The Nature of Memory

Nicholas Samaras

Memory without yearning
isn’t nostalgic, isn’t

any memory that makes us,
but is only what we tolerate or suffer through.

The nature of memory lies
in how we utilise memory.

Remembrance without yearning
can be what we flee,

what we let grow
pale to a ghostly frailty

that may blessedly
slip into irrelevance.

What we yearn for in memory
contributes to us, makes us whole.

Every moment, we can
choose our natures, aligning

to the positive, memory in focus,
everything that may better us.

Anything else is a bad master, best
come to terms with and laid to rest.