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״ז

Put It In Your Pocket

Dovid Kopel

As we make הבדלה (*boundary of distinction*) following יום טוב (*festival*) for the last time for several months, I find myself reflecting on what we have gained.

We have just finished a period that began all the way back at the beginning of אלול. We have passed through the preparation of אלול, the awe of the ימים נוראים, the שמחה (*joy*) of סוכות, and finally the incredible rejoicing with the תורה on שמחת תורה. The culmination of all of this should be that we are genuinely different people from when we began.

The spark of שמחה that we felt today while dancing with the תורה should not simply become a fond memory. We need to take these experiences and put them in our pockets.

We are approaching מרחשון. The month of תשרי is overflowing with its own sources of inspiration. Every few days there is another יום טוב, another מצוה (*commandment*), another experience pulling us upward. מרחשון is very different. There is no יום טוב waiting for us around the corner. There are fewer external forces pushing us forward.

But perhaps that is precisely the opportunity.

Now we discover what we actually took with us.

The שמחה does not have to disappear simply because תשרי has ended. The momentum does not have to stop because the calendar has become quieter. We can carry some of that קדושה (*holiness*) ourselves.

So I have a challenge for anyone reading this: take something. Anything. No matter how small.

Take one thing that changed during these past weeks and try to hold onto it until כסלו. Maybe it is something in your תפילה (*prayer*). Maybe it is a few extra minutes of learning. Maybe it is greater patience with your family, more הכרת הטוב (*recognition of the good*), more שמחה, or simply trying to approach עבודת השם (*service of Hashem*) with a little more enthusiasm.

Just keep it going until כסלו.

Once we reach כסלו, the smell of the doughnuts and the excitement of חנוכה will already begin pulling us toward the next great moment. We do not have to carry the entire year at once. For now, take the שמחה of today, and really all of תשרי, and put it in your pocket.

Then, when you need a pick-me-up, reach into that pocket and take a little bit out.

I told one of my children that the entire year cannot be יום כיפור. The entire year cannot be the ימים נוראים. It cannot even be תשרי. We are not מלאכים (*angels*). We have jobs. We have responsibilities. We have errands, pressures, and all of the ordinary things that need to get done.

But that does not mean these weeks are allowed to pass through us without changing us.

We may not be able to live every day with the intensity of יום כיפור or the open שמחת of שמחת תורה, but those experiences can change something at our core. They can leave us a little different. A little better. A little closer.

So be proud of what you have accomplished. Appreciate the growth you have made and the beautiful path you are walking. Do not look only at how far there still is to go. Look back for a moment at how far you have already come.

And then take some of that שמחה and put it in your pocket.

May we all be זוכה (*merit*) to carry the שמחה, growth, and closeness of these past many weeks into מרחשון, into the coming year, and ultimately into our lives. May what we gained during תשרי not remain behind us, but become part of who we are.

Dovid Kopel · TorahIsGeshmack.com

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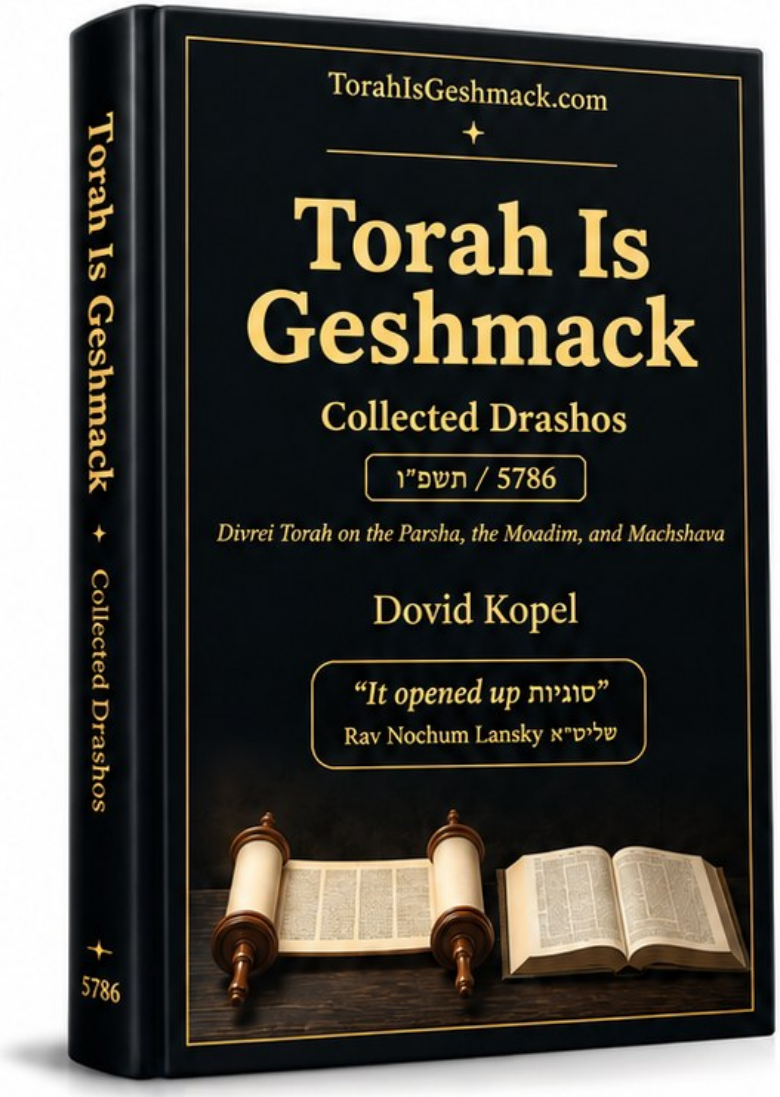
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