

And He placed at the east of Gan Eden the Keruvim and the flaming sword which turned every way. (3:24)

Rashi translates the *keruvim* in the *pasuk* above as "angels of destruction." This definition contrasts with *Rashi's* interpretation in *Parashas Terumah* of the *keruvim* which were above the *Aron Ha'Kodesh*. There *Rashi* describes *keruvim* as having the sweet angelic faces of children. *Rabbi M.M. Epstein z.t.l.* suggests an educational lesson to be derived from *Rashi*. The future of a young child is dependent upon his education. If he is brought to the *Ohel Moed*, to the *Bais Ha'Mikdash*, to study *Torah*, then he has the opportunity to reach the zenith of spirituality. He can "hover" over the *Aron Ha'Kodesh*, as the *keruvim* did. If children are not availed this opportunity, if they are distanced from *Torah* study, then the potential for evil is apparent. The sweet young children can turn into "angels of destruction." Nothing can mold a child's character as strongly as *Torah* study.