

The Strength of Community

In the last verse of this week's *Torah* portion *Nasso*, it states, "When *Moshe* will come to the *Ohel Moed* to speak with *Hashem*, he will hear the voice speaking to him ... between the *Keruvim*." What is the significance of the word of G-d coming through the *Keruvim*? Why does G-d specifically speak through this venue?

The *Keruvim* were angelic-like figures that were on both sides of the Ark. Their wings were spread upwards, yet they were facing each other. Their stance is a physical reminder of how we should study and apply the timeless lessons of the *Torah* in our daily lives.

We all need to look upwards and strive to improve ourselves every day. Yet, there is a condition being taught to us here how to grow spiritually. As we climb the ladder, we must be cognizant of our brothers and sisters around us. Personal growth cannot come at the expense of others. When we grow as individuals, it is in the context of doing it together with our community. We are responsible for each other and need to keep everyone in mind to grow as a *tzibbur* (community), helping each other attain greater heights.

That is why *Hashem* speaks to us through the *Keruvim*. *Hashem* wants His presence to be felt in this world. It is felt through the words of *Torah* that He has given us. The symbolism of the *Keruvim* is the ultimate goal. He wants all of us to strive for greater heights with the people around us as a community.