

Topic - Critical Analysis of "The Lamb" by William Blake

-& Introduction: — Included in 'The Songs of Innocence' published in 1789, William Blake's poem "The Lamb" has been regarded "as one of the great lyrics of English literature."

- ⇒ The Lamb is one of the simplest poems of Blake. The symbolic meaning of it is almost clearly stated in the poem 'The Lamb' which is probably the most important among the poems of 'Innocence'.
- ⇒ Here the symbols of child, lamb and Christ are assimilated each other. The poem begins with a child like directness and natural world that show none of the signs of grownups.
- ⇒ The poet addresses lamb itself. Lamb is pure, innocent and it is associated with Christ. Being a visionary Blake invites the reader to world free from reasoning. He describes the lamb as he sees it.
- ⇒ The lamb has been blessed with life and with capacity to drink from the stream and feed from the meadow. It has been allotted with bright, soft and warm wool which serves as its clothing.
- ⇒ In the form of a dialogue between the child and the lamb, the poem is an amalgam of the Christian script and pastoral tradition.
- ⇒ The Lamb is a didactic poem. In this poem the poet pays a tribute to Lord Christ who was innocent and pure like a child and meek and mild like a lamb. The readers here are provided with a true portrait of a lamb.



## "The Lamb" As a representative of wonder: —

As this poem is about the creation of lamb, Blake builds the idea that everything present in the Universe, reflects the image of its creator. The creation of gentle lamb makes him think of its creator and helps him understand God's benevolence and creative qualities.

⇒ He poses a series of questions about his existence and his creator and then answers them for the lamb. He inquires who gave the lamb, food, warm clothing and tender voice that fills the valley with joy.

⇒ Also, he compares it to Christ, who came into this world as an innocent child. However, what enchants the readers is the way Blake has presented the existence of goodness and innocence in the world.

Pastoral Elements: — The lamb is associated with Pastoralism which in Blake symbolizes innocence and joy. The area of Pastoral greenery is associated a peculiar divine air. This holiness asserts itself all through the pastoral setting of the songs of innocence.

Major themes in "The Lamb": — Wonder, innocence, and excitement are the major themes found in this poem. Throughout the poem, the innocent child shows amazement about the creation of the lamb and compares its innocence with God.

⇒ Also, he praises the specific qualities of Christ and adores him for his positive attributes. To him, Jesus is innocent, caring, loving and peaceful deity like he and the lamb.