**The Deconstructionist’s Reflection**

this is a poem

it is a poem about not being able to write a poem

perhaps this might be a left-brain poem

is that you, right-brain?

We need to talk.

without you i have nothing

i’ve spent the whole day thinking

i have laid hands on this keyboard

over and over

and gotten nowhere

the first thing to do

with writer’s block

is to write about writer’s block

therefore, this is a poem about writer’s block

i could stop now and the poem would be complete

no it wouldn’t be

why not?

because a poem about not being able to write a poem

is a boring poem

then this is not a poem about not being able to write a poem

it is a poem about being able to write a poem when you can’t write a poem

it has an interesting mechanism

yes, it does

it purports to be a conversation between the two halves of a brain, which is struggling to write a poem

why is the brain struggling to write a poem?

because it is the brain of a poet,

and a poem gives meaning to the thought processes of the poet

so the brain has no meaning without a poem?

the perception of the brain, measured in measures of self-esteem

requires that the poet do poetry

we call this meaning

so if the poet writes a poem about not being able to write a poem

that turns into a dialogue between the two halves of his brain

which are discussing the poet’s ability to give meaning to the poet

then the poet has given himself meaning?

that is more or less what i am saying

who are you?

i forget…when we think so much i lose track of which of us is talking

maybe we are both talking,

maybe we speak with a single voice and are only pretending to be two halves in order to provide a mechanism to lend interest to the poem which is now about the meaning of the poet

precisely

so is this a good poem?

it is not

why is it not a good poem?

because a poem must be about something

i dispute that

why do i slash you dispute that?

because perhaps a poem is about the words,

not the meaning of the words

so a poem does not have to be about the meaning of the words to be a good poem?

no

so this, a poem which is about the meaning of the meaning of the words lending meaning to the poet

is not a good poem?

no

then what is wrong with this poem?

because it is so reflexive that the meaning has been obscured

no, the meaning is that a poem must be about something to be meaningful

what about sound poetry? do those noises have meaning?

yes they do

so a sound poem can be a good poem?

if you speak the language

who speaks the language?

nobody

so how can it be a good poem?

it can’t

is this a sound poem then?

it is if the meaning of the words that are about the words that lend meaning to the poet are so obscure as to be meaningless

are these words so obscure that they are meaningless then?

they just may be

then why have i slash you slash we written them?

because we needed to write a poem

and it is easiest when you can’t write a poem

to write a poem about not writing a poem

and then let the poem turn into a poem about the meaning of the poem

which is what this poem is about

at first this poem was about not being able to write a poem

now it is a poem about having written a poem about being able to write a poem that gives meaning to the poet

can i have some ice cream?