



Acres of Diamonds

Russell H. Conwell

Read by:	Scott Dahlem, Phil Chenevert	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	6 hours 10 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1171
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Genre:	Education and Self-Help		

Acres of Diamonds is a book by Russell H. Conwell that was published in 1890 as a document of a lecture by the same name that he gave over 6,000 times to audiences all over world. The title derives from a story Conwell had heard from an Arab guide concerning a farmer so eager to find diamonds that he sold his land and went off to search for them in vain. In the meantime, the buyer of his property was fortunate to discover a diamond mine on the property. The central idea, of course, is that one need not search far and wide for opportunity; all that is necessary to achieve good things is present in one's own community. The lecture was first given in 1869 by Conwell to a reunion of the 46th Massachusetts Regiment that had served in the Civil War. He continued to deliver the lecture on the Chautauqua circuit until his death in 1925.

This edition includes two readings of the *Acres of Diamonds* lecture, the first by Phil Chenevert and the second by Scott Dahlem. These are followed by a reading of "His Life and Achievements" by Robert Shackleton, read by Scott Dahlem.

Russell Herman Conwell (February 15, 1843 – December 6, 1925) was an American minister, lecturer, attorney, and author remembered as founder of Temple University for his inspirational lecture *Acres of Diamonds*. He was born in western Massachusetts and attended Wilbraham Wesleyan Academy and Yale University, leaving Yale in 1862 to serve in the Union Army. He commanded the 46th Massachusetts regiment during his first tour of duty in North Carolina. He sustained a shoulder wound, re-enlisted and sustained serious injury during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, retiring from the service a second time in 1864. After the war he studied law and worked as an attorney, journalist and lecturer, and published numerous books, including campaign biographies of U.S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, and James A. Garfield. He was called to the ministry and ordained a Baptist minister in 1880 and led a congregation in Lexington, Massachusetts before joining the Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia in 1882. His work with youth groups led to his founding of Temple University, where he served as first president and today enrolls over 37,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students. His lecture "Acres of Diamonds" was inspired by a story heard from an Arab guide in the Middle East and is considered a classic of the New Thought movement of the 19th century, which promotes the ubiquity and infinite intelligence of the divinity. Conwell delivered the lecture over 6,000 times on the Chautauqua circuit, making it the most popular of the time and providing the funds to support Temple University, the Samaritan Hospital and other endeavors.