Teacher

I am the most fortunate of men (and women) for I am eternal.
Some people live in the world of today.
I live in the world of tomorrow.
Some find meaning in the temporal and the transient.
I find purpose in the eternal and the enduring and the eternal;
For I am charged with the most sacred of missions:
To transmit all that our parents lived for and loved for and died for to the next generation.

I span the generations,
Making wisdom of the past live now
so that the future will have meaning.
I make wisdom live,
For I am no mere bearer of knowledge.
I do not simply teach the mind – I reach the heart,
And when I reach the heart I touch the soul.

To those who say two generations hence what shall I be if but a distance memory, I respond:
Though the mind fades, memories linger
Though the body fails, the spirit prevails
Though the scroll burns, the letters dance in the air.

Rabbi Zev Schostack