

EXERCISE 28

India seems to be one of the very few countries in the world where beggars are not only tolerated but are even encouraged with the result that many of them are so prosperous that they refuse to give up their profession.

One of the reasons why we have so many beggars in India is because we have a tradition of holy men living on charity. These holy men lead a religious life and so society considers it its moral duty to support them. Centuries ago this may have been true but today in changed circumstances these holy men are proving a burden on society. Instead of living on society they can contribute to its good.

The case of blind or lame or infirm persons who have become beggars is different. They cannot lead a normal life and so they beg to earn their living and they seem to earn a decent amount. The result is that many who are too lazy to work, pretend that they are blind or lame and take to begging. There are also organised gangs which carry on beggar-business. Occasionally we also hear stories of children being kidnapped to be trained to beg.

Begging is a social evil and should be eradicated. This can be done by opening beggar-houses for the really needy ones and sending others to reform homes, where they should be taught some useful trade or trained in some skill. Such people, as want to practice charity, should be encouraged to help towards running beggar-houses or reform homes ; greater vigilance on the part of the authorities and a greater amount of co-operation on the part of the public.

Day: **MTWTFSS**

Date: / /

Giving Alms is not charity, but a Burden

According to the author, beggars in India is not only tolerated, but also encouraged by some holy men. These holy men considers it as their moral values and duty to support them. This is the reason that some beggars are adamant to leave begging, and have become a burden on country. However, there may some blind and lame people, who deserves some help from society or authority. For them, there should be beggar-houses and other homes where they should be taught trade and skill. There should be caution of government and cooperation from public for the really needy ones.

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