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 Never Stopped Being the Rosh Yeshiva

Dovid Kopel

When I recently visited my Rebbe, HaRav Nochum Lansky שליט״א, he shared an endearing story about the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Yaakov Yitzchak Ruderman זצ״ל, the בעל עבודת לוי.

The Rosh Yeshiva was already advanced in years when Rav Shlonger זצ״ל came to visit him. As they spoke in learning, Rav Shlonger noticed that the Rosh Yeshiva was behaving somewhat unusually. Concerned that he might be suffering a stroke, Rav Shlonger immediately alerted the family.

They assessed the Rosh Yeshiva and initially felt that everything seemed fine. Rav Shlonger, however, remained uneasy. He insisted that if anything changed, they should come and get him immediately.

A few hours later, there was a knock at Rav Shlonger's door. "The Rosh Yeshiva appears to be having a stroke. Please come help."

When Rav Shlonger arrived, he found the Rosh Yeshiva lying on the floor. Hatzalah was called, and Rav Shlonger bent down to help lift him. In the midst of suffering a stroke, the Rosh Yeshiva tried to stop him. "But you have a bad back."

Even in such a frightening and disorienting moment, the Rosh Yeshiva was thinking not of himself, but of Rav Shlonger's pain.

As they were preparing to take him to the hospital, Rav Shlonger and someone else began speaking back and forth in learning. The Rosh Yeshiva, still in the midst of the stroke, joined the conversation: "There is a רשב״א there…" He never stopped being the Rosh Yeshiva.

Rebbe added that despite the Rosh Yeshiva's extraordinary memory, he constantly reviewed his learning. His mastery was not merely the product of natural brilliance. It was sustained by an unceasing dedication to חזרה (*review*).

But what moved Rebbe most was the Rosh Yeshiva's extraordinary delicacy and concern for another person. Even while lying on the floor during a stroke, he remembered that Rav Shlonger had a bad back. That is a גדול בישראל.

He Never Stopped Being the Rosh Yeshiva

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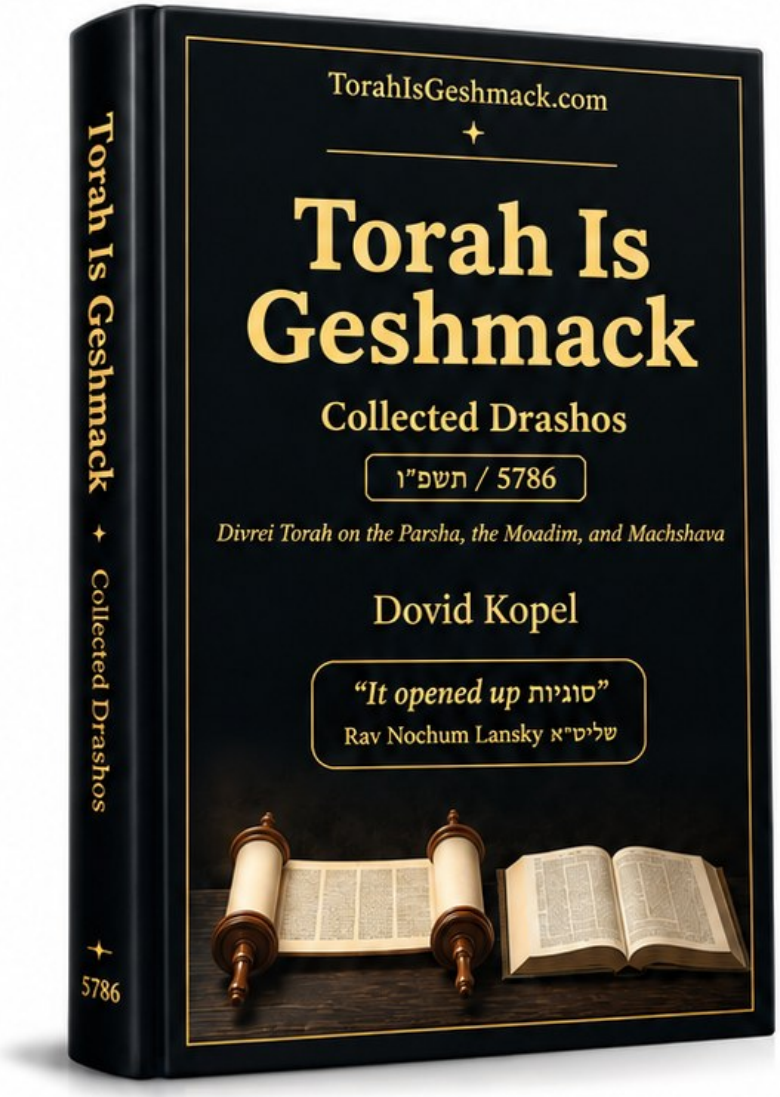
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