ECHOES OF CLEVER PEOPLE

'I don't mind

being mistaken for one

Of the shadows'

– Kevin Young, 'Altarpiece'

Would you recommend that readers

obtain a copy of the book or not?

Is it to do with collective memory

and how we view the past? Will it

help us understand what happened

back then and how it informs now?

Clever people tend to be unhappy,

concentrate less on social norms

and live in echo chambers where

others all think the same things.

The desire to understand becomes

a driver for curious explanations,

reason for miserable compulsions.

No-one controls what people think,

you decide what you need to know.

Confirmation bias will seduce you,

make vicious assaults on your brain,

undermine your reasons and refuse

to discuss other ideas. Most people

have been terribly let down, can't

bear to speak of perpetual motion

or other hypothetical machines.

Energy can neither be created or

destroyed, always remains the same.

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I THINK I MAY HAVE READ THIS

for/from Martin Stannard

Any chance of an apostrophe somewhere?

I’m always wary of rhetorical questions

when they sound like these. I don’t know

if I am supposed to figure out everything

or just need a cup of coffee. No I don’t.

Some of this is like ambient music:

it’s alright to let it float around you,

because it’s creating an abstract mood,

but it seems futile to try to figure out

what some of your assertions mean.

Feeling sentimental? Wistful? Then why

don’t you jolt back to the real world?

I’m not crazy but you telling us stuff

in difficult long words reminds me of

a textbook with religious overtones.

I'm not sure what my state of mind is,

am not the best audience for poetry.

I sound like you or you sound like me

and I have made a note to remember

to remind myself that I should forget.

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