

# There were no beggars in that city



**Sreenu:**  
Why, I strolled  
on the  
pavements.



**Ramu:** Were you  
able to walk on the  
pavements?

ఇక్కడి సంభాషణలో శ్రీను ఓ అద్భుతమైన నగరం గురించి మాట్లాడుతున్నాడు. ఆ నగరంలో మూలమూలకూ వెళ్లాడు. విచిత్రంగా ఎక్కడా ఒక్క అడుక్కునే వ్యక్తి కూడా కనిపించలేదు. దాన్ని మిత్రుడు రాముకు వివరిస్తున్నాడు. అయితే, అది కలలో జరిగిందనే ముచ్చటను చివరికి తేటతెల్లం చేశాడు. ఇది చదివితే బిచ్చమెత్తుకునే వాళ్లను ఇంగ్లీష్ లో ఎన్ని రకాలుగా సంబోధిస్తారో బోధపడుతుంది. అడుక్కునే వాళ్లు లేని నగరాలు నిజంగానే సాకారం కావాలని కోరుకుందాం.

ఇంగ్లీష్ మాట్లాడదాం



**Sreenu:** Shall I tell you about the wonderful city I have seen?  
**Ramu:** Please. Nothing could give me more pleasure.  
**Sreenu:** There were no beggars in that city.  
**Ramu:** No mendicants?  
**Sreenu:** I didn't come across a single tramp.  
**Ramu:** You must not have seen the entire city.  
**Sreenu:** I went to every nook and corner.  
**Ramu:** Did you go by cab?  
**Sreenu:** No, I went on foot. I walked every road and every street, and ...  
**Ramu:** And you found not a single destitute begging for alms!  
**Sreenu:** Not a single pauper.  
**Ramu:** Did you visit a temple, a mosque or a church?  
**Sreenu:** Of course I did.  
**Ramu:** Wasn't there the common sight? I mean beggars near these places of worship.

**Sreenu:** The common sight seems to be uncommon in that city.  
**Ramu:** Did you go to the station?  
**Sreenu:** Police station?  
**Ramu:** I mean bus station or railway station.  
**Sreenu:** Yes. I enjoyed the hustle and bustle at these places.  
**Ramu:** Didn't you see any vagrant?  
**Sreenu:** Not a single beggar - man or woman, boy or girl, able bodied or disabled.  
**Ramu:** Did you go to the marketplace in your marvellous city?  
**Sreenu:** Yes. I saw the busy, beautiful and bountiful markets.  
**Ramu:** No crippled, maimed beggar to pester you? No blind beggar to move your heart?  
**Sreenu:** No, not a single beggar either on crutches or wheels.  
**Ramu:** You must not have walked the pavements.  
**Sreenu:** Why, I strolled on the pavements.  
**Ramu:** Were you able to walk on the pavements?

**Sreenu:** Why not? They were smooth, soft and free from encroachments.  
**Ramu:** No beggars sitting or sleeping on pavements?  
**Sreenu:** No beggars dwelling on the pavements.  
**Ramu:** You might not have gone near a hospital.  
**Sreenu:** I saw not one but three.  
**Ramu:** Did you miss the beggars at the hospital gate?  
**Sreenu:** I didn't miss them because there were none. Not a single waif or bum.  
**Ramu:** I wish I saw the city!  
**Sreenu:** You can never see it.  
**Ramu:** Why?  
**Sreenu:** I saw it in my dream.



**సూర్యరావు ఎం.వి**  
వివేకానంద ఇన్స్టిట్యూట్ ఆఫ్ లాంగ్వేజెస్, రామకృష్ణ మఠం.