

Akhi, the beggar sage, sits at the city gates, instructing all in the dance of life.

Ask Akhi...

Dear Akhi,

When a cow laughs, does milk come out of her nose?

-- Curious Joe from Jersey

Dear CJ,

The bigger question may be: "How does one get a cow to laugh?" I have heard of cow-tipping, but never cow-tickling!

Akhi has been known at times to "lose his tea" in just such a fashion. (It is messy but oh so refreshing for the nostrils on a hot day!) I sometimes recall episodes from my youth that move me to bursts of laughter.

For instance, Akhi was once carrying a sack of barley on his head through the city. Out of the corner of his eye he spied a coin, standing on edge between the stones in the road. Oh so carefully he bent his knees looking straight ahead so he would not lose his load. Quickly his fingers searched the ground for the silver piece. Before he found the coin, a scorpion found his finger. Up flew young Akhi; down went the barley. The bag split and animals came from everywhere to eat it up.

When the last of the barley was gone, fortunately for Akhi, there was the coin—just enough for him to buy a new sack of grain. At day's end, Akhi had only accomplished a day's work and had nothing more to show for it than a swollen finger and a bit of wisdom.

Since that time, young Akhi always looked straight ahead at all times as he carried the load of many poor with him. There is no coin between the stones than can do as much as one who walks with eyes open, not looking for treasure, but bearing seeds of hope.

Akhi wishes you well, CJ, and more sober moments for your cow.

Spotlight On:

Eric Johnson &
Cathy
LaBianca-Johnson

(Spouses who do double duty on the BS board)



Occupation: Eric — former registered nurse
Cathy — social worker

Birthday's: Eric — December 1
Cathy — March 26

The place you call home: Eric is from Elmira, NY, and Cathy is from Cleveland. They currently live in Berea.

Family: Eric — mom in Elmira; "adopted" mom in Parma; a daughter, Kate.

Cathy — mom, one sister, two brothers, and Kate, her stepdaughter.

Favorite Movies: Eric — The Star Wars Trilogy
Cathy — The English Patient

Favorite Books: Eric — The Least of My Brethren, by Daniel Baxter

Cathy — Anything by Henri Nouwen

Hobbies: Eric — furniture refinishing
Cathy — reading and sewing

Affiliation with Beacon Street: Board members

Best Thing About working with Beacon Street:
Both — "Watching others work for a common good."

Mottos: Eric "Feed it to Billy"

Cathy: "Man proposes; God disposes."

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