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

Doesn't She Know It's Assur: The Clarity of Rav Ruderman

Dovid Kopel

My Rebbe, HaRav Shraga Neuberger שליט״א, is deeply עוסק (*involved*) in helping the ציבור (*community*). He once told me a story that showed me not only his own devotion, but also the special greatness of Moreinu HaRosh Yeshiva, HaRav Ruderman זצק״ל, the בעל עבודת לוי.

Rav Shragy once met a woman who was suffering from severe depression. She would call him and say that she was going to take her own life, רחמנא ליצלן (*the Merciful One should save us*). It did not seem to be an isolated incident; it was something that happened repeatedly.

Rav Shragy asked Rav Weinberg זצק״ל what he was supposed to do. Was he obligated to go running to help her every time she called?

Rav Weinberg answered simply: yes. He should go help her each time.

On one of those occasions, Rav Shragy was rushing out in a great hurry, trying to reach her before she could harm herself. The Rosh Yeshiva saw how quickly he was moving and asked him, "Where are you going in such a rush?"

Rav Shragy answered, "I have to stop a woman from killing herself."

The Rosh Yeshiva looked at him with genuine confusion and said, "But doesn't she know it's אסור (*forbidden*)?"

The way Rav Shragy told the story, the Rosh Yeshiva was not being cute. He was not making a joke. To him, it was so simple and so clear. A Yid's life is sacred. Taking one's own life is אסור. That was reality.

That story stayed with me. It showed me Rav Shragy's מסירות נפש (*self-sacrifice*) to help another Yid again and again, even when it was draining and uncertain. And it showed me something breathtaking about Rav Ruderman זצק״ל: he lived with such clarity that the Torah's truth was the most obvious thing in the world.

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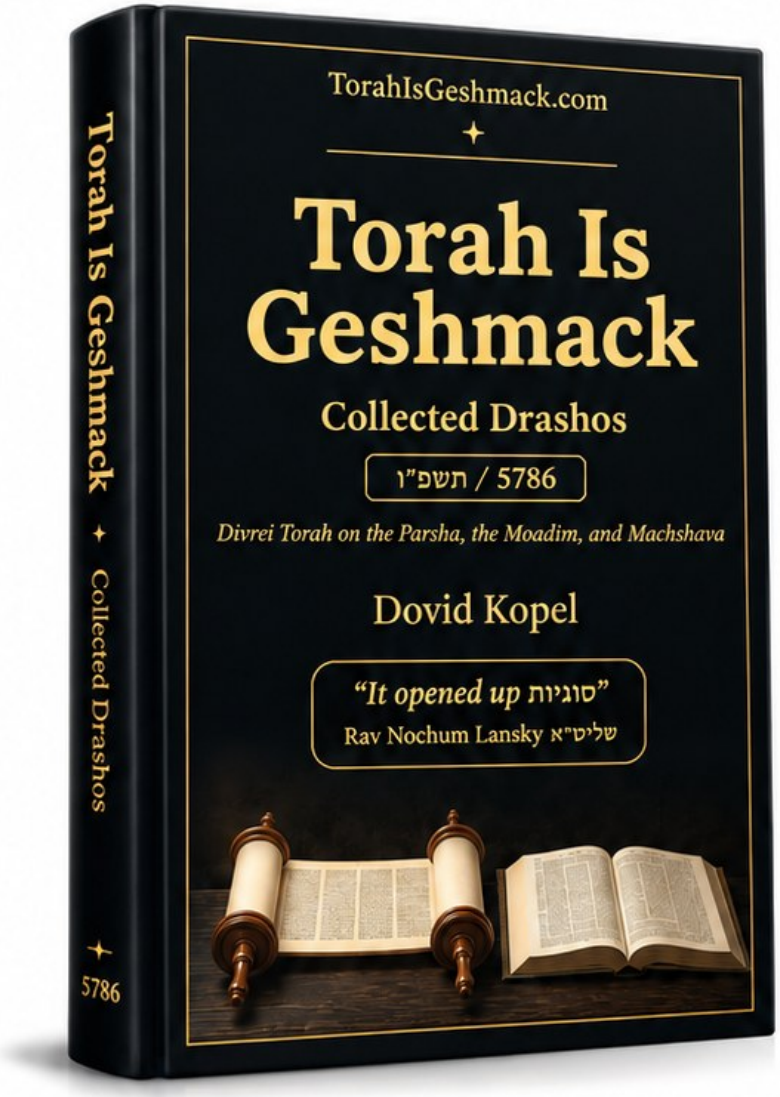
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