The Deconstructionist’s Dog

this is a poem

it could be a poem about a dog

but it is not

it is a poem about the act of naming

it could have been named more accurately

it could have been called The Poem about Naming

but there is a difference between journalism and poetry

in poetry, it is not necessary to describe things exactly

it is more important to name things in ways that will make people think

naming is one of the essential acts of poetry

when few things had names

it was easy to name things

now there are few things without names

and the act of naming is complex

in naming things is an appropriation of power

to call someone names is to disempower them

to rename something is to empower the namer

by inventing new names for things, we minimize their mystery

therefore, by naming this poem

i have taken power over the act of naming

i have given it a humorous name (i hope)

one with an element of irrelevance

in order to highlight the complex and reflexive aspect

of naming something about names

reflexivity is at the heart of this series of poems

now i have given a name to what is at the heart of this series of poems

and i have reasserted my power over them

this is appropriate

i will warn you, however

that the dog of the title is real

by giving an intangible a name

i have created a more tangible intangible

where before was only potential

there is now a name

i have taken power over a potential,

a dog.

it is easy to take power over a dog

it is even easier to take power over the name of a dog

i will name my potential dog

Adam

and now I will write a poem about him:

The Deconstructionist’s Adam

this is a poem

it is a poem about power

power is good

this poem is short

because I am trying to remain a mystery

this is hard –

you already know my name