

## LAMB'S INNOCENCE FROM WILLIAM BLAKE'S VIEW

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### ABSTRACT

William Blake is a famous poet and artist from England, who was lived from 1757s to 1827s. He started his writing at the beginning of the Romantic Movement. He is famous with many poems like "The Lamb", "The Tyger", "The School Boy", "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell", and others more. He published the collection of his poems with the title "Songs of Innocence and Experience" in 1794.

In the paper, "The Lamb" poem of William Blake considers in details. This poem is one of the popular poems of Blake, and also this poem is a part of poems in the collection of "Songs of Innocence". In fact, the poet shows a speaker's innocence about created the lamb, and he asked many questions about his creator. This poem is lyrical that includes two stanzas. The first stanza is a pastoral and descriptive while the second stanza is about inner matters.

**KEYWORDS:** Create, Creator, Non-Material, Rustic Life, Innocence, Jesus Christ & Lamb

### INTRODUCTION

William Blake was born on 28 November 1757 in London, England. He was an English Poet, Painter, and Printmaker. He was the third of seven children of the middle-class family. They were seven children but two of his siblings died in infancy. He never attended the school, and his mother taught him at home. He wasn't interested in going to school, but he participated in drawing classes. He started writing when he was 14 years old.

When he was four years old, he told his mother that I sawed God's head at the windows, and also he had imaginations like this all the time. For example, when he was nine years old, he was once walking through the countryside, and he saw a tree filled with angels. In fact, the first imagination William of nature was a tree full of angels. Henry Crabb Robinson was Blake's friend who said that William sawed God's head appear in windows when he was four years.

His parents thought he lied, so they tried to convince him. He was different from his peers; hence his parents didn't force him to attend conventional school. Therefore, his mother taught him, and he learned to read and write at home without attending school. William wished to become a painter, since his childhood. So, his parents sent him to drawing school at the age of ten.

William belonged to a poor family, for this reason, couldn't pay drawing school's fees. So, he left the school after two years, and he began to engrave and started writing poetry when he was 14 years old. He worked as an apprentice of tomb shop, and he sketched and engraved on the tombstone. After seven years, he studied at Royal Academy for a short time.

William was married to Catherine Boucher in 1782. Catherine was illiterate. He taught her how to read and write, and also he taught her drawing by watercolor. They had no children. He was adept at painting and engraving, and also he illustrated in books and magazines. He began training his younger brother, Robert in drawing, engraving, and painting. Robert fell ill during the winter of 1787, and he died of tuberculosis. William suffered from the death of his brother. He saw his brother's spirit was happy and was raised up through the sky. He believed that he met his brother's spirit and trained him, and later he used the method of training in Songs of Innocence work.

He started writing while he sketched the human figure of ancient statues. He published his popular collection, "Song of Innocence" in 1783 when he was a teenager. And also he published the collection of "Songs of Experience" in 1794. Both books were printed in an illustrated format, and each picture was finished by watercolor. In the end, William Blake died at the age of 70, after he has published thirty books of poetry and more than one hundred painting.

### **ANALYSIS OF "THE LAMB" POEM**

The lamb poem is a part of the collection of "Song of Innocence". The lamb is a simple poem of Blake. This poem was written at the beginning of the Romantic Movement. This poem is a Lyric poem which includes two stanzas in which every stanza has ten lines, and also each pair of lines rhyme, with several lines repeating throughout. "The lamb" poem is full of questions and answers, so the poem is a child's song.

Little lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?  
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed  
By the stream and o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight;  
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice?  
Little lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?

Each stanza of "The lamb" has five couplets and type of poem is AABB rhyme of Innocence poems.

"The lamb" is one of the religious poems of William Blake. This poem refers to the pastoral life of the lamb who is similar to the Biblical symbolism of Jesus Christ as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin into the world".

The speaker of this poem is a boy child. The poem is a child's song, in the form as a question and answer. The first stanza is rural and descriptive while the second stanza focuses on abstract spiritual matters and contains explanation and analogy.

Little lamb, who made thee?

In the initial line, the speaker who is a boy child asked the lamb, who created him. The first line of the poem started as a question that is asked of the lamb. He wants to know where they come from.

Does thou know who made thee

The second line, the speaker repeats his question in a different way. The speaker seems curious because he sounds like he knows the answer to the question (who made thee).

In this poem, the poet used old sounding English words like "dost" and "thee". The word "thou" refers to the lamb. This line shows the speaker's belief that all life has been created and named by the Lord. This line refers to God who is the creator of all things under the earth.

Gave thee life, and bid thee feed

By the stream and o'er the mead

The third and fourth lines focused on the question's word of "who"?

The speaker wants to know who gives the lamb life and food. He asked if the lamb knows who made him, so he knows who provides his food. These lines want to say that the lamb didn't create himself but a powerful force has created him and created the meadow of feed him.

The speaker believes that if the God created the human or the animals, he put food and water for them that's why God designs the human and animals in the special sequence, and also he didn't invent anything without a reason. The main reference of these lines is to order of nature by the God.

Gave thee clothing of delight

Softest clothing, wooly, bright

The fifth and sixth lines of the poem refer to God's power again. The speaker asked the lamb who gives you white wooly cloth. The wool looks "bright" because it gleams in the sun. The speaker believes that the God created all things, so we should all worship him. These lines want to refer that thanksgiving to God for all blessings.

Gave thee such a tender voice, the seventh line begins on the word "Gave". This word has the strong emphasis on the power of God. The speaker says that the God not only gives you beautiful wool cloth, but also he gives you a delicate voice, and nice echoes put through them. Blake writes of the water and food supplied to the lamb, as well as the soft wool and tender voice of the lamb.

Making all the vales rejoice?

