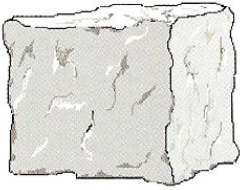


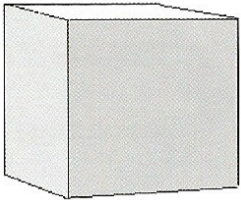
The Rough and Perfect Ashlars

You will notice in the Lodge room, near to the Junior Warden's pedestal, a rough hewn block of stone, which Brethren will refer to as the Rough Ashlar. It represents the newly-admitted Entered Apprentice Freemason; an individual hewn from the quarry of life outside Masonry and now ready to be worked upon with the Mason's "moral tools", the common gavel and the chisel.



The common gavel, used by the operative Mason 'to knock off all superfluous knobs and excrescences' is morally used by Freemasons to improve themselves. It represents the force of conscience which should keep down all vain and unbecoming thoughts so that our words and actions may ascend unpolluted to the Throne of Grace.

In another part of the Lodge room, near to the Senior Warden's pedestal, you will observe a second block of stone, but unlike the Rough Ashlar, this one is smooth and perfectly shaped. You will hear it referred to as the "Perfect Ashlar". The Perfect Ashlar represents the man who has applied the chisel, the tool used by Operative Masons "to further prepare and smooth the stone", to himself. Morally it points out that this shaping and smoothing of the individual is achieved by a liberal and virtuous education, which cultivates his mind and renders him a fit member of regularly, organised society.



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

**A series of Fact Sheets for an
Entered Apprentice**

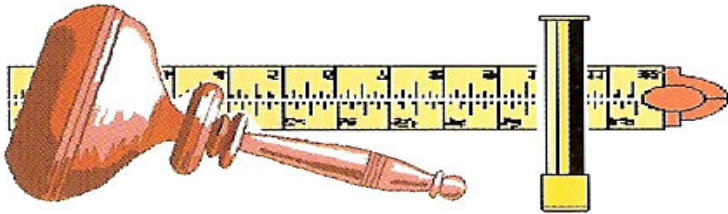
EA 05 The Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice



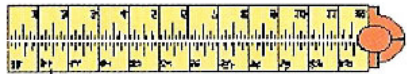
Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

The Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice

At a certain point during the ceremony of your Initiation into Freemasonry you were presented with three 'working tools' and their actual and symbolic purposes were explained to you. They were the 24 inch gauge, the common gavel and the chisel.



The 24 inch gauge is to measure our work, the common gavel to knock off all superfluous knobs and excrescences, and the chisel to further smooth and prepare the stone and render it fit for the hands of the more expert workman. But, as we are not all operative Masons, but rather free and accepted or speculative, we apply these tools to our morals.



In this sense the 24 inch gauge represents the 24 hours of the day, part to be spent in prayer to Almighty God, part in labour and refreshment, and part in serving a friend or Brother in time of need, without detriment to ourselves or connections.

The common gavel represents the force of conscience, which should keep down all vain and unbecoming thoughts which might obtrude during any of the aforementioned periods, so that our words and actions may ascend unpolluted to the Throne of Grace



The chisel points out to us the advantages of education, by which means alone we are rendered fit members of regularly organised society.

In applying these tools to our morals you will observe some very important aspects of the behaviour now expected of you as a Mason.

A prerequisite to your Initiation into Freemasonry was the profession of your belief in a Supreme being - your God - whether Christian, Jewish or otherwise. The moral teaching of the 24 inch gauge, and thereby of the Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice Freemason, is first and foremost that you should set aside some time, every day, to offer up your prayers to Almighty God.



Freemasonry is teaching you, above everything else, the importance of a regular, daily dialogue with your Creator.

Of secondary importance is labour and refreshment and, if you have the time, serving a friend or Brother in time of need without detriment to yourself or connections. Note that it is NOT putting attendance at Masonic meetings above the importance of your family connections or your work. Remember, in this context, Freemasonry is a luxury. You may find, as time goes by, that you develop considerable enthusiasm for Freemasonry. Do not let that enthusiasm come between you and your family or between you and your work.

A further word of caution. If you go on to take office in the Lodge and you know there is a meeting which you cannot attend due to a family or work commitment, do give your apologies, with as much notice as possible, to the Secretary or Director of Ceremonies. If one thing is certain to upset Freemasons it is being "let down" by a Brother.

The moral lessons taught by the common gavel and chisel are linked.