

## RABBI AKIVA

The story is told about Rabbi Akiva, a great well known respected Talmudic sage who lived to be 120 years old. He had over 12000 disciples that followed his teachings, but did not love each other. In spite of his constant explanations of how important love was in the torah community, they insisted on fighting among themselves. Then all of a sudden a plague came upon his talmidim and all were killed.

He was the last of the Jewish sages, a legend of the time. Rabbi Akiva was travelling through the land with all his belongings. It was in the evening when he came into a Jewish town and decided to stop for the night. He knocked on the door of every home in the town looking for a place to spend the night. Not one person would allow him to stay with them, they all said they had no room. Nobody would let him in. Rabbi Akiva said to himself: "everything comes from Yah and everything is a blessing in one way or another. He said that Yah has a purpose for everything". Then Rabbi Akiva decided he would go into the woods just outside the town and spend the night under the trees.

Rabbi Akiva always travelled with a candle, a rooster, and a donkey. He would go from town to town with only a candle, a rooster, and a donkey. Every night he would light his candle and sit and study his torah before he went to bed. On this night a wind came along and put his candle out. He repeated to himself what he had thought earlier, "that everything is from Yah and Yah has a purpose for everything". Instead of lighting the candle again he decided to go to sleep. A little while later he is awoken by a disturbing sound in the bushes next to him. He gets up and realizes that a fox had come and killed his rooster. The rooster was his alarm clock, it would wake him up early in the morning so he could do his morning prayers. He again says to himself: "oy'vey, oy'vey, everything is from Yah and Yah has a purpose for everything". He then goes back to sleep, there is nothing he can do about his rooster now.



Every morning at first light his donkey would bray (make a lot of noise) and his rooster would crow. In the middle of the night Rabbi Akiva wakes up and sees in the moonlight a lion killing his donkey. So Rabbi Akiva is now dismayed, he thinks out loud that now he will have to walk on his own so it will take him a lot longer to get where he is going. He thinks to himself again: "everything is from Yah and Yah has a purpose for everything".

He wakes up in the morning, wipes his eyes clean and looks out in the direction of the town he could find no room in the previous night. To his dismay he realizes that the Romans had come in the middle of the night, destroyed every person in the town, and lit the town on fire. The town was subject to a Roman pogrom and was completely levelled.

Rabbi Akiva realized that his Abba had taken away his candle so the Romans would not see it in the dark. He realized his Abba had a fox kill his rooster so it would not crow and bring attention in his direction. He realized that a lion had killed his donkey so it would not bray and create a fuss to bring attention to where he was sleeping.

Yah took away everything in Rabbi Akiva's life in order to preserve his life. Sometimes we don't understand why our Father is doing what He is doing in our lives, but

we must always realize that everything in our lives He is in control of. Everything He does is for a reason and there is a reason for everything. We are to be obedient servants and trust that our Abba is looking after us. So whenever something happens in your life, enjoy it, there is a reason for it. He has provided that circumstance, He has made that one moment in time to occur for a reason, for your absolute good. We may not know exactly what the reason is when it happens, but Yah has a reason for everything in our lives IF we love Him and IF we are FAITHFUL to His Living Word. We must always remember four basic things:

- 1) Everything is from Yah and under Yah's control.
- 2) He does everything for a reason.
- 3) We cannot solve a problem without Him.
- 4) If you don't believe, go back and do the first three steps with faith and belief.

Our Father does everything because He loves us. He disciplines those He loves as written in **Hebr. 12:6 *FOR THOSE WHOM YAHVEH LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.***"

Sometimes He has to take everything away from us in order to bless us even more. If you find Yah doing these things in your life, that means He is paying close attention to you. He is concerned about you specifically, He loves you, He is not going to forsake you, and wants to bless you in ways you do not at this time understand. You hold onto Him and He will hold onto you. Seek the Holy One of Israel, draw close to Him and He will draw close to you. Bless Him with obedience that comes from the words in the torah written on your circumcised heart, and He will bless you. If you truly believe that He can bless you, you must also believe that He can correct you. "Everything is from Yahveh our Father, everything is under His control, and He does everything for our absolute best".

(Mar 17/16) Jerry Hennig