to be based upon a real need for help to accomplish something of constructive value.

In true prayer one asks for help only after he has proved, by his own effort, that his own powers are not sufficient to enable him to accomplish his purpose.

The person who prays for help should not assume he gives over his own individual freedom of action, but rather should know he is to co-operate with the helping agencies he cannot see.

He must know, with confident self-respect, that his first duty is to improve himself and his condition; and that out of this, when it is well done, flows his second duty, which is to help humanity.

## A Word Of Caution

...now and then open spaces appear in that Black Forest, and as one walks clear of clinging underbrush he may think he has conquered all of the twenty-six enemies. This may be a deception on the part of the enemies.

A dependable way to keep track of the enemies one has overcome is to list them on a chart, thus:

Fear	Cruelty
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The list should be checked at least once a year. Done honestly, and with the insight and self-knowledge one has gained, such a check enables one to search his record and know the names of the defeated enemies. These are crossed off the list. As long as one enemy remains, the person who made the list still wanders in the Jungle of Life. When every enemy has been accounted for, he has passed through the Jungle.

