

## Squares and Circles.

Tonight, I am going to explore two phrases for their application in Masonic education. One is the theme provided by our SW and is “squaring the circle” the other is one I am sure we have all heard at some point in time “a square peg in a round hole”.

Squaring the circle refers to attempting to something impossible, and originates from trying to make a square that occupies the same area as a circle with the same longest dimension with only a compass and a straightedge. This is not dissimilar to our goals in masonry of refining our rough ashlar selves into perfect ashlars that fit together with a divine grace. While this goal is lofty and only achieved when we attain entrance into the celestial lodge above, we can do the reverse and circle the square.

We have all heard the phrase you cannot fit a square peg into a round hole which commonly references a person who does not fit in or is not comfortable with others or in a particular situation; someone who may be unsuited to a certain task, position, situation, or group of people. Before we came to knock on that door to gain admittance to the lodge, this could have described us as men in various respects.

Masonry has the goal of making good men better. Until we were raised to that sublime degree and our vices and superfluities started breaking off, we were the metaphorical square pegs that were unsuited to the task of helping each other become better men. But by judicious application of the common gavel, rough corners were broken off and became smoother. While a perfect ashlar is smooth and refined, it is still a square in shape and would not fit in a round hole, but if we mentally remove the remaining corners, similar to turning a block on a lathe to round it off, we form a circle from the square. This helps us to be well rounded individuals among men and Masons, and prepares us for the next step, when our Divine Creator, a Supreme Architect can do the impossible of squaring our circles and making us into those perfect ashlars, and ready for that celestial building when it is our time to fit in.

Oh, I almost forgot the required element of my lecture. The three classical orders of architecture were accused of a crime but served no time...why? The Ionic became Ionian and all charges were dropped. The Doric replied that he was an upstanding pillar of the community. And the Corinthian said he was at a party with the Roman and if his word wasn't good enough, the court could “column”.



**'The Winding Staircase – A path to improving yourself in Masonry'**

**By: Michael J. Caro, LEO, Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347 8-19**