

Holding On And Letting Go

Hold on and let go
On the surface of things
 Contradictory counsel
But one does not negate the other
The two are complementary, dialectical
 Two sides of one coin.

Hold on— death is not the final word
The grave no oblivion
Hold on in Kaddish, Yartzheit, Yizkor
No gesture, no kindness, no smile evaporates-
Every Kindness, every embrace
 Has its afterlife
 In our minds, our hearts, our hands.

Hold on and let go
Sever the fringes of the tallit of the deceased
 the knot that binds us to the past.

Hold on
Not enslaving memory that sells the future to the past
 nor recollection that makes us passive, listless, resigned
But memory that releases us for a new life.

Return the dust to the earth
 not to bury hope
 but to resurrect the will to live.

Artists, aerialists on a swinging trapeze
 letting go one ring to catch another
 to climb to higher heights.

Hold on and let go
 a courageous duality that endows our life with meaning
Neither denying the past
 Nor foreclosing the future.

The flow of life
 the divine process
 gives and takes
 retains and creates.

Old and new
 yesterday and tomorrow
 both in one embrace.

The lord giveth
 and the lord taketh
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

