

Let there be light

ON THE SQUARE

The expression “on the square” has been around for more years than I care to remember. It is widely used although most would not be aware of the significance.

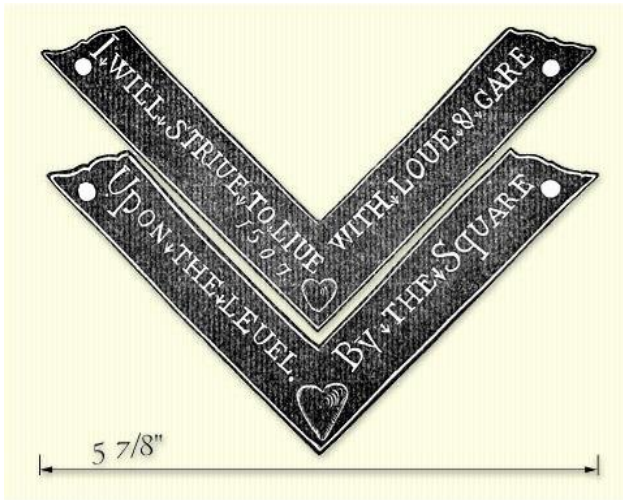
As I said it has been adopted throughout the world – not only by we Freemasons by also by the profane (the uninitiated). Irrespective of who uses the phrase it has much the same meaning. That a person lives an upright life, honesty and truthfulness, that in his dealings with others he treats them fairly.

Sadly little is ever written about the term so here goes...see what you make of the following.

Albert Mackey has but a few lines, and the *Encyclopedia Britannica* just barely refers to it as an expression of Freemasonry. Here are some additional ideas.

The Masonic Square used by our ancient Brethren was the stone masons’ square, not the carpenter’s square.

They used the 24-inch gauge to measure and lay out their work and the square to prove right angles. We know that the square was used by our ancient Operative Brethren, but just when it began to have a speculative meaning is uncertain.



We do know, however, that in the year 1830, while repairs were being made on the ancient stone bridge call *Baal*, located near Limerick, Ireland, a brass square was found under the foundation stone, and on it was inscribed these words: “*I will strive to live with love and care, on the level, by the Square,*” and dated 1517.

Who wrote it? there was no name and we have no idea who put it there, but at that time the average operative Mason was unable to read or write.



There can be no doubt that whoever placed it there was a Speculative Mason.

The square is the recognized symbol of morality, honest and truthfulness, and living “by the Square” means living a life that is upright, honest and truthful. What is the measure of which we are to judge this? Living “*by the Square*” means living by the Golden Rule, which is the basis of all major religions. Some use it in the negative, and that is... “*Do not unto others that which you would not have them do unto you.*”

It is the Divine Truth given by TGAOTU to the first men and to every man that ever lived. It is the knowledge of fundamental right and wrong, and is one of the things that makes man different from other animals. It is a simple thing, “*Do unto others that which you would have them do unto you.*”

Yet, it is almost impossible for man to live like that (*according to me*)....but we can all try. The Great Architect of the Universe does not expect us to be perfect, but He does expect us to try to be.

One of the most difficult things for man to do is to grant another person the same right to his opinions that he demands for himself.

It is difficult to realize that we might be wrong and other to be right. It is impossible for man not to be biased. His very nature makes it impossible, for there never has been one who knew absolute truth.

We should always remember that, no matter how sure we are in our decisions, there is a possibility that we may be wrong and another may be right...*and that which appears to be the complete knowledge of any subject may be only the beginning.*

NOTE

I have always wondered why the ideas of Masons long gone are accepted as Gospel, while the ideas of today's Masons are not given credence at all.

What is there in the ideas of Masons long gone that makes their ideas any better or more profound than the ideas of today's Masons?

*I know the answer to that Question....***NOTHING**

The explanations provided by any Freemason of today is as fully entitled to our consideration as is the thoughts and explanations available to us from any age.

Who are we to say that this is right, or that is wrong. All that we need to do is to determine for ourselves if the idea expressed is rational and in line with the mainstream of masonic thought.

Every idea is worthy of consideration.