

The Old Square
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Once upon a time, there was a builder. In his village and the surrounding land he was known as the best builder. People came from far and wide to see his works, for each was a beautiful sight.

He was a simple man and worked with simple tools. It was often his practice to take apprentices and guide them in the beauty of building.

One day, while working with an apprentice, the apprentice went to throw away one of the brass squares. The master builder asked him why he would do such a thing. The young man replied that it was no longer accurate. The brass square showed the plank not to be square. The plank was from the best sawmill of the land, surely the plank was correct and the square had lost its usefulness.

The Master builder asked the apprentice to test the integrity of the square and it was found the problem was with the plank of wood and not the square. The builder then asked the apprentice if they should throw away the plank, as he had intended to do with the square? The answer came quick and loud; the apprentice wanted to work with the plank and make it true using the old brass square. The builder asked him what made the new plank worth saving and the old square to be thrown away?

So it is with Freemasonry. Many times today the ideals and truths we hear in our lodges are found not to "square up" with society. Are we then to throw out what we have learned, or take the knowledge from our lessons and make an impact on society. Living by the square is not a new idea.

While rebuilding Baal Bridge in Ireland in 1830, the workers found an old brass square with the following inscription: I will strive to live with love & care, upon the level, by the square. The date on the square was 1517! Today we still hold true the thought that was inscribed on the square.

Brethren all through the ages have strived to live by the square. For the square reminds us of the lessons of morality, of truthfulness and of honesty. The square keeps us in touch with God. Morality, truthfulness and honesty are the standards of Freemasonry. Our living of these standards is measured by the square. So many times we are tempted to discard the square as not being a good fit to our lives. But, if we look closely, the square is always well formed, true and trusty.