

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

Ask Akhi...



*Dear Akhi,
Do you sit at the gate all day, every day? Do you get weekends off?*

*Sincerely,
Nine-to-five.*

Dear 925,

Off? Akhi does not know what you ask. I sit "off" to the side of the road. Is that helpful?

I am at the city gate every day. Those who pass by need to know that every day they can be lighter, and be closer to dancing.

But now that you ask, Akhi remembers that, for a short while, during our holy days, some magistrates told us we must move. They said the pilgrims and visitors must be free to come and go without having to see us.

"But this is my path," I pleaded. "I must show all passersby the truth."

"Be off with you," was the magistrate's response.

So, 925, I was "off" for a few days.

It was a waste. I used to bring my discomfort to the city gate for all to see. Some would see the truth and feel their own want, their own weakness, and thank me for my service. Praised be Allah.

But the magistrates were right in one regard: there were others who did not want to see the truth. They would look away as soon as our eyes met. As they passed by, I could see in their faces a firm resolve not to know what they now knew. So, Akhi served them too. It is just that they did not repay me for my kindness.

Perhaps some day, we will all sit together – passersby, pilgrims, beggars, and magistrates – and we will look into each others' eyes and know the truth. It will be very good. But now I must be "off" to my place at the gate. Be well, 925.

Akhi, or I4U

*Spotlight On:
Jan McKay
(board member and
Development
Committee chair)*



Your involvement with Beacon Street: I am honored to be involved as a member of the board.

Occupation: Assistant Director of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Director of the Marketing Division.

Birthday: Let's not talk about birthdays.
City where you live: Cleveland, the West Park neighborhood.

Family members: My family includes a great mom, fantastic sisters, a bright niece, Vicky, and godson-nephew who is also a math whiz, Alex. Family member of highest regard - Maddie Jane Louise, my border collie.

Last great book you read: The Poison wood Bible.

Last great movie you saw: "October Sky"

Hobbies: Free time is spent writing short fiction, reading, gardening and photography, not to mention spending time with Maddie Jane and my family.

Best thing about working with Beacon Street: opening meetings with prayer.

Dreams for Beacon Street: having more financial support so we can reach more children in the inner city.