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 Morning Bracha: Shteig Ose

Dovid Kopel

Every day when I send my children off to school I give them a ברכה (*blessing*). My eldest daughter truly asks for it. It's part of our morning ritual. Depending on the day, the mood, and what's going on, the words will change. I am not someone who insists on עבדו את השם בשמחה (*serve Hashem with joy*) such that you always need to be בשמחה, but I certainly prefer it when we can be בשמחה. I tell her (and all of my children) that if it could be better, it would be.

Hashem has got your back; the question is whether you rise to the occasion or not. When life gets us down, do we feel that everything is bad and the world has turned on us? Or do we double down? We recognize that this is Hashem singling us out. I like to say: He's shining a spotlight on you. He is reminding you that He's watching you and involved in your life in every meticulous detail. You might not see it; it might seem hard. But that's all for you to grow.

I always end my ברכה by saying a common phrase in Yiddish: "שטייג אויס" — grow, and make it happen! In Yiddish, שטייג literally means to grow, but is also used to mean to learn. May we always see the ברכה in everything we experience. When it gets hard, and it feels like everything is going wrong — don't despair. Hashem has His spotlight on you. He wants you to shteig. Stand up and make it happen. You can do it!

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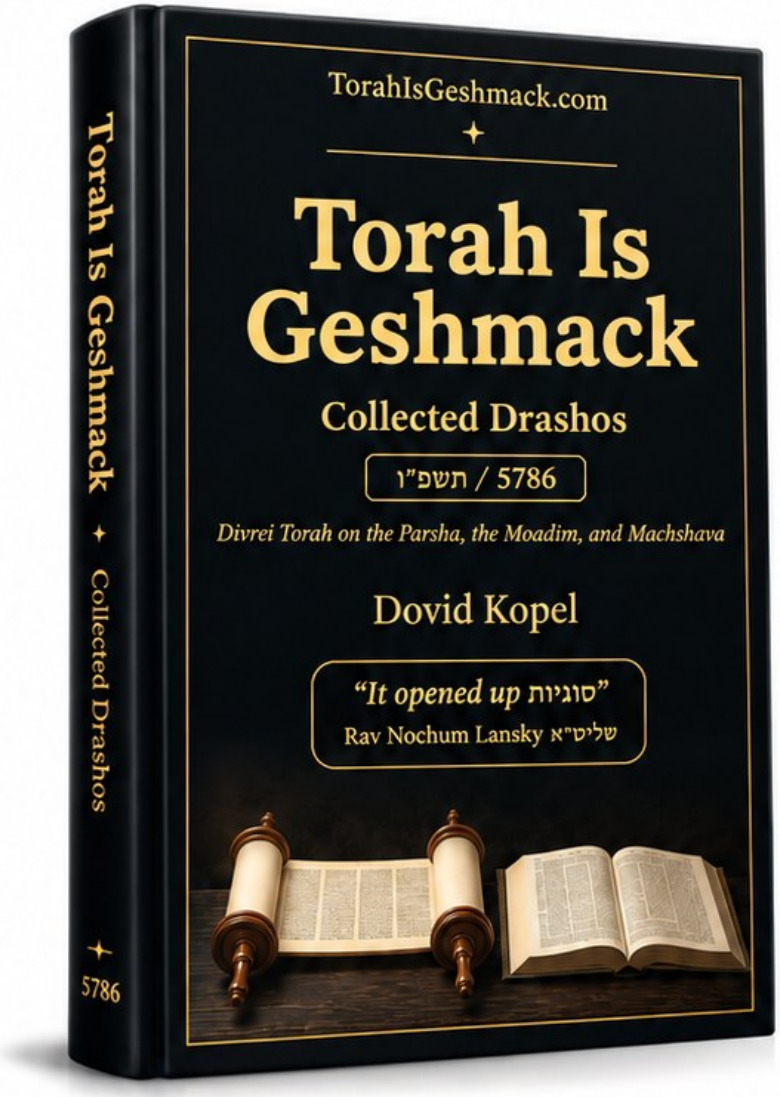
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