**The Deconstructionist’s Agony**

this is a poem

it is a poem about the words in the **poem**

a poem contains (is) words

among those words are **keywords**

these are special words that sport a richness of **meaning**

this poem contains such

so far, it contains at least three:

**poem, keyword, meaning**

the choice of keywords is meaningful

witness:

**soul**

now this poem contains at least four keywords

(not really)

soul, here, is a lost lamb, devoid of useful meaning

it has many potential meanings inherent to it

but here we gain nothing

other than that it is now a keyword

**this poem has soul**

now soul means something

its use has been defined

this poem now has soul

we place two keywords together here

and newness erupts

in fact

this poem is **cold**

and arguably ain’t got soul

but hola!

cold and soul are not mutually exclusive keywords

although they carry this baggage

poets often shy away from keywords

they are too easy

they don’t wish to say soul when speaking of soul

use custom metaphors

this may or may not be a good **idea.**

desirous of lending meaning to a poem

they may so obscure the intended meaning

as to lose all meaning

**speaking personally:**

i am not afraid of keywords

if they describe my idea

i use them

i am not in **competition** with other poets

sometimes a leaf is a leaf

not the withered detritus of october’s fate

this does not mean i object to metaphor, simile, analogy, obfuscation, tangents, obliques

or other stuff

i attempt to use them only if they **illuminate** meaning

or add depth

or layer ideas

or i feel like it

this poem about keywords

is now full of keywords

**this** is now a keyword ( i made it so,

try and stop me )

as i use this

in this series of poems

The Deconstructionist’s Series of Poems

**headache** is a keyword

**life** is a keyword

together they are suspicious

Life **is** a headache.

but life is **not** a headache

not is the keyword

the keyword is not

**i** have a headache

*such is life*