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

Bedikas Chametz Is Not Spring Cleaning

Dovid Kopel

As Pesach is only a few weeks away, I like to remind my friends and family not to confuse בדיקת חמץ (*the search for chametz*) with "spring cleaning." The יום טוב is demanding enough as it is. Don't make yourself into a slave when we are trying to experience freedom. I can assure you that no halachic authority requires cleaning curtains for the sake of Pesach.

Striking the right balance is always a challenge. Around this time of year, I often remember the wise words of my Rebbe, HaRav Shraga Neuberger שליט״א, who would caution us to be careful when taking on a חומרא (*stringency*), because it can inevitably lead to a קולא (*leniency*). He would point out that the קולא was often שלום בית (*peace in the home*). Adding extra stress to a marriage, especially when one spouse feels it is a religious obligation, can easily produce tension and conflict.

Selling חמץ גמור (*outright chametz*), avoiding געבראקטס (*matzah that has come into contact with liquid*), being careful not to mix different standards and practices — there are so many different חומרות. Don't take on more than you or your family can handle.

Yiddishkeit is not a race. It is not even a marathon. It is life. It is not about competing with your neighbor over who is holier or who can take on more. May you and your entire family be זוכה to experience חירות (*freedom*), to be inspired, and to have an עלייה (*ascent*).

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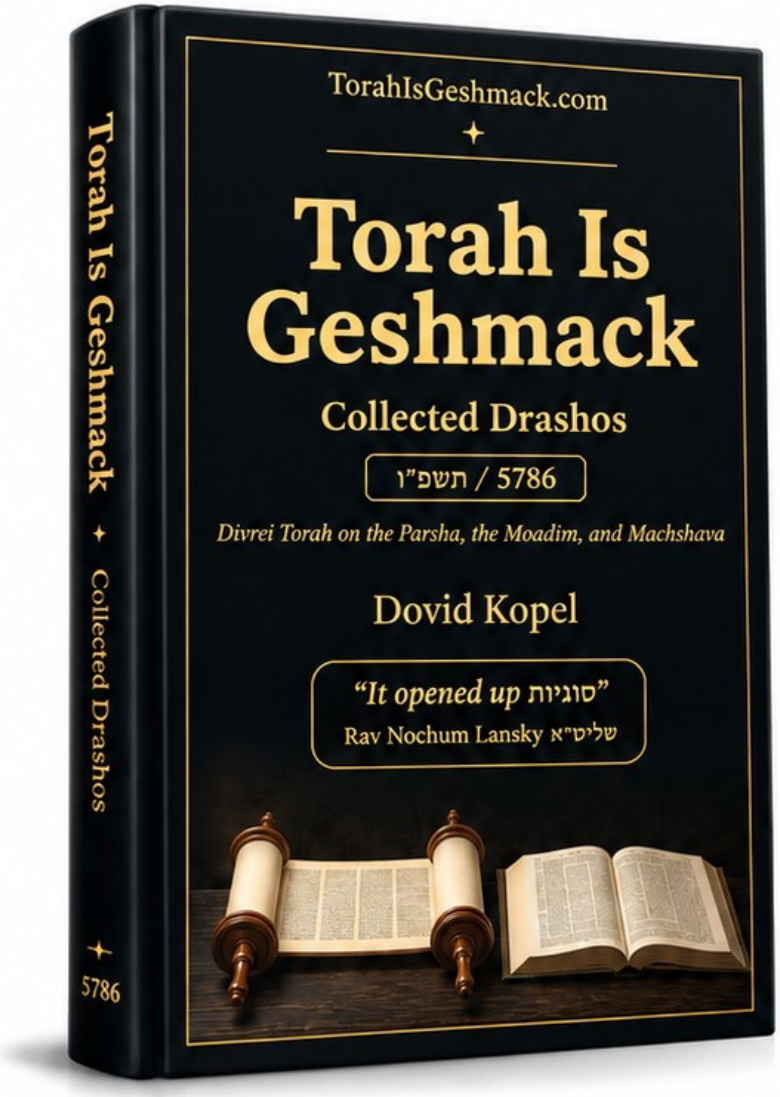
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