

Mind's autumn

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My mind is a morass. Muddled are the
Myriad faces of my past, like fallen
Leaves in the autumn grass, faded together.

I'm asked the same few questions now, the same strange
People gathered round, as if I could recall
Somehow, the answers. What is this place? Why
Can't they see, these endless fields of memory
Are clearer more for them than me? I do
Not know. What is the year? Reckon so – it's
Nineteen something long ago, my life in
Full *eternal* glow – still vivid. Briefly,
Then I'm back at home, familiar
Hallways through which I roam, they comfort me.
My name you say? Well, that I know, changed only
Once some years ago, stated proudly, let
It show that I am living. They ask me
No more questions now. My tired eyes, they
Rove around scanning faces in the crowd
I do not know them. Friends or family?
I cannot say, like nameless faces in
Store bought frames, always smiling...

Then back again I wander round my mind's
Soft hollows through which I found these
Memories fallen upon the ground
Like scattered leaves around me.

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Audio

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read this poem.

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