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

The Fence: On the Role of the Rabbanan

Dovid Kopel

A סייג (*fence*) has a dual purpose, though at times it is used for one, the other, or both. A baby has a playpen to keep him safe and from leaving the intended space — similarly for a prisoner. A fence at a big warehouse is generally for keeping people out. A fence at a school might provide both, keeping strangers out and the children from running off.

When we talk about the role of the רבנים and the laws and decrees they make, they are described as a סייג. At times they are there to keep us distanced from causing harm to ourselves — like ordinances regarding כשרות, whose idea is to ensure we don't come close to transgressing a biblical prohibition. On the other hand, many of the wonderful, joyous aspects of שבת are purely Rabbinical in nature. Things like מוקצה and refraining from speech about non-שבת matters are what keep the sanctity of שבת.

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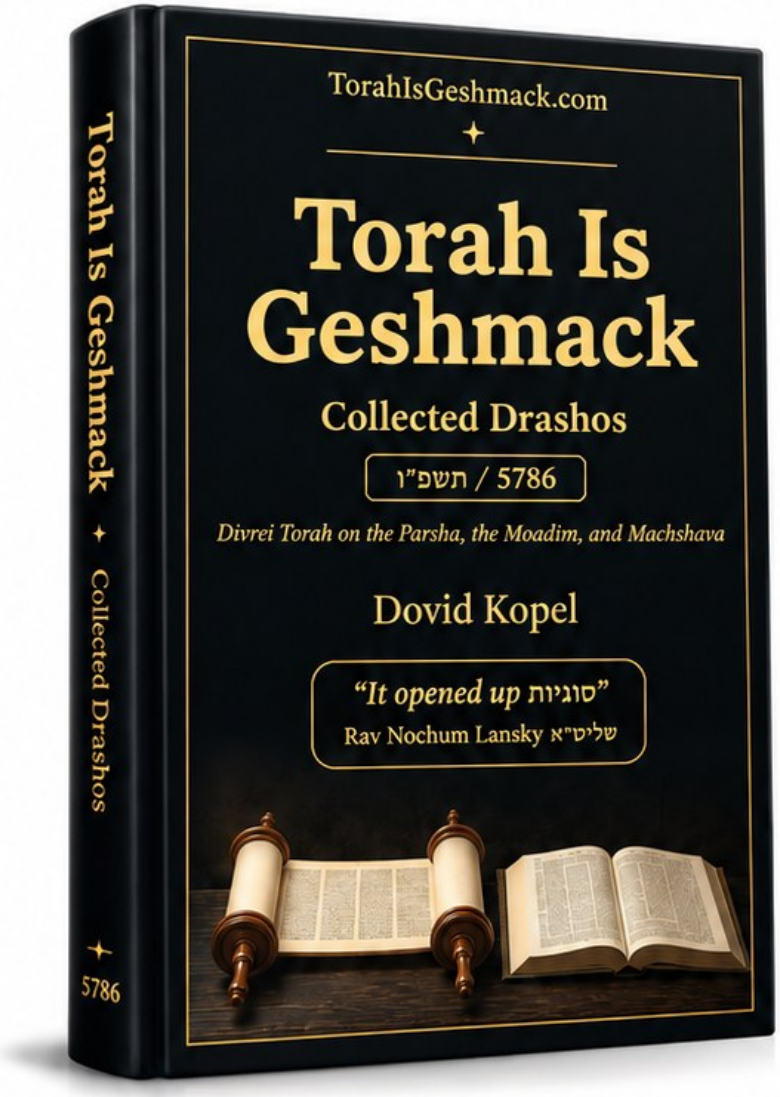
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