

Backwards And Forwards

*W*e remember backward
We live forward.

Looking backward, we recall our ancestry
Looking forward, we confront our destiny
Looking backward, we reflect our origins
Looking forward, we choose our own paths
Looking backward alone we turn memory into a pillar of salt, yielding neither
fruit nor flower
Looking forward alone, we rob ourselves of history
The significant knowledge that informs us whence we have come.

Backward and Forward — the two tenses “was” and “will be”
Shaping the present tense
Yizkor, deepening our roots and widening our horizon
Yizkor, remembering that we are a tree of life
Holding on and holding to
Not letting go, willfully forward.

