

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

Ask Akhi...



*Dear Akhi,
Many say that the world will never be the same after September 11. What do you think?*

*Sadly,
Wanting peace*

Dear W.P.,

Indeed, things changed very much on that day for Akhi, but only with the travelers, the visitors through my gate. All the friends I see daily continued to greet me and give thanks to Allah.

But the visitors, fewer though they were, gave nothing to Akhi. No bread, no coins. Only looks of distrust and hate. It was not until two days later that news of events in New York, Pennsylvania and your nation's capitol reached our village. I was stunned. So much loss of life; so much destruction. What good can come from that?

But before I could tell visitors how sad I was for their loss, I became the object of their anger. How can this be? I was the same Akhi a few days before! What has Akhi done? Or maybe I should ask: "What has happened to these people?"

But, then, Akhi has seen people change quickly on other occasions. One day, all is well. The next day; nothing is the same. I have seen good people shunned when others learn of their political, religious, or sexual persuasion! Do you know what Akhi is saying? All of a sudden, a person is discounted or discredited simply because of who they are!

Akhi thinks that many people judge from a distance. Perhaps they should come sit next to Akhi and we could talk and know each other's hearts. Then, they would be a friend to Akhi, no matter what. They would know for certain that all I wish for them is that they know their path, and because of that, know peace as well. After that, no matter what else they find out about Akhi, it would go well.

What good will come from the tragedy in America? Perhaps everyone will realize they do not know each other well enough. I pray that all of Allah's children live together in peace, always.

Come visit soon,
Akhi

Spotlight On: Tria Thompson

*Auxiliary performer
and long-time friend*



Involvement with Beacon Street:
Supporter, promoter, planner and occasional auxiliary performer.

Occupations: Chaplain for dementia services at University Hospitals Health System Heather Hill Partnership. Independent freelance dance/movement therapist and liturgical performing artist.

Birthday: January

City where you live: Cleveland

Family members: two parents, six brothers and sisters, etc. etc.

Last great book you read : New Religion in America, by Diana Eck, and Harry Potter, by J.K. Rowlings.

Last great movie you saw : "Stewart Saves His Family."

Hobbies: resting and de-stressing.

Best thing about working with BS: It connects me to my life's work and other groups of performing arts ministers with whom I've worked over many years.

Personal Motto: My family's favorite is "putting the fun back into dysfunctional."