



## **Educational Fact Sheets for a Candidate**

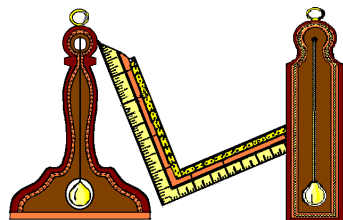
A series of Fact Sheets to provide guidance  
for a Fellow Craft

### **FC 10A The Working Tools Of a Fellow Craft (Taylor's Working)**

### *The Working Tools of a Fellow Craft*

*Notes*

In the First Degree you were introduced to the Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice; tools used to hew the rough stone and make it fit for the more expert workman. As a Fellow Craft Freemason you are introduced to the Working Tools of the more expert workman, which are the Square, Level and Plumb Rule,



and you will remember being told:

*I now present to your notice the Working Tools of a Fellow Craft Free Mason; they are the Square, the Level and the Plumb Rule. The Square is to try whilst constructing rectangular corners of buildings and to assist in bringing rude matter into due form. The Level is to lay levels and to prove horizontals; and the Plumb Rule to try and to adjust uprights whilst fixing them on their proper bases. However, as we are not operative, but free and accepted, or speculative Masons, we apply these tools to our morals. In this sense the Square teaches us to regulate our lives and actions according to Masonic line and rule, and to harmonise our conduct so as to render us acceptable to that Divine Being from whom all goodness springs and to whom we must give an account of all our actions.*

*The Level demonstrates that we have all sprung from the same stock, are partakers of the same nature, and sharers in the same hope, and although distinctions among men are necessary to prove subordination, yet ought no eminence of situation cause us to forget that we are Brothers and that he who is on the lowest spoke of*

## ***Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge***

### **Moveable Jewels.**

The importance of the Working Tools of a Fellow Craft Freemason is shown by the jewels worn on the collars of the three Principal Officers of the Lodge. The Worshipful Master wears the Square; the Senior Warden wears the Level and the Junior Warden wears the Plumb Rule. The tools are also usually shown on their pedestals. These three Officers must have demonstrated each of the moral qualities of the relevant tool before taking office.

The three jewels are called the 'Moveable' Jewels of the Lodge as they are passed on to their successors on an Installation night.

*fortune's wheel is equally entitled to our regard, for a time will come, and the wisest of us knows not how soon, when all distinctions save those of goodness and virtue shall cease, and death, the grand leveller of all human greatness, will reduce us to the same state.*

*The infallible Plumb Rule which, like Jacobs ladder, connects Heaven and Earth, is the criterion of rectitude and truth. It teaches us to walk justly and uprightly before God and man, turning neither to the right nor to the left from the strict path of virtue; not to be an enthusiast, persecutor, slanderer or reviler of religion; not bending towards avarice, injustice, malice, revenge, nor the envy and contempt of mankind, but giving up every selfish consideration which might have a tendency to injure others. To steer the barque of life o'er the rough sea of passion without quitting the helm of rectitude is the highest perfection to which human nature can attain. And as the builder raises his column by the aid of the Level and Plumb Rule, so ought every Freemason to conduct himself through life; to observe a due medium between avarice and profusion, to hold the scales of justice with an equipoise, to make his passions and prejudices coincide with the strict line of his duty and in all his pursuits to have eternity in view. Thus the Square teaches morality, the Level equality, and the Plumb Rule justness and uprightness of life and actions, so that by Square conduct, Level steps, and upright intentions, we hope to ascend to those blessed mansions whence all goodness emanates.*

**Everyday sayings.** Let us now look at these Working Tools a little closer. Many Masonic symbols and sayings have found their way into our everyday vocabulary.

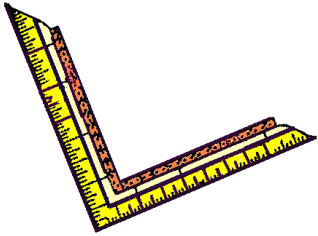
'Acting on the Square with someone'

'That man's on the level'

'He's an upright citizen'

## Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

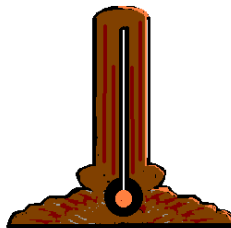
All these originate from the Second Degree Working Tools and it's not surprising that they denote good qualities in the person being referred to, because Freemasons attaining their Fellow Craft Degree are taught the moral lessons contained in these tools, which are :



**The Square** is the symbol of morality, truthfulness and honesty. The direction of the two sides of the Square form an angle of 90°, or a right angle, so called because this is the angle which stones must have if they are to be used to build a stable and upright wall. It symbolises accuracy, not even

varying by a single degree. When we part upon the Square, we go in different directions, but in full knowledge that our courses in life will be going according to the angle of the Square (which means in the right direction), until we meet again.

**The Level** is a symbol of equality. We do not mean equality in wealth, social distinction, civic office, or service to mankind; but, rather, we refer to the internal, and not the external, qualifications. Each person is endowed with a worth and dignity which is spiritual, and should not be subject to man-made distinctions. Masonry recognises that one man may have greater potential in life, service, or reward than another; but, we also believe that any man can aspire to any height, no matter how great. Thus, the Level dignifies labour and the man who performs it. It also acknowledges that all men are equal without regard to station. The Level also symbolises the passage of time.



**The Plumb Rule** is a symbol of uprightness of conduct. In Freemasonry, it is associated with the plumb line which the Lord promised Amos he would set in the midst of His people, Israel, symbolising God's standard of divine righteousness. The plumb line in the midst of a people should mean that they will be judged by their own sense of right and wrong, and not by the standards of others.

By understanding the Plumb Rule, a Mason is to judge his Brothers by their own standards and not those of someone else. When the plumb line is thought of in this way, it becomes a symbol of an upright life and of the conscience by which each person must live. This idea is closely tied to the concept of Justice. For, in truth, Justice is giving another man his due.

### Testing instruments.

You will notice that the Working Tools of this degree have moved on from the labourers tools of the Entered Apprentice and are now testing instruments. With them we try, square and prove. With them we learn to develop the faculty of judgment: what is valuable, what is true, what is real. They also symbolise that you are at the halfway point in your Masonic journey, superior to what you previously were but inferior to that which it is hoped you will achieve.

We have, in fact progressed to the science of Geometry and we stress the importance of Geometry in the Charge after passing. In this Charge the candidate is informed: *“The study of the liberal Arts, which tends so effectually to polish and adorn the mind, is earnestly recommended to your consideration, especially the Science of Geometry, which is established as the basis of our Art”*.