The Deconstructionist’s Trial

this is a poem

it is a poem about why everybody hates poetry

100 000 years ago

when smelly people ruled the earth

the height of entertainment was farting and telling stories by the fire

today, this is still entertainment

in its day, the fireside gathering

which could include music, dancing, jokes, and all manner of low-tech amusement

was the ultimate in immersive technology

eventually

entertainment became codified

jokes became theatre

storytelling became acting

dancing became communal ritual

these became the ultimate in immersive technology

as poetry developed

it became immersive technology

stories in poetic form

went on for days

the minds/brains of the audience

delighting in immersion

built pathways of receptivity

learned to absorb rhythm and meter

they were trained to poetry from an early age

participating in immersive technology was the order of the day

sadly

we have so much immersive technology

that our immersive technology receptors

require immense amounts of stimulation

we are addicted to such stimulation

and like any addiction

more more more is the order of the day

poetry is no longer a viable immersive technology

there will always be people

who prefer the scalpel to the sledgehammer

poetry can still be a scalpel

but we are few

and even those of us who love poetry

would rather write it than read it

this is because the act of writing

is a more immersive technology

than the act of reading

our brains simply are not set up anymore

to focus on the narrow

Ritalin for all!

trying to focus on poetry

for most people

is a matter of having to turn off

tv

from inside their minds

we humans have been redesigned by tv

movies, radio, temples, theatre, music

all these forms of psychology are far more immersive

than any poem

no matter how good it is

can ever be

this is not to say that important things cannot be said

in poetic form

but it is to say

that unless poets find a way to make poetry

into immersive technology again

then poetry will continue to suffer the dilapidation of modernity

oddly

poets must take their cue

from the worst poets in the world

shallow egotists yelling about their penises

to a machinelike beat too slow to motivate

the most successful poets in history

are some of the least literate in history

this is called irony

i am not a big fan of irony

this series of deconstructions

is not aimed at a general audience

it is aimed at poets and writers and lovers of poetry

you are a rare breed, and perhaps idiots

in a city of five million people, it is hard

to get 100 together to hear poetry