The mission of **Torah Is Geshmack** is to bring out the richness and enjoyment of Torah for everyone, and in doing so bring them closer to Hashem.

תשפ״ו

A Chumra That Leads to a Kula

Dovid Kopel

A very wise Rebbe of mine, Rav Shraga Neuberger שליט״א, once referenced the concept from the בבלי (*Talmud*) that a חומרא (*stringency*) will always lead to a קולא (*leniency*). He adapted this concept from its original usage into cases dealing with stringencies people often take upon themselves regarding עבודת השם (*service of Hashem*) — whether it is keeping a special later זמן (*time*) such as waiting seventy-two minutes after sundown (רבינו תם), or not carrying in a traditional ערוב.

His point was clear: the כלל (*principle*) is true. Generally, when you take on a stringency, it leads to a leniency. He said that leniency is usually שלום בית (*peace in the home*). You might think you are bringing yourself closer to Hashem. But are you thoroughly weighing the cost it has on your spouse? On your family? Is it the right time for you in this situation?

Before you take on new avenues of עבודת השם, ask yourself that question. Speak to a Rav or Rebbe for guidance. What might seem like a good idea to bring you closer to Hashem might push others away.

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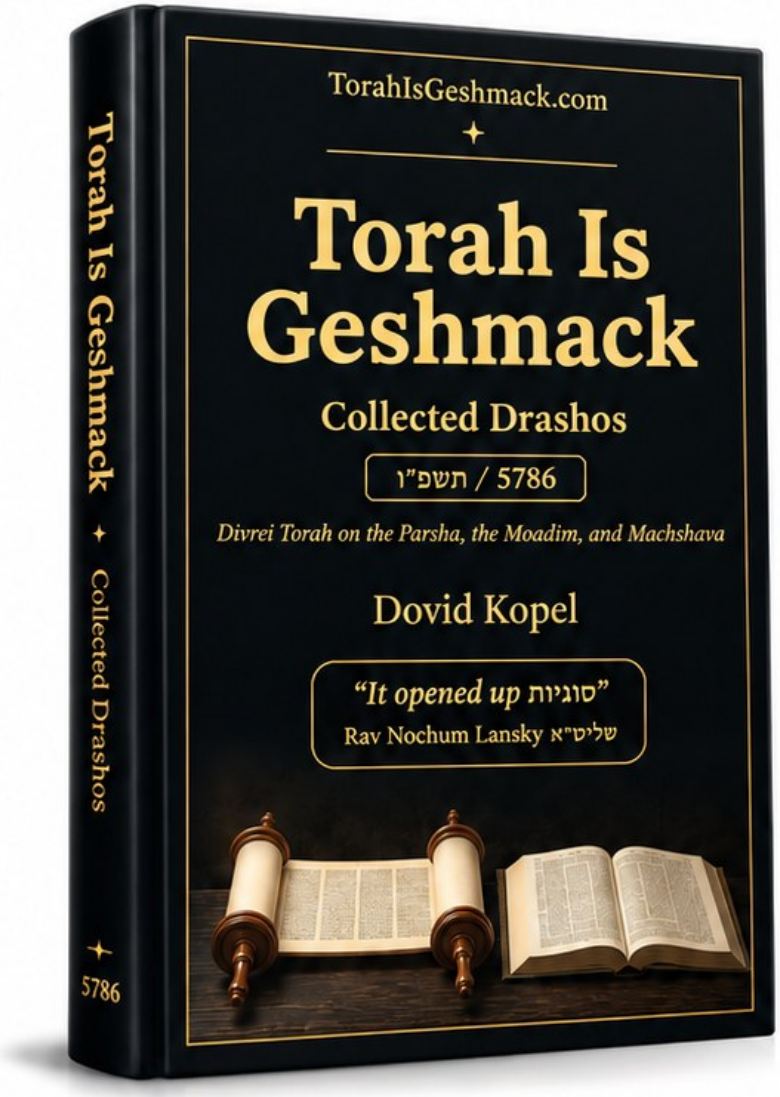
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