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

He Asked for Mechila: Rav Ruderman and the Sefer

Dovid Kopel

I recently went to visit Rebbe in Lakewood. During our conversation, he shared a story about Rav Yaakov Yitzchok Ruderman זצ״ל that I had never heard before. Rebbe told it as an illustration of the Rosh Yeshiva's extraordinary מדות (*character traits*).

There was a שמחה in Yeshiva over שבת, and Rav Ruderman זצ״ל asked Rebbe whether he could use Rebbe's apartment while Rebbe was away. Rebbe, of course, happily agreed. While in the apartment over שבת, Rav Shmuel Yaakov Weinberg זצ״ל noticed a ספר that he knew Rav Ruderman would want to read. He took the ספר and brought it to the Rosh Yeshiva.

After שבת, Rebbe was summoned to see Rav Ruderman זצ״ל. The Rosh Yeshiva wanted to ask Rebbe for מחילה (*forgiveness*). He explained that he knew Rebbe would almost certainly not have minded. Still, he felt bad that the ספר had been taken without Rebbe's explicit permission beforehand. Rebbe was deeply moved by the interaction.

The greatness of a person is often revealed not in dramatic moments, but in the small ones that others might barely notice. Rav Ruderman זצ״ל did not rely on what was probably acceptable, what would likely be forgiven, or what no one else would have considered significant. He felt that something belonging to another person had been taken without explicit permission, and he could not simply allow that to pass. That sensitivity, honesty, and care for another person's property were part of the greatness of the Rosh Yeshiva.

יהי זכרו ברוך

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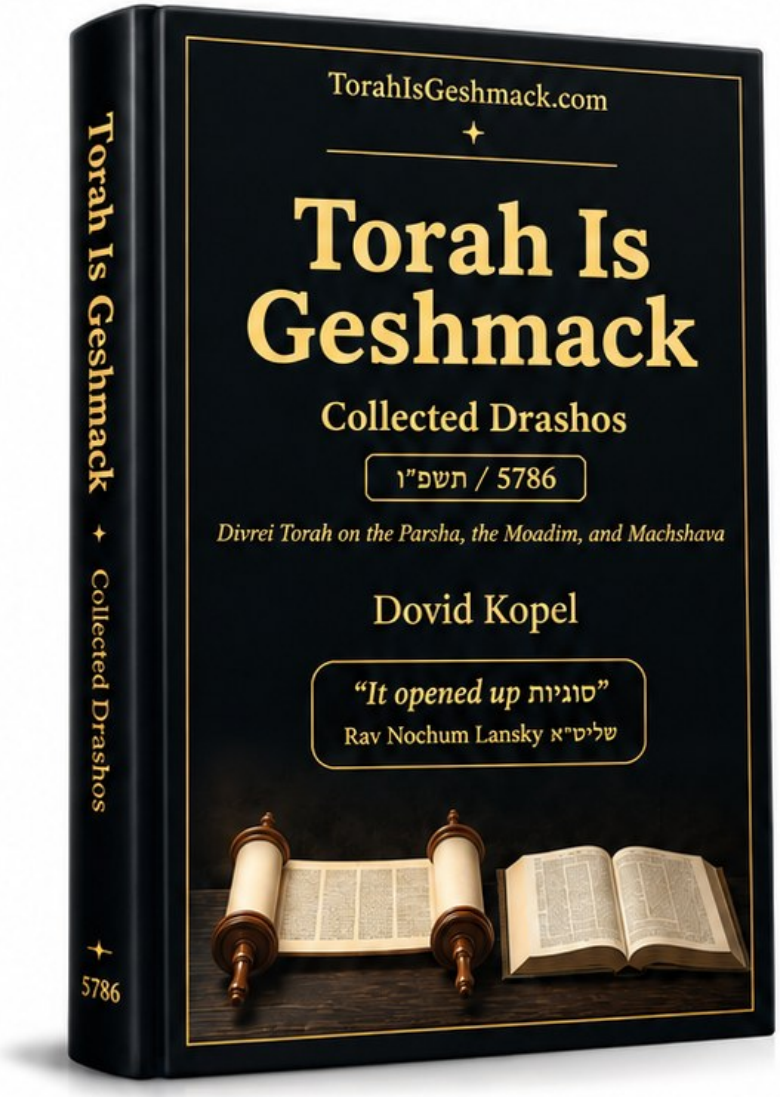
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