

Worshipful Master Lodge Discussion Series

Title: Square

Version: 1.0

Purpose: Test how you know right from wrong before you act, not after. Brothers examine the difference between decisions made from principle and decisions made from pressure or preference.

Keywords: principle, before action, testable standard


Materials Needed:


None

Supporting Content/Guides

PDF - AMW Groundrules

Related Podcast Episodes:

 Yin and Yang in the Mortar: What Compassion Teaches the Builder

 Everyone You Know Starts Out as an Imaginary Friend

 Using the Square of Virtue to Go Beyond Morality



Setup:

WM Time Needed:

2 minutes

Member Time Needed

None

Considerations:

Individuals in the lodge will participate in different ways. Challenging a member to participate in a way that is uncomfortable for them should only be done with a skilled facilitator and a high-trust group.

Messaging:

Most of us think we know what is fair until someone we care about is involved, or the stakes get high, or we are tired. The Square teaches you to name your standard out loud before you move, then check the action against it. That way you know what you are actually building.

Key questions:

“When you see someone make a decision and stick to it even when it costs him something, what makes it clear that he tested it against a principle first? What does that look like from the outside?”

“Does any of that sound familiar in your own life? Where do you find yourself doing that kind of checking, where you name the standard before you act?”

“Is there a time when what looked like the right thing to do actually changed once you tried to state the principle it rested on? What did you notice when you tried to say it out loud?”

“If a brother in this lodge applied this before every consequential decision, what would visitors notice about how things actually run here?”

“Where did this conversation show you a blind spot in how you test your own decisions?”

Wrap-up:

Touch on the key points and highlights of the discussion. Pay special attention to discoveries or immediate learnings by the participants. Personalize positive feedback with “I really valued Brother [John’s] point about X, or Y”

DISCUSSION

Date of Meeting:

Rating? ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Key Points

Takeaways

The Best Part:

Thing's I'd do differently next time:

Do this again? Y N

If so, how often? _____

