

**Physics**

Was it Einstein who said  
“Objects in the mirror  
are closer than they appear,”  
That how they move through space and time  
is relative?  
Events, too, matter -- but portend  
with no predictable equivalence.

“A persistent illusion,” he called  
the distinction between past,  
present, and future.

Do not be fooled by  
those events in the mirror.  
Some that loom largest  
are farthest away.  
Distance is no matter.

That sudden death from fifty years ago  
is heavier than it appears.  
More mass it has, more gravity.  
A long gone neighbor’s kindness,  
The choirmaster’s scowl,  
A sixth grade teacher’s praise.

What fuels our forward momentum  
is the closeness of the past.  
Pure presence?  
That’s only theoretical.

Peggy Weaver, Weaverville, NC

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