

Memory: The Past Breaks Through Into the Future

a prologue to the High Holidays and its season of Yizkor/Remembering

וְכָל אָדָם הוּא סֶכֶר בֵּין עֶבֶר לְעֵתִיד.
כְּשֶׁהוּא מֵת נִשְׁבֵּר הַסֶּכֶר וְהָעֶבֶר מִתְפָּרֵץ לְתוֹךְ הָעֵתִיד
וְאֵין מִקְדָּם וְאֵין מְאַחֵר. וְהַזְמַן הוּא אֶחָד
כְּמוֹ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, זְמַנְנוּ אֶחָד.
וְזִכַר הַסֶּכֶר לְבִרְכָה.

And every person is a dam between past and future.
When he dies the dam is broken and the past breaks through into the future
And there is no early or late. Time is one
Like our God, our time is one.
And the memory of the dam is a blessing.

Yehuda Amichai, from Patuah, Sagur, Patuah
Translated by Rabbi Steven Sager

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