



Re:Guarding Memory

SOURCE SHEET BY MOLLIE ANDRON & ZACH TRUBOFF

1 **Talmud Bavli, Shevuot 34b**

A person only remembers that which he has put his focus on.

- ? Why do you feel the Jewish people have focused on remembering?
- ? Can you think of an event from your own life which you made a point of remembering?
- ? Are there parts of your life that you wish you had done a better job committing to memory?

2 **Baal Shem Tov (1698-1760), Founder of Chassidut, Keter Shem Tov 2:381**

Forgetfulness leads to exile; remembering is the key to redemption.

- ? In what ways is forgetfulness like exile?
- ? Why do you think memory is the key to redemption? What does it offer that is so important?

3 **Zelda (1914-1984), Untitled Poem, The Poems of Zelda 222**

On that strange evening
Someone asked:
Is it possible to change the past?
And the sickly woman answered angrily:
The past is not a pearl
Sealed within a crystal box
Nor a snake within an alcohol jar-

The past sways
Within the present
And when the present falls into a pit-
The past falls with it-
When the past looks up to heaven
All life rises with it,
Even life from a very different past

- ? In what way is the past with us even right now?
- ? Do you agree with Zelda that it is possible to change the past and even uplift it? If so, how?

Zelda Schneurson Mishkovsky was an Israeli poet from the ultra-orthodox community. Her poetry is known for its beauty, emotion, and mystical themes.