

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

Ask Akhi...



Dear friends,

It has been such a long, hot summer that no one has sent a letter to Akhi. It is a simple life I lead. So I have a question for you. What shall I do with those who do not want me to remain poor? Let me explain.

A new face greeted me just the other day. He was a large man with just as big a heart. He gave me three coins as he entered the city gate in the morning, and two more when he left at the end of the day. Praised be Allah for his children.

When the great man looked into my bowl on his way home, he saw no bread. He saw only the three coins he had put there in the morning, and the two he had just given me. Had he looked at my face, he would have seen such gratitude. Instead, he turned to those who were walking by and shouted: "Selfish people. Thieves! Have you no eyes? No mercy?"

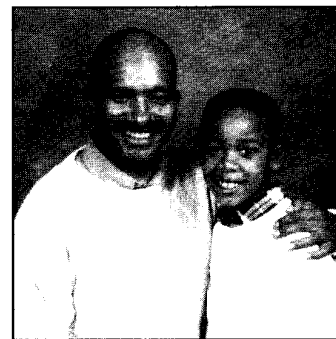
Akhi wished to be anywhere but by the side of the road at that moment. My humble prayers have always been heard. Akhi always has enough. And what is more, my cries were never meant to serve my needs, but the needs of those passing by.

No one listened to the man with the big heart. First angry, then frustrated, he went away.

I hope he will return. Akhi would like to tell him what I have learned at the city gate, year after year. It serves no purpose to judge those who pass by. The Great One teaches it is better to invite them to sit and rest a while and, perhaps, share a story. It is always easier to do that when one is poor. It is a blessing. It is my path.

Please write.
Akhi

Spotlight On: Al Woolen (new board member)



Involvement with Beacon Street: New member and treasurer of the board of directors.

Occupation: finance manager at the Cleveland Education Fund.

Birthday: Oct. 17

Home: Shaker Heights

Family: Sons, Kevin and A.J.; wife, Clairea.

Favorite books: mysteries, biographies.

Favorite movies: "Soul Food;" and "The 10 Commandments"

Hobbies: playing chess, working out, reading.

Best thing about working with BS: I enjoy the interaction with the other board members. Everyone seems to get along well.

Personal motto: If you make up your mind, you can be anything you want to be.

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