The eighth line too the lamb's voice which is associated with happiness. In fact, when the lamb speaks, the valleys seem to reply to him with the same joyful voice.

Little lamb, who made thee?

Dost thou know who made thee?

In the ninth and tenth lines of the poem, the speaker focused on questions that were asked at the first of the poem. In fact, the speaker focused on God's creation.

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,

Little Lamb I'll tell thee!

In eleventh and twelfth lines that started the second stanza of "The lamb" poem, William introduces the narrator of the poem in the form, of "I". "I" can be William Blake that is in the role of a boy. Because in the collection of poems in "Song of Innocence", their speaker is a child. In these lines, we understood that the speaker knows the answer to his questions, which were asked in the first stanza.

He is collected by the name

For his calls himself a lamb:

The thirteenth and fourteenth lines the speaker refers to a comparison between "Lamb" and "Jesus Christ". The speaker used 'Call' word that he wants to show his idea of Divine. In fact, Blake describes, the Lord Jesus Christ as the creator of the lamb. Blake begins with a simple image for the reader for a better understanding of his vision into the nature of divine creation.

He is meek, and he is mild;

He became a little child.

In what manner Jesus came to the earth to sacrifice himself for all mankind. The traditional image of Jesus as a lamb underscores the Christian values of gentleness, meekness, and peace. Christ has another name. That is the lamb because Christ is meek and mild like lamb. Christ was also a child whom he came over the earth of the Son of God for the first time. The child shows his joy in the company of the lamb who is just like him, meek and mild.

I a child, and thou a lamb,

We are called by his name

Little lamb, God bless thee

Little lamb, God bless thee

The end of the poem has direct reference to Lord throughout the world. In fact, Blake wants to express that God who created the lamb, and the same God created human. So these lines reflected in his creations, child, and lamb. At last, Blake ends his poem by blessing the lamb for his relationship to the Lord.

### **THEME OF "THE LAMB"**

"The Lamb" is a short poem is written by William Blake. He is an English poet who was lived from 1757 to 1827 and wrote at the beginning of the Romantic Movement. This poem is a Lyric poem and expressive of writer's emotions and also has a melodic quality.

In the 1780s and 1790s, Blake published the collection of poems with the title "Song of Innocence" that this collection focused on pure children's thoughts of nature. The speaker of these poems is an innocent boy who stated, "The Lamb" poem. In fact, the speaker of this collection of poems is Blake's childhood.

This paper describes "The Lamb" poem by Blake. This poem includes two stanzas in which in the first stanza, the speaker asked many questions about lamb and the second stanza, the speaker himself answered questions of the original stanza. In the additional stanza from this poem, it is mentioned that the speaker of the poem is the poet's childhood.

In the first stanza, he asked the lamb about who created you and also who give you food and water, and clothes. So this stanza focused on the questions of the creator. Whereas in the second stanza, he answered all questions. He told about creative God who created the whole world with a certain order. And also he told about God who created the lamb the same God created human and sent him on the earth. So, the speaker emphasized on thanks-giving to God. In the second stanza, there is a similarity between lamb and Lord. He referred to Jesus Christian as the creator of the lamb.

Actually, the speaker says Jesus is the son of God who came to the earth as a human child and also referred to as a lamb. Indeed, the lamb is a metaphor for Jesus Christ, who is called "The Lamb of God".

In the first stanza, the poet refers to the physical description of the lamb because the narrator asks the lamb who is your creator who's why bodily description is found in "The lamb" poem. The poet selected a lamb from among the animals for his poems because lamb is a sweet and innocent animal with a tender voice who can't do harm as a baby. Actually, the lines from the poem follow together very smoothly and calmly.

At last, "The Lamb" is a child's song with many questions and answers. The poem is one of the religious poems of William Blake that has AABBCDDAAAAEFGGFEEA rhyme scheme and trochaic rhythm. The first stanza emphasizes on rural and descriptive and also the second stanza focuses spiritual matters and contains explanation and analogy. Lamb symbols of Jesus Christ and as well the images in the child are associated with Jesus. Although this poem clearly displays the child's idea rather than nature and God that shows positive aspects of Christ's belief. The title of this poem "The Lamb" wants to show innocence and purity of Christ.

In the beginning and end of the first stanza of the poem, there are a couple of repetitions as;

Little lamb who made thee

Dost thou know who made thee

Infact. The narrator wants to take the reader's attention to the power of God. He wants to remind that God is creators of all things. And also there are some couples at the beginning and ending in the second stanza. This repetition enhances the importance of the creator for everything that he has done. The poem is a symbol of purity and illusion of Christ.

"The lamb of God"

In fact, little lamb is the symbol for people throughout the world. He shows people as lamb and Christ as a shepherd. The picture which Blake drew for the lamb poem is a picture of a shepherd watching over the lamb. At last, the theme of this poem is the workshop of God who creates a beautiful world. Hence the religious theme is selected for this poem.

## CONCLUSIONS

William Blake didn't attend school when he was a child, his mother taught him at home. He learned to write and reading skills by helping his mother, but he had a great talent in writing a poem and drawing pictures. So he is a famous poet and best artist in English literature. He had more imagination about his nature and nature's creator when he was a child.

"The lamb" poem is one of the religious poems of William Blake. The speaker of this poem is Blake's childhood that he was curious to know more about lamb's creator and also his creator.

In the result, the narrator described the Lord Jesus Christ as the creator of the lamb and his self. The speaker similar Christ as a lamb who came to the earth as the son of the God. The poet selected lamb from among the animals because lamb is a sweet and innocent animal. Although the main aim of this poem is to show the innocence and purity of Christ.

Finally, the poet refers to the creator of the world that God's power created the order of nature. For this reason, the narrator focused on the workship of God who created all things in the world.

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