RABBI AKIVA FELT PAIN. 4
HE LOST HIS DONKEY AND
ROOSTER, HE HAD TO
STAY IN A DARK FOREST.

IT WAS FOR THE GOOD, BUT THE OCCURRENCE ITSELF WAS PAINFUL.

NACHUM ISH GAMZU
NEVER FELT ANY PAIN.
ON THE CONTRARY, IF HE
WOULD HAVE BROUGHT
THE PRECIOUS STONES,
WHO KNOWS IF THE KING
WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED
IT. KINGS DON'T LACK
PRECIOUS STONES.

RABBI AKIVA FELT PAIN, HOWEVER IT SAVED HIM FROM A WORSE PAIN.

NACHUM ISH GAMZU EXPERIENCED THE "NEGATIVE" OCCURRENCE ITSELF AS GOOD.

THIS TOO IS GOOD. THIS ITSELF, IS GOOD. NOT ONLY IS IT FOR GOOD, BUT IT ITSELF IS GOOD.

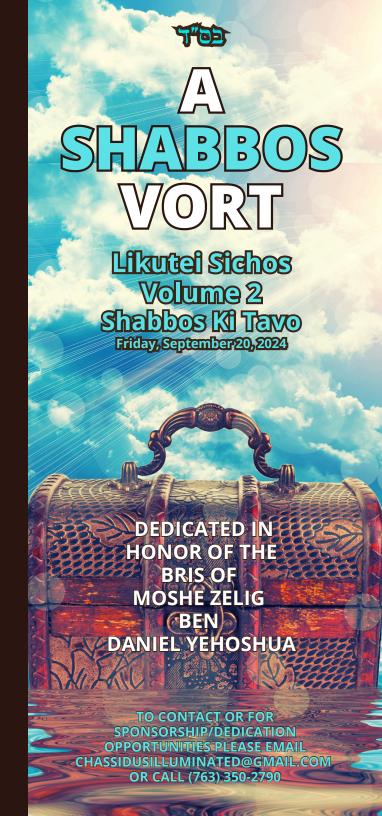
NACHUM ISH GAMZU
WAS THE TEACHER OF
RABBI AKIVA AND LIVED
IN A GENERATION CLOSER
TO THE TIME OF THE BEIS
HAMIKDASH WHEN THE
REVELATION THAT
EVERYTHING IS GOOD WAS
MORE OBVIOUS.

EVEN WHEN WE KNOW
THE TRUTH THAT
EVERYTHING IS GOOD, IN
THE WORLD WE DON'T
ALWAYS SEE THAT.

NOW THAT WE ARE COMING CLOSER TO THE GEULA, WHEN HASHEM WILL REMOVE THE CONCEALMENT OF G-DLINESS WE WILL SEE HOW EVERYTHING IS GAM ZU LTOVA, EVERYTHING IS GOOD, AND WE WILL SAY THIS IS HASHEM WHO WE HAVE ANTICIPATED, LET US BE GLAD AND REJOICE IN HIS SALVATION.



Shabbos Candle
Lighting time
BROOKLYN, NY: 6:37 PM



THERE ARE TWO STATEMENTS IN THE TALMUD:

ONE WRITTEN IN ARAMAIC: RABBI AKIVA SAID, "EVERYTHING THAT THE MERCIFUL ONE DOES, HE DOES FOR THE GOOD".

THE OTHER, WRITTEN IN HEBREW: NACHUM ISH GAMZU SAID "THIS TOO IS GOOD".

HEBREW IS HOLY AND THE MEANING OF THE WORDS EXPRESS ULTIMATE CLARITY.

"THIS TOO IS GOOD"
EXPRESSES THE ULTIMATE
REALITY CLEARLY, THAT
EVERYTHING IS GOOD.

ARAMAIC IS USED TO TRANSLATE THE HOLY TONGUE, THE MESSAGES WRITTEN IN ARAMAIC DONOT EXPRESS THE SAME DEGREE OF CLARITY.

"EVERYTHING THE MERCIFUL ONE DOES, HE DOES FOR THE GOOD" EXPRESSES THAT REALITY IS GOOD, BUT NOT AS CLEARLY.

Z RABBI AKIVA WAS
TRAVELING WITH A CANDLE,
A DONKEY AND A ROOSTER.

HE WAS NOT INVITED TO STAY IN TOWN SO HE HAD TO SPEND THE NIGHT IN A FOREST.

A WIND BLEW OUT HIS CANDLE, AND HE REMAINED IN THE DARK. A LION CAME AND TOOK HIS DONKEY. ANOTHER PREDATOR CAME AND TOOK HIS ROOSTER.

RABBI AKIVA SAID:
"EVERYTHING THE MERCIFUL
ONE DOES, HE DOES FOR THE
GOOD".

LATER ON IT TURNED OUT THAT ALL OF THE SEEMINGLY UNFORTUNATE EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED WERE ACTUALLY FOR THE GOOD.

THAT NIGHT A ROMAN LEGION ATTACKED THE VILLAGE AND TOOK ITS PEOPLE AS CAPTIVES. IF HIS CANDLE WOULD HAVE BEEN LIT, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN. IF THE DONKEY AND ROOSTER WOULD HAVE MADE NOISE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HEARD.

THE SEEMING UNFORTUNATE OCCURRENCES SAVED HIS LIFE.

NACHUM ISH GAMZU ACQUIRED HIS NAME BECAUSE HE WOULD ALWAYS SAY "GAM ZU L'TOIVA" THIS TOO IS GOOD.

HE WAS ONCE SENT TO THE KING OF ROME TO ATTEMPT TO ANNUL A DECREE AGAINST THE JEWS. HE WAS LADEN WITH PRECIOUS STONES AND PEARLS IN A CHEST AS A PRESENT FOR THE KING. AT NIGHT, THE PRECIOUS STONES AND PEARLS WERE STOLEN AND REPLACED WITH DIRT AND SAND.

HE SAID, "THIS TOO IS GOOD".

HE CONTINUED HIS JOURNEY TO THE KING. WHEN HE ARRIVED, HE GAVE THE CHEST TO THE KING, IT WAS OPENED AND THEY SAW THAT IT WAS FULL OF DIRT. THEY WANTED TO THROW HIM IN THE DUNGEON.

HASHEM IMMEDIATELY SENT ELIYAHU HANAVI IN THE GARB OF A MINISTER WHO TOLD THE KING THAT THIS DIRT WAS THE DIRT OF AVRAHAM AVINU WHO USED IT TO BE VICTORIOUS IN WARS. AVRAHAM AVINU WOULD THROW THE SAND AND IT WOULD TURN INTO ARROWS AND SPEARS.THE KING'S MEN THREW THE SAND IN THE AIR AND IT BECAME ARROWS AND SPEARS WHICH THEY USED TO DEFEAT THEIR ENEMIES.