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

Just Learn the Gemara: Rav Mintz and Simplicity

Dovid Kopel

I have several wonderful memories of Rav Mintz. He is a פשטן (*one who seeks the plain meaning*). He is not into complexity.

I would build up an elaborate פלפול (*intricate analysis*), a complicated argument that depended on several factors. Often I would compare seemingly dissimilar ideas, contrasting them. I have no idea what the סוגיא was, but I remember his expression. I spoke for maybe five minutes, going back and forth, building this idea. He looked at me like I had just shot him with a gun. "I have no idea what you are saying," he said. "Let's just learn the gemara." A gemara I had already learned. But he sat with me, and we went through it, and that was that.

I try to channel that. Sometimes my favorite way to learn חומש is with nothing other than a חומש — what do the words say? No מדרשים, no complex סברא (*reasoning*), just the text. How does it actually make sense? Especially when learning רמב״ם, I've found the greatest ideas often live there — not in the layered סברא, but in what the words actually say. Simple is not dumb. פרד״ס all comes back to the root.

Thank you, Rav Mintz, for teaching me that sometimes the deepest thing is just to learn the words honestly. May we all be זוכה (*merit*) to find the אמת פשט (*true simple meaning*) in everything we learn.

Visit the site

Join our WhatsApp



For contact inquiries or if you wish to sponsor an issue, please email **dovid@torahisgeshmack.com**

Dedicated anonymously

לז"נ דוד יוסף בן שלום ונחה דבורה בת אסתר ואשר לעמל חיים בן דוד יוסף

TorahIsGeshmack.com

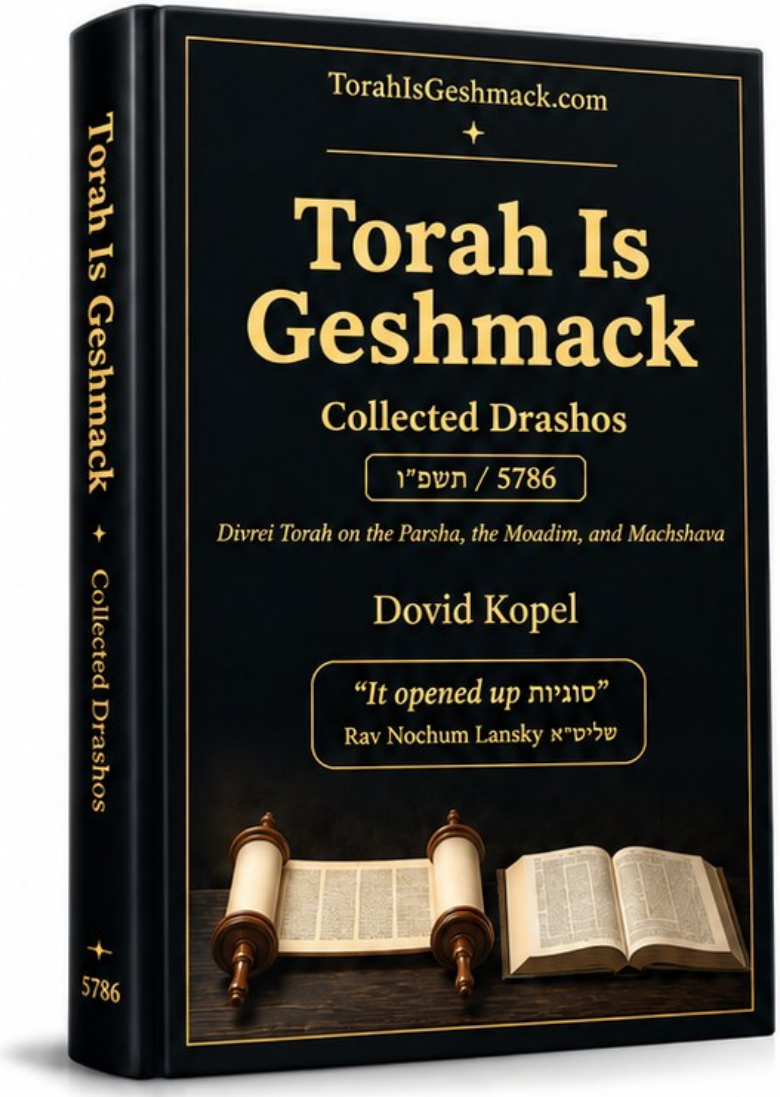
Torah Is Geshmack

Close To Torah

Collected Drashos

תשפ"ו / 5786

Divrei Torah on the Parsha, the Moadim, and Machshava



"It opened up סוגיות"

Rav Nochum Lansky שליט"א

PRE-ORDER: $25

Free U.S. shipping | Baltimore drop-off

SCAN TO PRE-ORDER

form.jotform.com/262865600851056

Divrei Torah on the Parsha

Inspiring Drashos on the Moadim

Thoughtful Machshava

Hope to be available by חנוכה

I learn Torah, and it's geshmack.