

POEM OF THE WEEK

WHAT DOES ONE TERM A COLLECTIVE OF PEOPLE?
A MOB, A MASS OR SOMETHING ELSE?
(Does the title need to be so long?)

The subject is the collective, concerning? Humanity
What's the first image that comes to mind when you hear the phrase?
Is it positive? Negative? Blurry? "I've just woken up, k'off!"
I fear the mass. Conformity is at its strongest in such a situation

Is the collective "like a box of chocolates", you don't know what you'll get
Chaos and chance will play their part, otherwise, one could confidently
Predict that 15% will be strongly pro-whatever, 15% strongly against (whatever)
The 70% in the middle could or would be receptive to one or other argument

A collection of people begins as individuals find themselves in a situation
Or were invited. Cursory conversations, at first, until somebody introduces
The cause of the crowd. First, as an answer to anxiety. Does it help? Yes? No?
No! It increases the anxiety. The seed has been planted. I never promised you

A Rose garden. Roses have thorns.

A mass, a collective, has the potential to be peaceful or incited to violence
An individual in that grouping would find it difficult to go against what the collective chose
Individuals matter when operating in their own space, at their own pace
Individuals make decisions. What is the influence of the collective on those decisions?

Proceed with caution. Question everything. Is it ethical? Is it moral?
Is it an expression of the masses, cruel, vengeful retribution? A hint?
A hint of the latter? Does it conflict with what you think? Leave it!
Leave it un-done, un-conceived and hiding in the dark

There's a surplus of darkness already
We need more light, more clarity
Is there strength in numbers?
Does it indicate engagement and interest?

Yes, no, and maybe
I fear the masses.
The lowest common multiple
It is there that Conformity
is at its strongest
And most deadly

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