

## **Rabbi Chananya's story**

### **Flame consumes, but do not destroy!**

Rabbi Chananya ben Teradyon was burned at the stake at the hands of the Romans. They wrapped him in the blessed Torah scroll. The Romans had placed moist cotton over his heart to prolong the process of his death, increasing his pain and agony.

As the pious tzadik was burning with the sefer Torah, the Romans mocked him by deriding him with the obvious. "Oh, teacher. Do you see the flames consuming you?" His disciples came close, feeling the heat from the fire as they drew closer still. "Rabbi, what do you see?"

Incredibly, a smile flickered across the rabbi's lips. "I see the parchment being consumed by the flames," he said. "But the letters... the letters I see flying heavenward. They remain."