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

Running to the Beis Medrash: Rav Einstadter

Dovid Kopel

I recently went to the ספרים store — a weekly ritual — and needed a copy of טורי אבן. I hadn't realized that HaRav Tzvi Einstadter שליט״א had put out an edition of the sefer with his footnotes. Of course, he does not need anything from me, but I wanted to share two brief stories — and one small image — that show something of the person behind the sefer.

I was never in his shiur, but I would speak to him from time to time in learning. He never pushed me away. He was never too busy. He always made me feel like he had all the time in the world.

I remember once I was working on a difficult תוספות in the first פרק of זבחים. Now, if you know Rav Einstadter, he's a Brisker. That's his bread and butter. But he hasn't been in Brisk for a while. I said, "Rebbe, I'm having difficulty with such-and-such a תוספות" — I don't remember which one — and without blinking he said, "Oh yeah, it's like this and that." No opening the גמרא. No "let me think about it." It was just there in front of him. I walked away amazed. To me, it was a small glimpse of what real ידיעת התורה (*mastery of Torah*) looks like.

Another story. I was once working on a ברכת שמואל — notoriously a very difficult sefer to learn, very hard to read and understand. I asked him for פשט in a certain place halfway through the shtickel. He said to me, with a big smile, "Would you mind reading for me how you understand it until there?" I read it and explained it to the best of my knowledge and ability. Then he smiled and said, "Oh good, you said it right. Not everyone would get that right." Then we sat there and sweated — at least I did — over the remainder of the piece until it was clear. He was learning it with me.

And there is one more thing I always remember. He would run to the beis medrash. I don't know another way to say it. There was something so youthful about it, so alive. תורה was his whole world, and you could see it in the way he moved. It was not an act. It was not a show. It was just true and unvarnished — the way a person looks when he is completely שקוע in his learning and cannot spare a moment to walk slowly. A very special man, with amazing כחות (*powers*). I'm looking forward to learning his edition and getting a small taste of the תורה he put into it.

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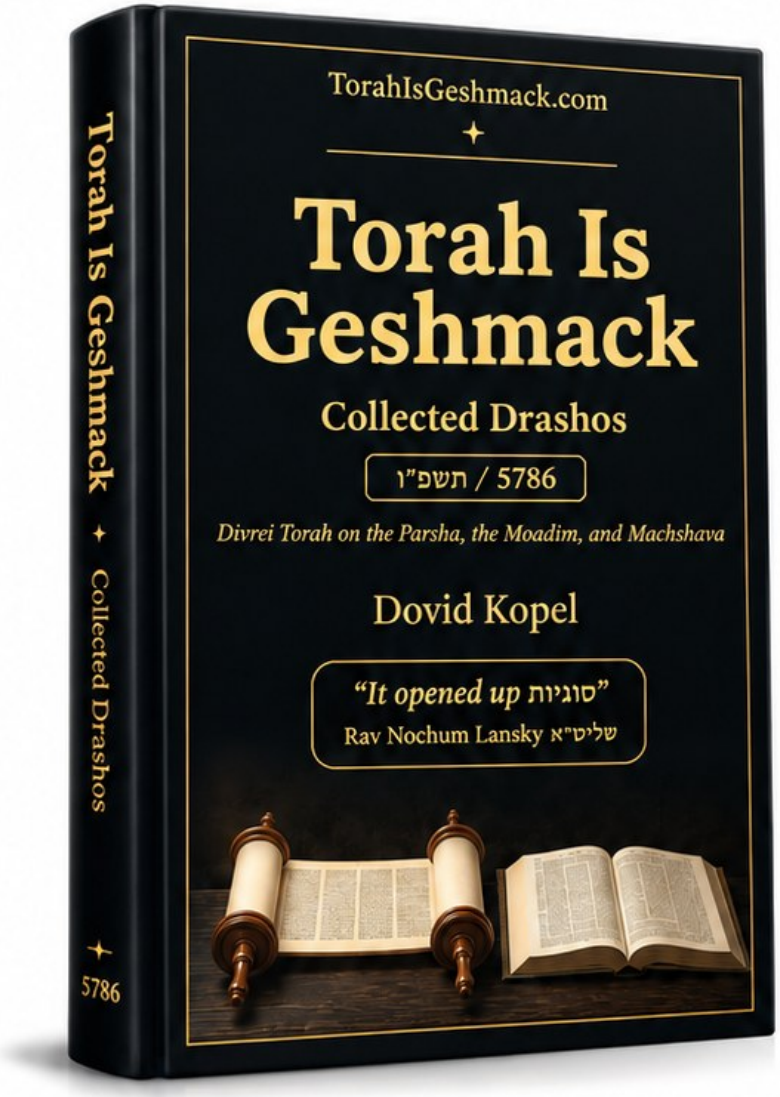
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