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

Inspired at a Levaya: HaMakom and the Hand of Hashem

Dovid Kopel

טֹוב לָלֶכֶת אֶל־בֵּית־אֵבֶל מִלֶּכֶת אֶל־בֵּית מִשְׁתֶּה בַּאֲשֶׁר הִוא סֹוף כָּל־הָאָדָם וְהַחַי יִתֵּן אֶל־לִבֹּו

Sadly, my Rav, Rav Abba Zvi Naiman's mother just passed away, and I attended the לויה (*funeral*). There has never been a time when I left a לויה and didn't feel inspired. There is a reason that מת מצוה (*burying an unattended dead*) is one of the greatest מצות you can do, since the individual cannot reciprocate the kind deed. So too is being inspired by a person's life.

I leave a לויה or שבעה (*seven days of mourning*) with both trepidation and inspiration. What will they say of me in this world? What will they say of me at the כסא הכבוד (*Throne of Glory*)? We have to be normal. If we went to a funeral every day, we would always be sad. We need balance. But always use these opportunities to learn and grow. Life is short.

Rabbi Naiman said a beautiful idea from Rav Chaim Shmulevitz that I had never heard, which I will try to incorporate into my life. With respect to כבוד אב ואם (*honoring one's parents*), take a certain מידה (*trait*) or attribute of your parent's personality — identify the one in which they truly excel — and let that be your guiding force to show them respect. For some it is easy to see, as their parents have so many wonderful qualities; for others it is more difficult. Nevertheless, an individual is required to show respect to their parents. It seemed that Rabbi Naiman had a different challenge in picking a single attribute, but I'm sure that did not deter him.

In the language of the נחמה (*consolation*) we use the word המקום. This refers to הקב״ה. In the kabbalistic world it is a word with deep meanings and some controversy. The reality is that we can choose to see הקב״ה in everything we do. We can see יד השם (*the hand of Hashem*). Or we can see טבע (*nature*); we can see the mundane. Open your eyes to the wonders that befall us daily — the small miracles. Using the term המקום, in my opinion, may be to reflect on the fact that הקב״ה sustains all life constantly. Don't think, "Oh, He dropped the ball and this person died by accident." It is all with perfect balance and precisely calibrated.

בִּלַּע הַמָּוֶת לָנֶצַח

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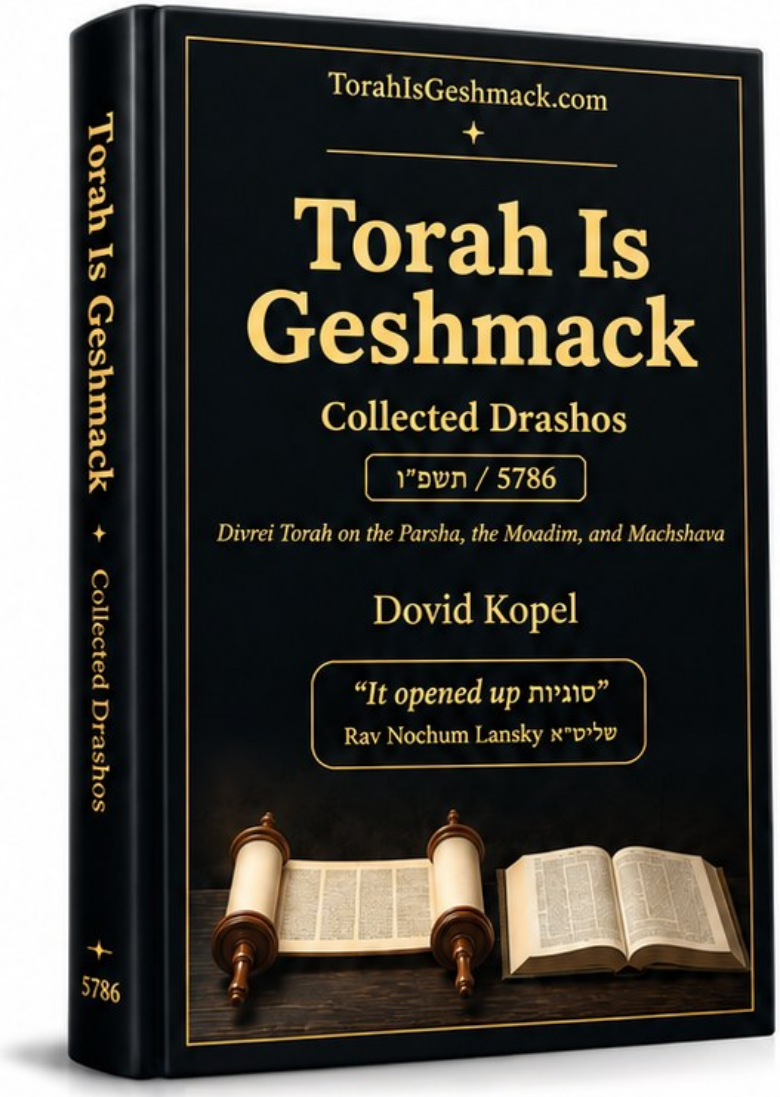
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