



NUGGET

The Master's Jewel

Summary: An explanation as to why the Square, the Jewel of the Worshipful Master, is a fitting emblem.

Most Freemasons will know the Square as one of the working tools of a Fellowcraft and that it is:

'an angle of 90 degrees or the fourth part of a circle'.

It is one of the Great Lights of Freemasonry and an important and significant Masonic symbol.

We are surrounded by squares in our Lodge rooms, and it is seen in our salutes; in the position of our feet; in the way we move around the Lodge; and in many other ways.



The Square is also the Jewel and emblem of the Worshipful Master. An emblem of Geometry and the basis of our art.

The Master epitomises the whole Craftsman who, having served his full apprenticeship has arrived at that stage of spiritual and moral perfection, which should be the aim of all true men and good Masons. Hence, when invested, he is called upon to practice all those moral virtues which constitute a good man and a true Mason.

His obligation is taken in the Second Degree, and the Square is one of a triad of working tools of that Degree and all candidates are received upon it.

It was also a very important implement to the operative masons, being made up of two arms enclosing an angle of 90 degrees, to create a right-angle. Such that, it has become synonymous with accuracy. The Square, if well applied, will perfectly show where the Gavel and Chisel should be employed, and how much their use is necessary. Using it, operative masons were able to precisely adjust the edges, sides and angles of their work, ensuring that they were able to accurately fit stones into position and form the finest joints.



The word 'square' has also become a by-word for honest dealing and sincerity of purpose. One of the Masonic principles adopted into everyday language and a symbol of the Craft itself. Hence dictionaries inform us that 'on the Square' is a term of honesty and genuineness and that 'being on the Square' means to be a Freemason. So perhaps, we may proudly feel that others outside our order know that Freemasons are honest and genuine men!

For the Worshipful Master, the Square is a significant emblem of morality. As by the application of the Square, the stone is tried and proved. So, by the application of the principles of morality, each action of human life is judged, and approved or condemned, as it coincides with or deviates from, those eternal and binding principles. And as the stone which on inspection with the Square does not prove 'true and trusty', is rejected, so each action that is not consistent with the rules of morality should likewise be rejected.

The Worshipful Master holds the highest office in the Lodge and it is his duty to preserve strict attention to moral behaviour and to observe and correct any deviation from the rules of decency and good conduct. Thus, it is by the square conduct of the Worshipful Master that he rules the Lodge, and why his distinctive Jewel is the Square.



Recommended use of Nuggets

Nuggets offer a short, simple and readily absorbed means of progressing Masonic knowledge and an easy way to introduce learning to Lodges and Chapters. It is hoped that they will become a regular feature of Lodge and Chapter meetings as well as a source for private-study.

Nuggets can be included as an item in the summons and read at most Lodge/Chapter meetings. They can be:

Read by either a new or an experienced Mason with the minimum of preparation and practice; though ideally, they need to be read a few times beforehand.

Themed with the meeting or activity.

Used to initiate a discussion within a Lodge/Chapter, LOI/COI, or group.

Read at home and shared as a topic for a future discussion.

Used as a focus for an unplanned, informal discussion.

*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version and any reference to ritual will be from Emulation unless otherwise specified.

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