## SICHA POEM

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## **Shabbos Nachamu**

— By Mrs. Chanie Gourarie, Chabad Toms River

The Gemorah tells a story,
Of 4 sages who were walking to Rome to annul a decree,
When they were far away from the city they heard the Romans celebrating,
The sages started crying and Rabbi Akiva started laughing.

Another time, Rabbi Akiva was walking with these same sages to Yerushalayim, Suddenly they saw a fox roaming in the place of the Kodesh Hakodashim, Again, the sages started crying, And Rabbi Akiva started laughing.

The reason that the sages were crying bitterly,
Was because the Chilul Hashem was as great as could be,
The Beis Hamikdash was destroyed by the most powerful nation it's true,
But the power, peace and security of the Romans did not have to continue.

There was a Nevuah that the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash so dear,
To a plowed land would compare,
But the fact that the fox was roaming in the holiest place, didn't have to be,
It was a Chilul Hashem and disgrace of the highest degree.

Rabbi Akiva laughed because his perspective was different than the rest, He always said that everything that Hashem does is for the best! Even when things don't seem to work out, It's for the good without a doubt.



Rabbi Akiva's view,

Was that if the Romans who went against Hakadosh Baruch Hu,
Were living a life of enjoyment and pleasure,
Then how much more so will the Yidden be greatly rewarded in the future.

And if the Nevuah of the destruction was fulfilled completely,

To the extent that a fox was roaming the site of the Kodesh Hakodashim freely,

Then for sure the Nevuah of the Geula will be fulfilled to the highest degree,

This was surely a reason to laugh and be happy!

But in addition to this, Rabbi Akiva taught something new, In the bad there is good too, If the greatness of Rome there would not have been, The reward of the Yidden when Moshiach comes we could never imagine.

But the problem,
Is that from the Roman's celebration,
We don't have a clear vision,
Of the greatness that the Yidden will be given.

But in the second story, the fact that the destruction was complete,
To the extent that on the holiest spot a fox was running with its feet,
Proved for all to see, that Hashem loves the Yidden and did them the greatest favor,
Instead of hurting them, on wood and stones Hashem poured out all His anger!

The destruction of the Beis Hamikdash does compare,
To a land that is plowed and looks bare,
But to make things grow, plowing is the beginning, and the key,
The more you plow, the more delicious and plentiful the fruits will be!

"Rabbi Akiva, you comforted us!" twice the Sages did say,
Rabbi Akiva teaches us all how to live today,
Not only does the situation now prove that there will be a greater good later,
But in the current situation, there is great flavor!

May we merit the coming of Moshiach speedily, When we will clearly see, That not only did the bad times have a reason, But within the bad, there was tremendous good hidden!



