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

We Go After Him

Dovid Kopel

Tonight is ראש חודש אלול.

The idea of אֲנִי לְדוֹדִי וְדוֹדִי לִי (*I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine*) sounds natural when we speak about Hashem and כלל ישראל (*the Jewish people*). But when you think about it, it is actually a difficult idea.

ודודי לי makes sense. Hashem loves us. He is entirely חסד (*kindness*). He created us, sustains us, and constantly gives to us.

But how can we say אני לדודי? How could our love and devotion ever compare to His?

Maybe the answer is that we are not being asked to love Hashem with the same intensity that He loves us.

חז״ל (*the Sages*) teach us that the nature of a man is to seek after his wife. The חתן (*groom*) goes after the כלה (*bride*). That is his nature.

And that may be the language of אלול as well.

דִּרְשׁוּ ה׳ בְּהִמָּצְאוֹ (*seek Hashem when He can be found*).

אלול is a time of seeking.

Whatever the precise boundaries of the ימי הרצון (*days of favor*) may be, these forty days are our מקוה (*ritual bath*) as we prepare for יום הכפורים. Hashem makes Himself more accessible to us before the דין (*judgment*).

So perhaps אני לדודי does not mean that our love somehow matches His.

It means that we go after Him.

We seek Him.

We use this month to strengthen the relationship. To move toward Him while He has made Himself especially available to us.

Before He sits on the כסא של דין (*throne of judgment*), He gives us this time to come close.

אלול is not only about preparing for the דין. It is about preparing the relationship with the One Who will judge us.

Before we ask to be written in the ספר החיים (*the Book of Life*), we spend אלול showing that we are seeking a life with Him.

May we all take advantage of this awesome time, grow closer to Hashem, and be written in the ספר החיים.

We Go After Him

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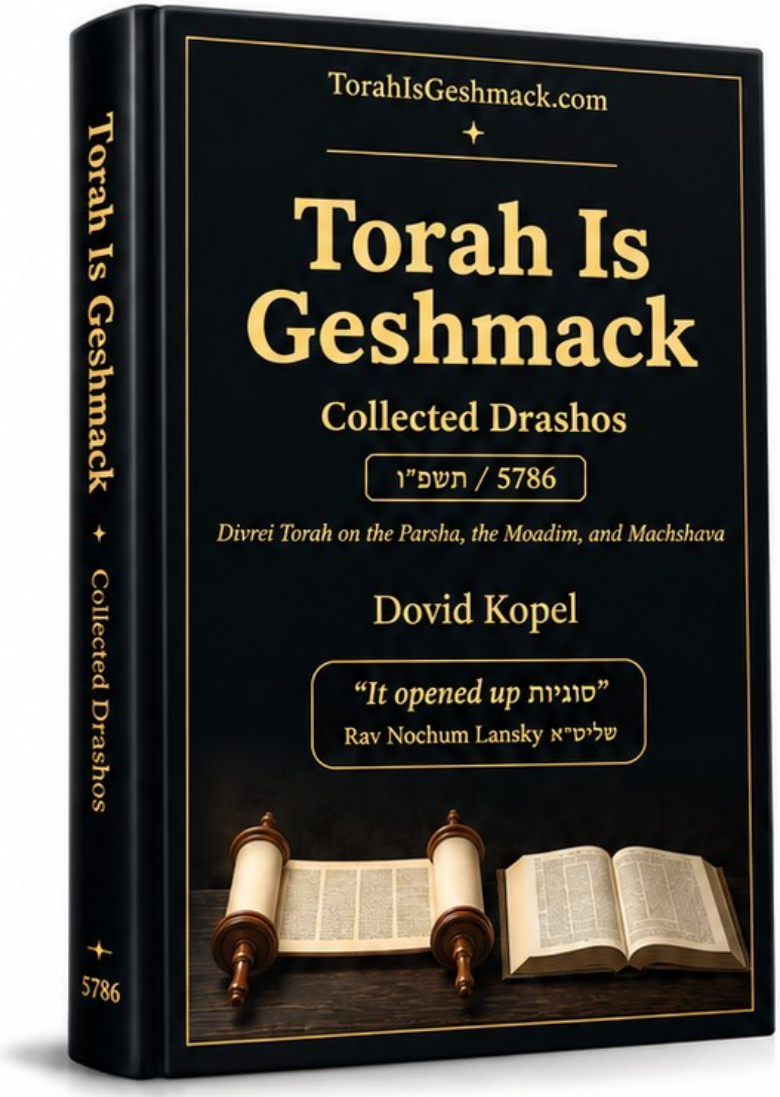
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