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

Why G-d but Not H-shem: Reverence from Daas

Dovid Kopel

Why do people write “G-d” but not “H-shem”? That question reveals more than people realize. Is “God” more of Hashem’s Name than “Hashem” is? Of course not. Which means the practice is often not coming from a clear halachic category, but from habit and religious atmosphere.

There is a כבוד שמים (*honor of Heaven*) that comes from דעת (*knowledge*), and there is a reverence that comes from vagueness. One is built on learning the actual distinctions the Torah makes: between a שם (*a name*) and a כינוי (*appellation*), between Torah text and a paraphrase, between a דין (*law*) and a חומרא. The other is built on a feeling that “this sounds holy, so I should be extra careful.” That instinct may be sincere. But sincerity is not the same as clarity.

Real reverence is not treating everything as equally sacred. Real reverence is learning the map of קדושה that the Torah itself gave us, and respecting those distinctions faithfully.

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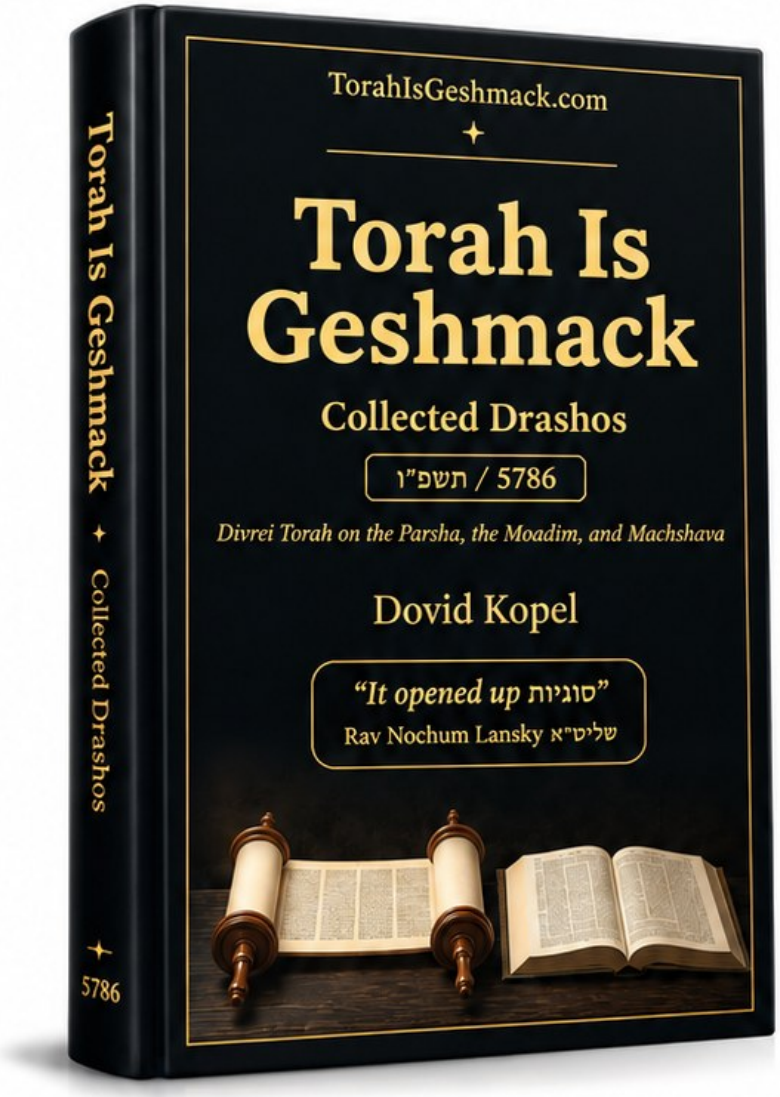
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