Deconstruction – It Is Not What You Think

18 Notes for the Non-Noticeable

1. What is deconstruction? Deconstruction is not what you think (if you think that deconstruction is)

2. Deconstruction denies fixed and final origins. To arrive at an origin would mean to fix meaning in a way for ‘presence’ to occur. Yet, there is no meaning that defines itself.

3. Deconstruction is not concerned with being, BEING. There is no presence from which deconstruction can unfold. It is always in the coming; it speaks with the voice of the singular, that which is absolutely specific to the ‘here-and-now’.

4. Deconstruction affirms différance which is the difference of the presence of meaning from itself. Because of différance meaning is never ‘present’ (objectively accessible) but always deferred into the future.

5. Deconstruction is not a method. Every deconstruction is different and itself force to différance.

6. Do you think that because deconstruction cannot be adequately described that it obscures and its advocates are obscurantist? Think again! Deconstruction challenges the very essence of questions like ‘what is?’ or ‘what is the essence of?’

7. Deconstruction is not a semiotic theory. Although deconstruction addresses semiotic issues, it is not a theory about semiotics; it criticizes structural semiotics for being transcendental. Like there is no objective meaning of a sign, there is no transcendental signified. Every signified already is a signifier; the relation between both is never stable.

8. ‘There is nothing outside the text’ does not imply that the world is a book! Deconstruction is about ‘the text’; in fact deconstruction addresses the text. Yet, the text is not about the written. There is no fundamental difference between language and the world; the world becomes textualized; contexts become textualized. The text is about textualized contexts; the text is about the traces we leave behind: perception is text, gestures are text, and discourse is text.

9. Deconstruction interferes with ‘the-world-as-we-know-it’; it concerns all structures, be they political, economic, historic or whatsoever.

10. This is a note on deconstruction. Strictly speaking, there is no such thing as a note on deconstruction – deconstruction leaves notes, leaves traces. There is no hard core of deconstruction that you can discover. This is a note for the non-noticeable.

11. Deconstruction has always already begun. You cannot DO deconstruction like you apply some tool. You can be sensitive to deconstruction, yet you cannot apply it from the ‘outside’ (even if sometimes this seems to be the case). Any deconstruction is already at work within ‘the text’.

12. Deconstruction uncovers supplementarity. To deconstruct an opposition the oppressed term is identified as being constitutive for ‘the origin’. This neglected term is ‘the other’, that which reinscribes itself as the parasite into what is deemed to be ‘original’. The supplement adds on but also substitutes (at least in part).

13. In its most strict sense every supplementary relation is paradoxical. The impossibility of paradox occurs if both sides of an opposition are thought together (as the unity of their difference). Then, the enabling and constraining lines of an argument coincide and give rise to that what is impassable.

14. The paradox is undecidable; deconstruction is undecidable. Every deconstruction reveals a tension between two notions (e.g., deconstruction itself means to construct and destruct). You do not know which side to turn to; you are caught in the undecidable.

15. Deconstructions is justice. To pass through the aporetic moment of the undecidable you need to give justice – infinite justice, a justice that is never here, can never be grasped.

16. Do you think deconstruction is just theoretical drivel? Ironically, deconstruction is the most practical thing in the world; deconstruction is practice (the performance of the singular within an unsaturable context).

17. Do you think that after having read this you know what deconstruction is? If so, think again!

18. Considering deconstruction is necessary! This is a trace...