The Deconstructionist’s Conundrum

this is a poem

it is a poem that i write in my head

that is meant to be read aloud

the problem, you see

is that the poem in my head

which is presently in my hands

is not the poem i wish to read aloud

it has changed with the act of transcription

from head to hands

nor, i might add, he said to himself

is it even the poem i wrote,

and by wrote i mean heard, in my head

before i started writing it

it’s hard to be the Midnight Deconstructionist

but don’t feel sorry for me

i chose this life

these

are black dots on a white screen

or black lines on a sheet of paper

while these are ringing tones that compete with the music

ever present in my mind

oh wait, i’m listening to the radio, silly me

the problem, you see

is that i speak the poem internally

i don’t write it on the blackboard of my brain

i save that for making grocery lists

this poem

is meant to be read aloud to you

(oh wait, i am reading it aloud)

(no, maybe i’m not)

when you raed

you here the voice of yourself

you *talk the worms*

written poetry, then

is never silent,

it is always speech.

writing is democratic that way

where reading is fascist

call me a fascist, then

i don’t care

ok, i do

no, i don’t

it is the problem of written poetry

that good poetry is almost always better read aloud

so that the voice in our heads

mirrors more closely the voice

in which it was written

on many occasions

a poem which i disliked in my head

i liked coming from someone else’s head, thank you for sharing

this is

for

instance why i do

not use odd line

breaks, besides of

course, that i find such

methodologies somewhat

clichéd

i attempt to write in such a way

that reading this poem

is natural

and comfortable

and, of course,

in the eyes of other poets

old-fashioned and clichéd

it’s a cliché-eat-cliché world out there

but i make concessions

i use punctuation sparingly

so you may choose for yourselves

where to end a verse.

doubtless, i’ve said all this before

however

a poem is not usually a method of saying something

that has never been said before

it is a way of saying something familiar

in such a way that it triggers new meaning

in the mind of the reader

whom, i hope, at the moment that

this is a poem

is not a reader

but is the listener

if you are not

then do your best

and don’t blame me if you don’t like it