

# Ask Akhi

*Akhi, the beggar-sage of Damascus, sits in the market square gathering coins and wisdom and instructing all in the dance of life.*



With so many questions directed to Akhi, it is difficult to decide whom to answer first. So Akhi will turn to an old friend from Healthy Family, Healthy Start, a program of the MetroHealth Center. So many people they help have sat with me at the city gate. Aggie Hoskin writes: "Is the grass always greener on the other side of the mountains that people make out of mole hills?"

Hmmm. Even having decided which question I will answer, Akhi does not know where to begin! Akhi recalls he learned as a small boy that things are not always as they seem. A mole hill is not a hill, it is a home, a simple home. Moles take no room from Akhi or from those who come and go all day long. They ask for little, under the pasture; a home is the least we could offer. So why would we make mountains out of their simple homes?

Do we make mountains in order to feel overwhelmed? If we long to be overwhelmed, there are mountainous concerns enough already here, actual, not merely perceived. At least moles have their place, there are many who have no place to go. "Homelessness" is a mountain that deserves our attention. (Having no home, no mortgage, no utility bills may appear "greener" at times, but things are not always what they seem.)

Akhi is reminded of some ancient wisdom: "Only the buzzard can see both sides of the mountain at the same time." If we want things greener where we stand, we must resolve to restore life to the soil on which we stand. More wisdom: "As long as we are determined to compare, we will always focus on what is not ours, more or less!"

Be content, like the mole, with that which is yours. Do not turn homes into mountains. It would sound foolish to say: "There's no place like mountain." And remember, green is in the eye of the beholder.

*O Seeker of Wisdom, send your questions to the Not Only Great but Also Simultaneously Humble Akhi at "Ask Akhi" c/o Beacon Street 3570 Rocky River Dr. Cleveland OH 44111*

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*This issue we turn our fabled beam on one of our board members whose dedication over the last ten months has made her a virtual member of our staff, our Secretary-Treasurer, Suzie Thompson. Her help with the financial side of things has freed us up to concentrate on the creative aspects of our ministry. So without further ado...*

## BS SPOTLIGHT ON

### Suzie Thompson

**Occupation: Assistant Manager of External Reporting at Parker-Hannifin**

**Birthday: 5/22/64 (Yes, I'm almost 30)**

**Home: Small Home in Bay Village, shared with two cats**

**Marital Status: Single**

**Car: 1990 Toyota Camry (77,000 miles)**

**Favorite Movies: "American Dreamer" and "Cinderella"**

**Books I Recommend: "Phantom" by Susan Kay, "Illusions" by Richard Bach, and "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen Covey**

**Favorite Performers: Gregory Hines, Jerry Seinfeld, and Michael Jordan**

**Favorite Activities: Socializing with friends, travelling, and making maple syrup**

**Personal Heroes: My parents, Walt Disney, my grandma, Doug Deal**

**The best part of my work with BS: Great people**

**Three words that best describe me: Laughing, out-going, independent**

**Why my mom is proud of me: Because I turned out to be a nice person**

**Motto #1: Be careful what you wish for; it may come true**

**Motto #2: It's nice to be important, but more important to be nice**

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