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

Encouragement: Chesed That Comes from Din

Dovid Kopel

It is amazing how encouragement can look so different from one person to another. As a parent, one option is to say, "Chaim, can't you stop wasting your time on your device?" Or you can say, "Chaim, I just bought you that new book you wanted. I really want to hear about it."

I won't lie — the first response often comes much more naturally. When I see one of my kids not using their time the way I would want, it is hard for me to hold back and choose my words more carefully. But the more I stop and think about the strategy, and about the impact, the more I realize that the gentler path is often the wiser one.

A lot of that, honestly, I have learned from my wife. I have learned from her to soften, to rethink, and to approach these moments with more patience and more wisdom. Sometimes it takes a real בינה יתירה (*extra measure of understanding*) to know how to guide a child in a way that reaches him, instead of just reacting to him. Even when your child knows you are right, showing him the right path is not always about stating the facts. It is about guiding him there with love, patience, and direction.

Parenting is more than just love. It means creating boundaries and structure that help your children succeed. I used to think: just love them. But that is not enough. You need to hold them accountable. You need to set them up for success. A home cannot be הפקרות (*chaos*, *lawlessness*). It needs structure if children are going to thrive. That is where חנוך לנער על פי דרכו (*educate a child according to his way*) comes through so powerfully. It is not just about loving your children; it is about building a thoughtful, personalized plan for each child, with milestones, encouragement, incentives, and at times even consequences when needed.

We often think of חסד (*kindness*) and דין (*judgment*) as opposites. But they are not. Sometimes דין itself comes from חסד. אברהם, who embodies חסד, is the one who brings forth יצחק, who embodies דין. דין comes from חסד. And maybe that is part of what we see in עקידת יצחק (*the binding of Yitzchak*). It is the ultimate moment of דין, but it is also an act of חסד. אברהם is acting with total selflessness, helping יצחק fulfill רצון ה׳ (*the will of Hashem*). That is not a contradiction to חסד. That is חסד in its deepest form — not giving someone what feels easiest, but helping him become who he is meant to be.

And maybe that is true in parenting also. Sometimes love is soft. Sometimes love is warm encouragement. And sometimes love says "no." Sometimes love creates boundaries. Sometimes love demands more from a child because you believe in who that child can become. That is not the opposite of love. Sometimes that itself is love. Do not be afraid to say "no" to your child. It can

be hard. But spoiling them, or enabling them to do whatever they want, is far more damaging in the long run. Real love is not only about making a child feel good in the moment. It is about helping him grow into who he is meant to be.

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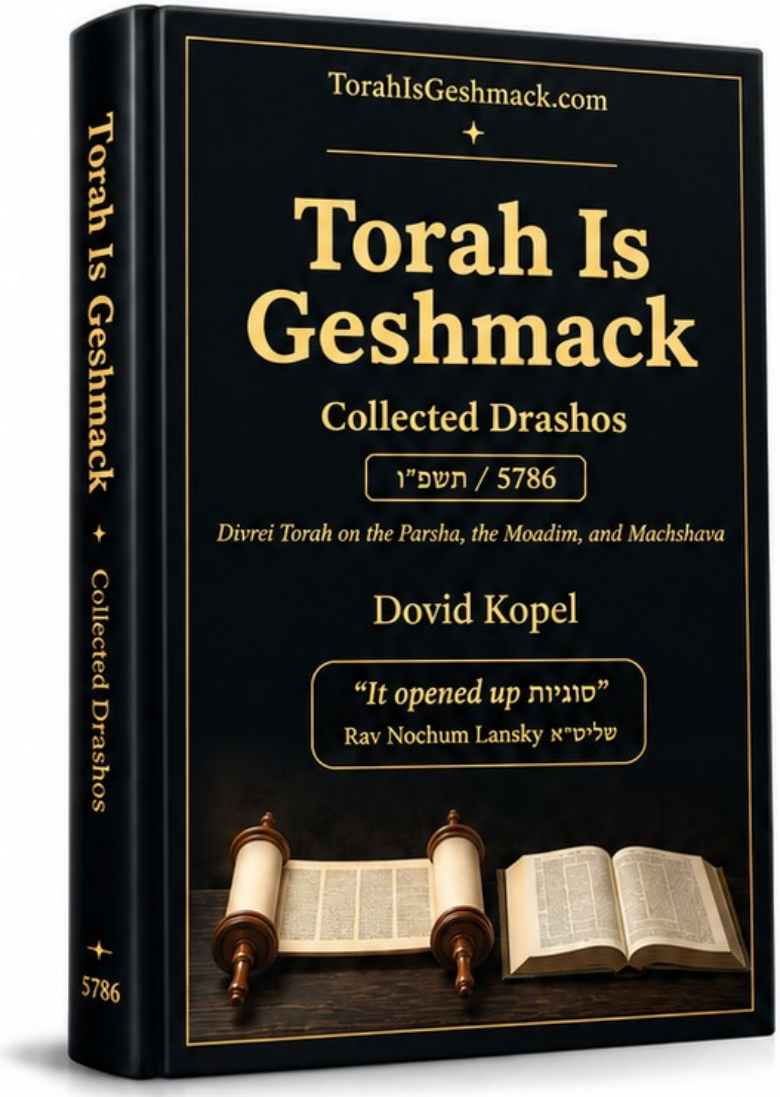
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