

# *Sculpting Memory*

*M*emory is our life. Amnesia our death.  
Memory is our strength. Forgetfulness our attrition.

To remember is a mandate  
a commandment from within.

Memory is no camera  
No indiscriminate recording of the past impartially registered  
Memory is a searching for a perspective that will illuminate the present.

Memory is a winnowing  
sifting through the ashes to find an ember of meaning  
a smouldering coal with which to kindle a fire and warm the spirit.

Yizkor is a Hebrew verb written in the future tense  
For memory is not for the past  
but the sake of that which may happen  
Yizkor is no passive registry of yesterday  
but an active strategy for tomorrow.

If memories are to make us stronger, wiser, kinder  
they must be picked carefully, lovingly  
Those moments of affection, those glorious embraces  
unrehearsed praises, confirming handshakes raised to prominence  
And those recollections that make us sad  
filling us with despair  
They too cannot be neglected to the ash-heap  
but must be confronted  
worked on hard.

