

Topic - Analysis of two "Nurses Songs" by William Blake

- ⇒ In two of William Blake's poems from Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience. Both titled Nurse's Songs he depicts the view of life and of childhood from two very contrasting viewpoints. The two poems are told through the eyes of a nurse which in today's terminology would be a nanny.
- ⇒ The first nurse from the songs of Innocence seems to be a kind hearted and gentle woman. She interacts with the children in the poem and she seems to adore the children and treats them as if they were her own. In the Songs of Experience poem, the nurse instead seems to be extremely mistrusting and spiteful of the children under her care.
- ⇒ In line three and four of the second poem the nurse says, "The days of my youth rise fresh in my mind, my face turns green and pale." Judging by this statement it is easy to assume that something awful occurred during her childhood what that is not stated by Blake, it very likely that this is the cause for the nurse's cynical outlook on the world.
- ⇒ The lack of the voice of a child adds to the far more bleak aspect of the second poem. The second nurse does not hear the children's joyful laughter but instead whisperings in the dark. The laughter of the children is free and open in the Songs of Innocence giving the poem a feeling of optimism.
- ⇒ In the first poem there is no suggestion of the cruelty of life that the nurse of the second poem seems to promise. The theme of the Songs of Innocence poem is the children's innocence and their simple joy of life.

⇒ The nurse of the first poem appears to gain much joy and comfort from the happiness and freedom of the children in her care. This can be seen in line two and three when the nurse says "And laughing is heard on the hill, my heart is at rest within my breast".

⇒ The nurse's actually represent England and the children represents the people of England. The first nurse represents England, before the industrial revolution, when the people lived in the country, relying on nature and were in touch with nature. While in the second poem the nurse represents a sick ~~nurse~~ England caused by the industrial revolution where children are forced to work in giant mills.

⇒ The children from the second poem would appear to be sick and weak although there is no actual description or voice. These characters are England's working class, sick and miserable, unhappy from being over-worked and under paid in the so called "dark and Satanic Mills". That Blake time and again expresses his disgust for.

⇒ Blake uses the two poems to display memory of his belief's. Both of the Nurse's Songs share the fundamental idea of the volumes they were first published in. The first poem displays the sweet innocence while the second nurse's Songs displays the nurse's harrowing experience of life in England during this period.