

Ask Akhi

Akhi, beggar-sage of Damascus, sits at the city gates, calling for coins instructing all in the dance of life.



A Beacon Street client writes to Akhi:
Dear Akhi,

Have you ever seen a Beacon Street program? I have. There were stories and songs, puppets that the students made and used in a skit, and some slight of hand. One fellow even ate fire. But when all was said and done, they didn't really teach me anything I didn't already know! So what are they supposed to be doing anyway?

Oh wise reader, in your short letter you have managed to articulate what many seek **and** what the performing artists strive to do. Wisdom writers from all cultures tell us: "There is nothing new under the sun." Nevertheless, Akhi is reminded daily of things he knows, but no longer thinks about.

The children in the streets demonstrate simple truths about human behavior in their games and make believe. Will they be any different twenty years from now? Even a dog showed me just last week how persistence pays off. He continued to dig near the leg of a stand in the market until the wood shifted and two loaves of bread fell on his head. He managed to run away with one and leave the other for the vendor. Allah be praised!

Akhi learns nothing new about life from the things that he sees, but often I am so stunned by the clarity of the message, it is as if I had never seen it that way before. That is true. Indeed, just yesterday, a man who often begs with me near the gate saw that I was amazed at one of life's revelations and whispered in my ear: "Akhi, close your mouth before someone puts a coin in it!"

I am reminded of my friend Fawaz. He was standing next to his elephant while a tourist was focusing his camera on the animal. "Can you see the entire beast in your photo-maker?" asked Fawaz. "Of course," replied the tourist. "Amazing," my friend responded. "I can see only this one side from where I stand!"

So, my wise friend, you see? The Beacon Street ministers are artists who share ancient wisdom in refreshing and revealing ways. Perhaps Beacon Street can tell us about the other side of the elephant!

***If you have questions of law, philosophy, or matters of the heart, address them to:
Ask Akhi c/o Beacon Street 3570 Rocky River Dr. Cleveland OH 44111.***

Calling All Volunteers

Looking for a ready and appreciative outlet for your talents? Beacon Street needs volunteers to help get a few projects going. We can use help with mailings, data entry, plumbing and accouting. We also need folks to help with ticket sales for our fall fundraiser.

Got a special skill but don't know where to put it? Tell us, and we'll find a use for it. We

always appreciate help with promoting our ministry. And if you're especially good at recruiting volunteers, we could use all the hands you can bring in.

To get on our list of volunteers, call Jim at Beacon Street (252-5650) and let him know your name, address, phone number and area of interest.

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