

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

Ask Akhi...



Dear Akhi,

My wife often smiles when I start to fix something around the house. Too often, she says, the project ends up worse than it was before I got my hands on it. Do you know the feeling?

-- *Handy Man from Cleveland Heights*

Dear H.M. from C.H.,

I do not personally know the feeling you speak of. I have no wife. In fact, I have nothing. But my village knows how your wife feels. I have seen it recently on their faces.

We have two wells in our village. Allah more than provides for our needs. Every day, every household visits one of these wells. But last summer, when the weather was hot and very dry, our mayor went to one of the wells and his bucket came up empty. He tried again, and all that came up from the deep dark hole was an empty, wet bucket. So he closed the well and ordered excavation to begin immediately.

The people protested vehemently. The well was fine just moments before he had arrived that morning. But he would hear none of their pleas. He can be very stubborn at times.

Everyone was instructed to use the other well while the mayor personally oversaw the repairs. After several days, much effort, and a great deal of mud, the workers surfaced to announce there was plenty of water in the well. This time, the mayor protested. He pushed his way through the small crowd and lowered his bucket into the deep. When he pulled it up, again it was wet, but empty. "You fools," he shouted at the workers. "See for yourselves."

A child approached and looked curiously at the dripping bucket in the mayor's hands. "Look," the little one said, poking a finger through a hole in the bottom of the bucket, "it needs mending!" The mayor disappeared and was not seen for weeks, and the well was too muddy to use for the rest of the summer.

Even though the water is clear again, the mayor now goes to the other well instead. I have heard the mayor has a new bucket too! All is well.

Peace,
Akhi

Spotlight On: Jean Kloos

(Winterfest Chair
and a BS co-founder)



Involvement with Beacon Street: I was lucky enough to fall in with a crazy group of founders who were convinced of the power of the performing arts and the heart of the Gospel. Timing is everything.

Occupation: Just trying to keep up with our two kids.

Birthday: June 28. Please send cards.

Family: Husband, Bob, and kids, David (5) and Sarah (3). The rest of the family is big. Lots of brothers and sisters. Too far away.

Hobbies: I still love to juggle after all these years. I'm trying to learn how to needlepoint.

Favorite Author: Just finished another Maeve Binchy novel. I wouldn't want to lose my Irish membership card. I've always loved James Herriot and Joseph Girzone.

Favorite Movie: (most recently) "Shakespeare in Love." I used to play Foreign Film Roulette: pick a title and a country and hope for the best.

Best thing about working with Beacon Street: I've been helping to coordinate Beacon Street's Winter Dinner Dance and Silent Auction. It's a great chance to work and play with a core group of committed volunteers. It has been an elegant success and a wonderful evening for so many generous supporters. Mark your calendars for Feb. 12, 2000.