

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

Ask Akhi...



On January 6th, 2006, a reader wrote:

My Dear Friend Akhi,

I wrote many years ago to express my appreciation for your not-exclusively-Christian perspective and for making me (a non-Christian who respects and values the Christian faith and its teachings) not feel unwelcome in the Beacon Street community. I write again to send my profound thank you for a much needed Zen moment. When I read your [last] column (I always take time to read it, if nothing else) I was -extremely busy. It was good to be reminded that there are other (preferred by some) ways to remember the Real, whose names may also include "G-d."

Thank you sincerely,
Gwen

Dear Gwen,

I am humbled by your kindness. You say my words about slowing down came to you at a good time. Praised be Allah! I travel even more slowly now than I did when last I wrote. The Great One has at least one way of making certain we see what can only be seen by moving more slowly. It is called *growing older!*

I recently observed a blind man making his way through my gate. He was being guided by a young boy who warned his aged companion of loose stone and ruts in the road. A wrinkled and emaciated hand on a bare shoulder is all that joined them, and yet they walked in step, confident and undisturbed amid the throng of buyers and sellers.

I have seen this many times - one pilgrim helping another. It is beautiful to see one adjust his pace for the sake of the other so both can make their way without harm. The leader's every step asks: "How can I serve you?"

It makes Akhi pause and ask: "Over these many years, how many have slowed down to help me?" Perhaps it is now Akhi's turn to allow another to set the pace.

Gratefully, Akhi

Dear friends,

Every spring, for the past fifteen years or more, the Beacon Street board and staff have sent an appeal to our supporters, asking for prayers and donations. We have often encouraged you to spread the word about what we do.

This year, in order to cut costs and keep returns in one fiscal year, we are putting our request in context. We have decided to ask for your help from the pages of this newsletter, our *Beacon*. In the company of Akhi and from the desk of the artistic director, we raise our voice. In the midst of "Artfully Done" and "ReSources," we endeavor to make our case.

From "Artfully Done" on pages 4-5 you can see that our ministry remains diverse, serving small Christian Church communities, high school faculties, parish councils, the wee folk at Vacation Bible School, and retreatants of all abilities. From our board meeting room to Lake Chautauqua, we proclaim the gospel, utilizing the performing arts.

Because our venues are often composed of a relatively small number of participants (60 members of a church congregation, 25 faculty members, a dozen members of a parish council) programs can address detailed agendas and even change course midstream. Worship and workshops can respond to an individual's reaction, question, or special request.

But small venues are often accompanied by small budgets. In other words, while most believers ascribe to the gospel tenet in Luke 10,7, "a laborer is worth his wages," some clients can't pay and others look for consideration when it comes to determining a fee. We never say no because of the fee. And while there have been lean months along the way, we are still on the road after nineteen years. Praise God, and thanks to you.

While we orient a new office manager and look to recruit another performer, there will be additional costs. We pledge to be good stewards of all our resources, but we need your assistance every year to help us grow and fill the gap.

We thank you for all the prayer and financial support you can offer. And please keep Beacon Street in mind should you ever encounter a unique opportunity for us to minister. A return envelope has been enclosed for your convenience.

As you continue to serve the needs of others in your own place and time, our ministry will pray for yours, until peace reigns and "love is Lord of heaven and earth. How can I keep from singing?"

Much peace,

Bob Kloos, for staff and board of directors

.....
Please tear out and include in return envelope. Thanks.

Name _____ Phone _____
Street _____ City _____ St. ____ Zip _____
Donation amount: \$ _____
Visa / MC no.: _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____
Signature _____