

4-10-8-44. Fakir or sadhus APO 883, KARACHI, INDIA, extreme western section of town. This fellow or fakir is not to be compared with the general run of beggars that one meets on every street corner. They differ, as far as I can see, in respect to their basic cause for begging, being in this case, one of a religious significance. This fakir has renounced all his usual earthly possessions and all desires and is now existing on whatever he can get each day from the more charitably disposed men and women who pass by. It is only through a complete severance with desire that he can ultimately attain one of the higher levels of his religion. My contribution to the cause was 1 rupee nor did he probably know, however, that the gift was in reality a payment for the privilege of taking the picture. Some of these ash covered men will settle down and not even call for alms. If one places a coin on the cloth it will be received without thanks or acknowledgment. They stand by in complete meditation. Observed an old man who was resting in complete meditation with his right hand held in an upright position and supported by his knee. As a result of the non use of this member it had become shapely reduced to the mere skeletal outline of the arm bone. This old man is probably in the last stage of his life which is according to their belief, a period when the husband and wife renounce all desires and wander about to search for their God, possessing absolutely nothing and craving for even less. They go through several stages before they reach this begging stage in life. The first stage is up to about the age of 20 and which is used for study, obedience and a reverence for emotional purity away from the distraction of the women which is for the purpose of building up a conserved vitality for the generation to come. Then follows a period from this stage up to approximately 50 years of age during which time the man marries and becomes a faithful husband but of course without relinquishing his obligation to his parents or other relations with his society. This is a rather noble ideal for the married life when the wife and man are living together by a